

## **Birmingham Walking and Cycling Strategy - Consultation and Engagement Plan**

### **1. Background and objectives**

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Birmingham City Council is looking to engage local communities, businesses and stakeholders in the production of a Walking and Cycling Strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

The Strategy and LCWIP are needed to:

- ensure that active travel becomes the popular choice for short journeys in the city
- identify future projects for inclusion in Birmingham City Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Transportation and Highways Capital Programme; and the WMCA cycling and walking programme
- support future bids for funding
- respond to emerging programmes e.g. Clean Air Zone, Commonwealth Games, HS2
- meet requests from local stakeholders and developers, particularly on route proposals
- update previous documents: Walking Strategy (2002) and Bike Strategy (2012)
- support the West Midlands Cycle Charter and West Midlands LCWIP
- develop lessons learnt from Birmingham Cycle Revolution

The main aim of the Strategy is to increase walking and cycling in Birmingham, for transport, leisure and health, with a particular focus on short journeys and linked trips to public transport. The Strategy contains policies and actions – to be delivered by Birmingham City Council and various partners, and monitored annually. Consultation feedback will help to identify partner support and ensure that the policies and actions are appropriate.

Proposals for network investment are included in the LCWIP which will form the basis of a future programme for walking and cycling. Consultation feedback will be used to refine the proposals, identify further opportunities and set priorities.

This document sets out the consultation and engagement strategy and provides information on the consultation events that have occurred to date.

### **2. Planning Policy requirements**

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Policies relevant to the Strategy include:

- BCC Birmingham Development Plan (2017) Policies TP39 (Walking) and TP40 (Cycling)
- BCC Statement of Community Involvement (2008)
- BCC Birmingham Connected (2014) and emerging Birmingham Transport Plan (2019)
- TfWM Movement for Growth (2015), Cycle Charter
- MHCLG National Planning Policy Framework (2019) Para 104d (Sustainable Transport)
- DfT Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and LCWIP Technical Guidance (2017)

The adopted Statement of Community Involvement (2008) sets out how the Council will engage with people on a range of documents including informal planning documents such as this Strategy and Infrastructure Plan. Key principles are identified as well as a four stage process; evidence gathering; consultation on Draft Plan; adoption; monitoring and review.

### 3. Evidence gathering - Engagement to date

Walking and Cycling Strategy		Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan	
February 2016	Cycling and Walking Strategy stakeholder workshop	April 2018	Stakeholder Mapping Workshop (Walkable Birmingham, Local Access Forum, Cycle Stakeholder Scheme Advisory Group
January 2019	Local Access Forum	May 2018	BCC and TfWM Mapping Workshop
March 2019	Birmingham Transport Summit	October 2018 onwards	City Centre cycle route discussions with HS2, Midland Metro, PushBikes, Sustrans, Colmore BID
April 2019	Cycle Stakeholder Scheme Advisory Group	Feb 2019	Business Engagement and Community Open Day, Tyseley and Hay Mills
May 2019	Discussions with Sustrans, British Cycling		
Various discussions at BCC, TfWM, HS2, Highways England and Sustrans regarding specific schemes, development of masterplans, SPDs and Clean Air Zone			
Various site visits and audits including walking audit of Sutton Coldfield, Icknield Port, review of signing along green routes (Hatchford Brook, Cole Valley, Bourn Brook and Harborne Walkway)			

### 4. Consultation on draft plan - Methodology

The following individuals and groups will be consulted:

Stakeholders		Name / Organisation	Method (Letter, e-mail etc.)
1	MP	All	e-mail
2	Councillors	All	e-mail Birmingham Connected e-bulletin
3	Town/ Parish Council	Sutton Coldfield	e-mail Meeting
4	Neighbouring local authorities	WM Metropolitan Authorities, Worcs, Warwicks, Staffs	e-mail
5	Emergency Services	All	e-mail
6	BCC officers	Planning and Regeneration, Transportation & Connectivity (including local engineers), Landscape Practice Group, Parks, Public Health, Environmental Health, CWG	e-mail Birmingham Connected e-bulletin
7	Residents	Various	Press release Be Heard Birmingham Connected e-bulletin BCR Facebook Library of Birmingham (paper copy) Face-to-face events (drop-in events): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Centre - Let's Ride 9 June</li> <li>• Perry Barr – 18 June and 27 June</li> <li>• City Centre - Clean Air Day 20 June</li> <li>• Community cafés – July dates tbc</li> </ul> And other community events as opportunities arise

