

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

19 NOVEMBER 2014

WALKING STRATEGY FOR WINCHESTER

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (BUILT ENVIRONMENT)

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RECENT REFERENCES:

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A sub group of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership (WDSP) for Transport group has drafted a Walking Strategy for Winchester to promote walking as a prime mode of transport.

Members of the working group include County and City Councillors, and representatives from local stakeholders such as WinACC and the City of Winchester Trust.

The Strategy will be considered by Cabinet in December 2014.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Walking Strategy for Winchester be noted by the Forum as a basis to improve walking across Winchester City.
2. That Members identify any issues or comments that Cabinet should take into account when considering the Walking Strategy.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A Walking Strategy Steering Group was formed as a sub group of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership Transport group. Members of the group consisted of City and County Councillors and local stakeholders. The Group has produced a draft Walking Strategy, which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 The Walking Strategy has been formulated to raise the profile of the walker and emphasise the substantial benefits that are gained from walking. It will provide a framework within which walking can be developed to the benefit of the people of Winchester and builds on the Vision for Winchester Town 2012-2017 and, in particular, its theme of improving transport, access and air quality with the aim of establishing more, safer and convenient walking and cycling routes.
- 1.3 The vision of the Strategy *'is that by 2020 many streets will have been improved for pedestrian movement and the numbers of people walking as a preferred method of getting around the town will have increased substantially. Winchester will be a town in which walking is a pleasure and recognised by residents and visitors as a primary mode of transport for short journeys, in the town centre as well as in the local centres and residential areas. By 2025 many more of the town's streets will have been enhanced and will demonstrate that walking has been prioritised and is the most normal way of getting around the town.'*
- 1.4 The Strategy identifies objectives and outcomes to deliver the vision such as ensuring that walking is recognised as a primary mode of transport; identifying the necessary core components for increasing pedestrian movements and identifying key routes.
- 1.5 The aspiring outcomes of the Strategy would see: an increase in the number of journeys made on foot; improved viability of local shops; improved health and well-being; improved attractiveness and comfort; decrease in the number of short journeys made by car; and less congestion, air and noise pollution.
- 1.6 Priority routes are highlighted in the Strategy. Additional work is required to further investigate these priority routes and the changes that are needed for them to be included into the District Statement which is produced by

Hampshire County Council. The District Transport Statement is a proposed schedule of transport improvements which reflect key local priorities, informed by engagement with the City Council and public consultation. The Statement is updated on a yearly basis and can be found on the County Council's website.

- 1.7 Many stakeholders contributed to the Walking Strategy including University of Winchester, City of Winchester Trust, WinACC, FoE, CTC, WAFAA, Peter Symonds College and the Winchester Ramblers and both the City and County Councils are being asked to adopt the Strategy. The Walking Strategy is due to be considered by the City Council's Cabinet in December 2014.

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

##### 2 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 2.1 The proposal will help to deliver objectives in relation to safer and more inclusive communities a high quality environment and healthy communities.

##### 3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 3.1 None specifically proposed for the Town Forum but implementation of the Strategy would require support from other bodies such Hampshire County Council, as the highway and transport authority, and City Council.

##### 4 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

#### APPENDICES:

- 1 Walking Strategy Draft Document