

## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Report Subject</b>	Outcome of Active Travel Consultation Process
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
<b>Report By</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
<b>Strategic</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A report was presented to Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 outlining progress on the delivery of duties under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 and also the consultation proposals on the draft Integrated Network Map (INM) which is a 15 year plan for delivering walking and cycling improvements.

A number of informal engagement events were held prior to the statutory consultation which ran between 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. As a result of consultation feedback a number of amendments have been made to the draft INM and schedule. Some requests for routes to be included on the INM were rejected due to various factors which did not satisfy the criteria for an Active Travel Route. There has also been several amendments made to the Existing Route Map (ERM) which also formed part of the online consultation.

The revised INM and Schedule and the revised ERM will be submitted to Welsh Government for approval on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017. There is a requirement under the Act to resubmit the ERM and the INM to Welsh Government by 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approves the content of this report and the submission to Welsh Government (WG).
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## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b><u>EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN</u></b>
1.01	<p>The report presented to Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 provided progress on delivery of the Authorities duties under the Active Travel Act (Wales) 2013. It also outlined proposals for carrying out the statutory consultation process on the Integrated Network Map which has now closed. The consultation events are outlined in this report.</p>
1.02	<p>In the Autumn of 2016 Sustrans held an Active Travel Journey Planning workshop with pupils at Ysgol Glan Aber in Bagillt with support from a Streetscene officer. The pupils were provided with copies of the ERM for the Bagillt area and asked to identify on the Map where they lived and places they needed to visit in their community on a daily basis. They were also asked to identify areas they did not feel safe to travel and the reasons why. A number of routes were identified for improvement and were added to the INP for consultation.</p>
1.03	<p>On 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 Sustrans held an Active Travel Journey Planning workshop with pupils at Mold Alun School. Officers from Streetscene supported the event by producing questionnaires and working with groups of pupils at the workshop.</p> <p>A summary of the responses received to the group exercises is attached as Appendix A.</p>
1.04	<p>A series of informal engagement events were held with Flintshire Disability Forum to establish barriers faced by mobility users in making Active Travel Journeys. The Disability Forum was established to help and support all people with a physical disability in Flintshire and to promote services and practices that are positive about disability. The events were held between March and April at Mold, Buckley and Shotton.</p> <p>A summary of the responses received to the group exercises is attached as Appendix B.</p>
1.05	<p>An informal engagement event was held with the Local Access Forum on 5<sup>th</sup> May at Wepre Visitor Centre and the proposals on the INM were received positively.</p>
1.06	<p>Local Members and Community and Town Councillors were invited to come along to the Drop In Events at County Hall on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. A summary of comments is attached as Appendix C.</p>
1.07	<p>A meeting was held with Planning Policy Officers in early June, 2017 to provide an overview of the Active Travel proposals. It was agreed that once Planning Policy are at Deposit Plan stage for the Local Development Plan we will review the INM to ensure we include new infrastructure improvements where new developments are proposed, where possible. An amended INM will be resubmitted to Welsh Government in September 2020</p>

1.08	The statutory consultation ran between 3 <sup>rd</sup> July and 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 and was made available on the Council's website and promoted through social media and press releases. Emails with a link to the online consultation were distributed to key stakeholders, Local Members, Town and Community Councils, Schools, internal departments and all those who requested to be consulted via Sustrans website. Drop In Events were held at Mold Town Hall, Holywell Connects Office, Deeside Leisure Centre and Flint Pavilion. A summary of comments from the Drop In Events and other consultation responses via emails is included as Appendix D. Sustrans INM consultation response is included as Appendix E.
1.09	In general the proposals contained on the INM were largely supported. We did receive several requests for additional routes to be included on the INM which have been considered in line with the principles laid down in the statutory Active Travel Design Guidance criteria and these were added to the INM where possible. An additional map and schedule was produced to show proposals to link the various settlements. This was referred to as the Connecting Settlements Map and Schedule and also formed part of the consultation process. The routes shown on this Map are aspirational, do not show precise alignment or design proposals and will require feasibility studies before a detailed alignment could be put forward for consideration. There was very strong support for these proposals which have now been transferred to the INM for submission to Welsh Government. For ease of reference, all amendments that have been made to the draft INM and Schedule and ERM are included in list form in Appendix F.
1.10	The final INM and Schedule and revised ERM will be submitted to Welsh Government on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> November for approval and will subsequently be published on the Council's Active Travel web pages.
1.11	Local Authorities must secure new and improved active travel routes and related facilities year on year and as such are required to resubmit both the ERM and the INM to Welsh Government showing further revisions by 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2020.
1.12	Whilst the consultation and duties within the Act specifically relate to active travel links to services and facilities, Flintshire recognises the benefit active travel brings in terms of leisure and the wellbeing of the community. Therefore, any comments received during the consultation process on the use of the Active Travel Network for this purpose have been considered as the plans for the strategic network are developed.

