

(Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the sub-committee scheduled to be held on 27 March 2018.)

## **Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee**

**14 February 2018**

Present: Councillor J Walker (in the Chair)  
Councillors S Cox, P Earley and M Madden.

### **EP29/02/18 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Cassidy, S Day, Janet Hunter, K Lee and F Weetman.

### **EP30/02/18 Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members appointed.

### **EP31/02/18 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no Declarations of Interest or Dispensations reported.

### **EP32/02/18 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 17 January 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Chair.

### **EP33/02/18 North Tyneside Cycling Strategy (Previous Minute EP26/01/18)**

In January 2018 the Cabinet had agreed to commence a process of public engagement on the draft North Tyneside Cycling Strategy and a process of engagement with user groups on the associated draft North Tyneside Cycling Design Guide. The draft strategy had been presented to the sub-committee at its previous meeting on 17 January 2018 when the sub-committee had:-

- a) noted the Cabinet's decision to commence a process of public engagement on the draft strategy;
- b) agreed to give further, more detailed, consideration to the strategy with a view to submitting its comments to the Cabinet; and
- c) agreed to give consideration to the cycling design guide, the responses received during the engagement process and the extent to which the recommendations of the Cycling Strategy Study Group had been incorporated into the strategy.

Nick Bryan, Highway Network Manager, and Andy Flynn, Integrated Transport Manager, attended the meeting to present details of the draft North Tyneside Cycling Strategy and the draft North Tyneside Cycling Design Guide and answer questions. The sub-committee also received a report setting out details of the relevant national, regional and local policy framework relating to cycling, the recommendations of Cycling Strategy Scrutiny Study

Group and references to other background documentation to inform the discussion.

A process of public engagement on the draft strategy had commenced on 22 January 2018 based on a questionnaire available on the Council's website. The questionnaire listed the five actions contained in the draft strategy and invited comment on the relevance of the actions and sought views on the most important ways and initiatives to support everyday cycling. It was proposed that following the engagement process a final version of the strategy would be submitted to Cabinet for approval in March 2018.

In examining the strategy the sub-committee gave consideration to, and made comments on, the following issues:

Action 1 – Cycling Initiatives

- The sub-committee considered how the Council could support small businesses to encourage cycling among their workforces as the costs and practicalities of providing bicycle storage and changing facilities would be prohibitive for many. It was suggested that the development of cycle hubs, possibly in partnership with developers, could be incorporated into any future town centre regeneration plans but any such investment was likely to be dependent on the Council being able to provide demonstrable evidence of the benefits.

Action 2 – Develop a Network of Routes

- It was noted that funding for cycling infrastructure was not allocated within a clearly defined ring-fenced budget but the Council would seek to deliver the strategy by maximising each opportunity for example through requiring new developments to incorporate cycling facilities.
- The “tube map” of strategic routes appended to the strategy was not yet fully in place. Delivery of the Murton Gap and Killingworth Moor masterplans would contribute towards the completion of the network. The remaining gaps in the network had been identified and these would be prioritised within the Network Management Plan so that funding could be targeted at these areas.
- The local transport plan budget would provide for many local improvement schemes which would help provide links to the strategic network.

Action 3 – Improve connectivity

- The sub-committee highlighted the potential benefits of allowing bicycles on metro trains but noted the practical difficulties and health and safety implications of people with bicycles accessing the underground metro stations.
- If bicycles were not to be allowed on metro trains then members highlighted the importance of providing secure storage for bicycles at metro stations and the provision of bike sharing schemes such as Mobike in Newcastle.
- Members queried whether a bike sharing schemes could be established on popular routes within North Tyneside for example from Northumberland Park Metro Station to Cobalt Business Park.
- Members also referred to the attractiveness of electric bikes and whether these could be offered as part of a bike sharing scheme particularly as their cost reduces.

Action 4 – Digital Information

- It was suggested that the Council should seek to enhance the methods available to users to report issues and repairs on the cycling network so that they might upload photographs and identify the location of the problem using Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking.
- The sub-committee considered the impact of signage in promoting cycling not only by raising awareness of routes but also the likely travel time to destinations.

Action 5 – Design Guide

- The sub-committee noted the technical details contained in the draft North Tyneside Cycling Design Guide. Members considered the challenge facing the Council in

balancing the needs of different road users including cyclists, pedestrians, people with disabilities and car owners when designing road improvements.

It was **agreed** that the sub-committee's comments set out above be referred to officers to be taken into account as part of the engagement process and formulation of the final version of the North Tyneside Cycling Strategy to be submitted to Cabinet for approval.