



DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

TOPIC – HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL’S DRAFT WALKING STRATEGY

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council’s Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

If you wish to make representation on this proposed Decision please contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and the following Democratic Services Officer by 5.00pm on Monday 16 November 2015.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Sara Davies, Tel: 01962 848241 Email: sdavies@winchester.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officer: Nancy Graham, Tel: 01962 848235, Email: ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

The Hampshire County Council Draft walking Strategy has been prepared by the County Council to accompany the Local Transport Plan. The draft strategy has been prepared in response to increasing interest in walking at both national level and specifically within Hampshire. The draft strategy was published on 26 October 2015, with the public consultation closing on the 7 December 2015. The strategy can be viewed here: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/transport-schemes-index/transport-schemes-other/walking-strategy.htm>. The strategy vision is as follows; ‘By 2025, walking will be the travel mode of choice for short trips and the most popular and accessible means of recreation’.

HCC have asked for response via a survey which can be found in Appendix 1.

The draft strategy has four key aims:

1. To provide a clear statement on Hampshire County Council's overall aspirations for walking in the short, medium and long term;
2. To provide a framework to support the development of local walking strategies;
3. To provide a means to prioritise the County Council's funding to the best value for money investments for walking; and
4. To support the County Council in realising additional funding opportunities walking measures.

The strategy has five walking objectives as detailed below, however the over-arching objective is to ensure that investment in walking offers the best value for money to the Council:

1. To make walking the most popular mode of travel for short trips
2. To improve the quality and legibility of Hampshire's main walking routes
3. To promote walking as a healthy means of travel and recreation
4. To improve the perceived and actual safety and security of pedestrians
5. To improve the quality of key rural walking routes.

The County Council have approach the strategy with three themes. These themes reflect the services/infrastructure that are provided by the County Council in relation to walking. These objectives (listed above) will be met through these themes; walking routes; planning for pedestrians and promoting walking.

PROPOSED DECISION

That the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing responds to the consultation on the draft Walking Strategy as follows and as attached at Appendix 1 (Walking Strategy Survey):

'It is considered that the draft Strategy is a useful document to accompany the Local Transport Plan. It sets out a clear vision for 2025; realises the challenges that pedestrians face and meets those challenges with appropriate objectives. The City Council therefore supports the draft Walking Strategy but makes the following comments:

- It is encouraging to read that Winchester is the only district in Hampshire where more commuters travelling less than 1.25 miles walk rather than drive.

- The City Council welcomes the action to plan new developments around the access needs of pedestrians.
- The majority of the key actions mentions working with local partners. As with Hampshire County Council, district councils are also under strain in terms of funding and resources. This needs to be recognised as the actions seem to emphasise a reliance on district and borough councils. The Council would like to see the implementation of the Strategy supported by an action plan naming key projects or initiatives to be delivered with funding identified, where possible. Alternatively the Strategy could cross reference to the Local Transport Plan and District Statements where such schemes will be identified. An action plan could also include the promotion of the Strategy and support for communities that want to produce their own local walking strategies.
- Once the Strategy is adopted, it would be sensible for County Council officers in relevant departments, such as highway maintenance, to be given training on this guidance. Although the implementation part of the Strategy states that a joined up approach will be required from all County Council services, it does not give specify how this will be achieved. Without HCC colleagues being trained or made aware of this guidance, walking and pedestrian opportunities could be missed.

REASON FOR THE PROPOSED DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The draft county wide walking strategy is consistent with the Council's Community Strategy and will specifically help to support Active Communities (encouraging healthy lifestyles and provision of sport and recreation), High Quality Environment (effective traffic management and support for transport provision) and Prosperous Economy (support the local economy).

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROPOSED DECISION

None – this is a response to a consultation being undertaken by Hampshire County Council.

**FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION
NOTICE**

n/a

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR
OFFICER CONSULTED**

None.

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

n/a

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision

Councillor Frank Pearson – Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing

Your views on the Hampshire Walking Draft Strategy

Q7 Is it clear from the walking draft strategy document what the aims of the strategy are?

- Yes No Don't know

Q8 Overall, how easy is it to understand the walking draft strategy?

- Very easy Difficult
 Easy Very difficult
 Neither easy or difficult Don't know

Q9 Do you feel achieving the aims of the walking draft strategy would encourage people to walk more in Hampshire?

- Yes No Don't know

Q10 Please provide comments

See Portfolio Holders Decision notice