

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 21 May 2019
Report Subject	Proposed Active Travel routes between Mold and Broughton and neighbouring settlements.
Portfolio Holder	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Streetscene, Transportation and Countryside
Report By	Chief Officer (Streetscene And Transportation)
Strategic / Operational	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Flintshire County Council's Integrated Transport Strategy seeks to facilitate the integration of all modes of transport (walking, cycling, bus and rail), in order to enhance access to employment and services, improve connectivity between communities and key destinations whilst minimising the impact on the environment.

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 came into force in September 2014 requiring all Council's to produce an Integrated Network Map (INM) highlighting their proposals for new and improved walking and cycling routes and to demonstrate year on year infrastructure improvements for Active Travel. Flintshire County Councils INM was approved by Welsh Government (WG) in 2017.

During the statutory consultation period for the Council's INM, the cycle link from Mold to Broughton was identified as a key strategic corridor, receiving high levels of public support and consequently, through the provision of WG's Active Travel funding obtained within 2018/19 financial year, the Council commissioned work to undertake route appraisal and scheme design work for the corridor. The proposal will link the communities of Mold, Buckley, Penyffordd, Broughton, Saltney and Sandycroft, whilst also providing links into existing railway stations at Buckley and Penyffordd and major centres of employment. The route option appraisal is now complete with the detailed design work also nearing completion.

The purpose of this report is to raise both the profile and awareness of the proposal and to seek a recommendation for the submission of the scheme for funding under the WG Active Travel fund for the 2020/21 financial year.

Recommendations

(a)	That Scrutiny supports the proposals contained in the study and note the opportunity to deliver an exciting and innovative scheme.
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(b)	That Scrutiny recommends the submission of the Mold to Broughton Cycle Scheme as the Councils Strategic application under the WG Active Travel fund for the 2020/21 financial year.
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REPORT DETAILS

<u>1.00</u>	<u>Background</u>
1.01	Flintshire County Councils Integrated Transport Strategy seeks to facilitate the integration of transport modes (bus, community transport, walking, cycling, rail), in order to enhancing access to employment and services (health, education, training, shopping, social and leisure facilities), improving connectivity between communities and key destinations whilst minimising the impact on the environment.
1.02	Cycling is becoming an increasingly important element of transportation strategies in achieving sustainable development and can offer many well documented benefits including health, environmental and economic benefits whilst being a suitable form of transport for many local journeys.
1.03	The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 came into force in September 2014 for which required all local authorities to produce an Integrated Network Map (INM) of proposals for both new and improved walking and cycling routes to facilitate the delivery of year on year infrastructure improvements for Active Travel. The Mold to Broughton corridor was included on the Council's INM as a strategic link and formed part of the stakeholder engagement process and 12 week statutory consultation period during which it received strong support and demand. The INM has since been approved by WG.
1.04	The objectives for introducing a cycling route between Mold and Broughton can be set in the context of the wider sustainable transportation goals, including reducing the growth of car use and promoting alternative modes of transport.
1.05	A previously commissioned study undertaken in 2007 investigated the provision of a new Greenway facility linking Mold and Saltney. The aim was to utilise a disused railway line and improve accessibility by removing any barriers that would otherwise discourage any users from cycling or walking, however, the scheme was unfortunately abandoned due to land ownership constraints and is no longer feasible.
1.06	Through the provision of WG Active Travel funding obtained within 2018/19 financial year, Flintshire County Council commissioned consultants 'Local Transport Projects' to undertake route appraisal and design for a strategic cycling route from Mold to Broughton.
1.07	The proposals aim to link the communities of Mold, Buckley, Penyffordd, Broughton, Saltney and Sandycroft, investigate links into existing railway stations at Buckley & Penyffordd whilst also facilitating sustainable access to major sites of employment via the connection into the existing cycle network within the Deeside locality. The cycle network within Deeside Industrial Park currently attracts over 11,000 cyclists during peak months.

1.08	Due to the constraints identified within previous commissions, this study is therefore seeking to incorporate off road facilities, utilisation of highway verges, road realignment, point closures and other Traffic Management solutions in accordance with WG's Active Travel Design Guidance, thus reducing both the effect and reliance upon landowners. The route option appraisal is now complete with detailed design nearing completion.
1.09	The proposal also offers the opportunity for new social enterprises or business growth with cafes, bike hire etc. This has been demonstrated already as a result of the Burton Marsh cycle path implementation where businesses such as cafes have set up as a result of increased cyclists in the area.
1.10	Each year local authorities are invited to submit an application for WG funding for one Strategic Scheme and two Local Schemes under the Active Travel Fund. Streetscene and Transportation view this proposal as an exciting opportunity to deliver a pioneering package of measures thus acting as a catalyst to promote modal shift to alternative sustainable modes of transport.
1.11	The options for the proposed route of the cycleway has been included within Appendix 1 for information. The plan shows a number of route options along sections of the scheme, which will be shared in greater detail at the committee meeting, with the final alignment reflecting the views of Members following the meeting.

2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

2.01	Flintshire County Council will be seeking WG Active Travel Funding to deliver the project in a phased programme of works.
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3.00 CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT

3.01	In 2015 Flintshire County Council held consultation events on the North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan. There were a number of requests for a safe cycling route to be provided between Mold and Broughton and as such this scheme was included in the Interventions within the North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan.
3.02	A proposal for a cycling/walking facility between Mold, Broughton and Deeside Enterprise Zone was also included on Flintshire's Integrated Network Map (INM) and Schedule which underwent informal engagement and a public consultation in 2017.
3.03	Landowner negotiation would be required for some routes options.
3.04	Consultation events will be programmed with those Town and Community Council's affected by the proposals.

4.00 KEY RISKS AND MITIGATION

4.01	Planning Permission will be required for those sections of the proposal that are not within the highway.
4.02	The Tyddyn Street section is a recorded a Public Footpath on the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way and as such a Cycle Track Conversion Order will be required.

5.00	<u>APPENDICES</u>
5.01	Appendix 1 - Mold to Broughton (& links) Proposed Cycle Route Overview Map
5.02	Visualisation images of key route locations. (To be provided at the committee meeting)

6.00	<u>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE DOCUMENTS</u>
6.01	<p>Flintshire's approved Active Travel Integrated Network Map: https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Roads-and-Travel/Connecting-Settlements-Consultation/Revised-Maps/Amended-Maps/Flintshire-Overview-INM.pdf</p> <p>Flintshire's approved Active Travel Schedule: https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Roads-and-Travel/Active-Travel-Docs/INM-Revised-Schedule-2.pdf</p> <p>Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	<u>GLOSSARY</u>
7.01	None