<b><u>2.00</u></b>	<b><u>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>
2.01	In 2016/17 Welsh Government provided £10,000 to Flintshire to create and consult on the active travel maps required as part of the duty in the Act. For 2017/18 a further £10,000 has been provided for development of the INM.
2.02	Staff resources used to deliver the active travel duties have significantly exceeded the funding allocated by Welsh Government to-date.

<b>3.00</b>	<b><u>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</u></b>
3.01	Sustrans Active Travel Journey Planner Workshop held at Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt in the Autumn 2016.
3.02	Flintshire Disability Forum at Llys Jasmine, Mold on the 23rd March 2017.
3.03	Flintshire Disability Forum at Burntwood, Court Buckley on the 11th April, 2017.
3.04	Flintshire Disability Forum at Llys Eleanor, Shotton on the 19th April 2017.
3.05	Sustrans Active Travel Journey Planner Workshop held at Mold Alun School on 24 <sup>th</sup> April, 2017.
3.06	Local Access Forum at Wepre Visitor Centre on 5 <sup>th</sup> May, 2017.
3.07	Local Members and Community and Town Councils at County Hall, Mold on the 30 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> May.
3.08	Statutory 12 week consultation between 3 <sup>rd</sup> July and 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2017. The draft INM and schedule and the revised ERM was made available online and emails were sent to a wide range of stakeholders including Local Members and Town and Community Councils.
3.09	Mold Town Hall Drop In Event on 20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017.
3.10	Holywell Connects Office Drop In Event on 3 <sup>rd</sup> August, 2017.
3.11	Deeside Leisure Centre Drop In Event on 8 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017.
3.12	Flint Pavillion Drop In Event on 5 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017

<b>4.00</b>	<b><u>KEY RISKS AND MITIGATION</u></b>
4.01	<b>Risks</b> 1. Meeting the deadline date for submitting the Active Travel INM and re-submitting the ERM to Ministers by 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017.
4.02	<b>Mitigation</b> 1. A Gantt Project Planner has been completed to monitor activities and timescales.
4.03	Raising public expectations without defined funding for the improvements required on the Active Travel Network. All areas of the Council will need to work together to gain maximum benefit from all funding sources to deliver the improvements necessary.

<b>5.00</b>	<b><u>APPENDICES</u></b>
5.01	<p>Appendix A - Summary responses for Active Travel Journey Planning workshop at Mold Alun School.</p> <p>Appendix B - Summary responses to Flintshire Disability Forum events.</p> <p>Appendix C - Summary of responses from County Councillors &amp; Town/Community Council Drop In Events 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2017.</p> <p>Appendix D – Summary of responses to Consultation and Drop-In Events &amp; FCC Feedback.</p> <p>Appendix E – Sustrans Consultation Response &amp; FCC Feedback.</p> <p>Appendix F – List of amendments to the Integrated Network Map (INM) and schedule and the Existing Route Map (ERM).</p>

<b>6.00</b>	<b><u>SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972</u></b> <b>List of Background Documents</b>
6.01	<p><a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/7/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/7/contents</a> <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/det/policy/141105guidanceen.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/det/policy/141105guidanceen.pdf</a></p> <p>Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: <a href="mailto:stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk">stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b><u>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</u></b>
7.01	<p><b>INM</b> – Integrated Network Map</p> <p><b>ERM</b> – Existing Route Map</p> <p><b>Sustrans</b> – which stands for <b>sustainable transport</b>, are a civil engineering charity whose aim is to encourage people to walk and cycle more.</p>