8	Disabled Groups	Latest BCC list	e-mail
9	Other community, business and road user groups	Various	Press release Be Heard Birmingham Connected e-bulletin e-mail Library of Birmingham (paper copy) Invited events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings of Local Access Forum, Cycle Stakeholder Group, community cycling groups</li> </ul> Face-to-face events (see above)

The Equality Analysis has identified that the Strategy and LCWIP have a potential impact on the protected characteristics of age and disability, therefore the consultation and engagement will include engagement in community cafes used by older people as well as direct contact with schools, youth organisations and disability groups.

## 5. Timescale

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Engagement will take place during June and July 2019. This will be followed by review and amendments of the Strategy in August and September, in order to progress to Cabinet and adoption by the end of 2019.

## 6. Content of consultation

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Title of consultation will be 'Birmingham's future plans for walking and cycling'. Outcomes focus will be:

- Strategy - to identify partner support and ensure that the policies and actions are appropriate.
- LCWIP - to refine the proposals, identify further opportunities and set priorities.

E-mails, Birmingham Connected and BCR Facebook will direct people to BeHeard for further details or paper copies at the Library of Birmingham. Be Heard will include an overview of Strategy and LCWIP, survey and following attachments:

- Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy and LCWIP
- City wide cycling and walking proposals map with index of schemes
- City centre cycling map with index of schemes
- Examples of types of walking and cycling infrastructure

## Appendix 1: Survey questions

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### General Questions

- Are you responding as an individual/ organisation?
- Personal information – including postcode
- Travel information – how often do you travel by different modes?
- Journey purpose (ask separately for walking and cycling) – to/from work, as part of your job, to/from school/ college/ university (includes accompanying a child or someone else), shopping/personal business/social trips, just for enjoyment or fitness

### Strategy Questions

- Do you agree with the aim and objectives? Yes, no (why not?), don't know
- Objective 1 – Enabling. How important are each of the following for enabling more walking and cycling in Birmingham? Training and Education, Access to bikes, Funding, Other. 1-5 scale from Very important to not at all important. Have you got any other comments on actions in this section?

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- Objective 2 – Developing. How important are each of the following for developing great city for walking and cycling? Walking and cycling infrastructure, Traffic management and Enforcement, Maintenance, Cycle parking, land use planning and development, public transport integration, other. 1-5 scale from Very important to not at all important. Have you got any other comments on actions in this section?
- Objective 3 – Inspiring. How important are each of the following for inspiring more walking and cycling in Birmingham? Working with specific schools, businesses and community groups, ongoing campaigns and communication, events or evaluation (and providing case studies)? 1-5 scale from Very important to not at all important. Have you got any other comments on actions in this section?
- What partners/ organisations should be promoting, developing and inspiring walking and cycling? If you are part of an organisation, how could your organisation support this Strategy?

### **LCWIP Questions**

- What infrastructure improvements would help you to walk more in Birmingham? Tick all that are relevant. Wider pavements, green routes through parks, canal towpaths, lighting, seating, trees and planting, less steps, more pedestrian crossings, more time to cross at crossings, less delay at crossings, less parked cars, less motor traffic, slower speeds, less polluting motor vehicles, better public transport services, other
- What infrastructure improvements would help you to cycle more in Birmingham? Tick all that are relevant. Two-way segregated cycle tracks alongside main roads, green routes through parks, signed cycle routes on back streets, cycle lanes, canal towpaths, lighting, seating, trees and planting, less steps, cycle parking, more cycle crossings, more time to cross at crossings, less delay at crossings, less parked cars, less motor traffic, slower speeds, less polluting motor vehicles, better public transport services, other
- Regional priority routes – do you have any comments on particular routes or suggestions for others? Which is the most important to you?
- City wide walking and cycling network - do you have any comments on particular routes or suggestions for others? Which routes/ local areas are most important to you?
- City centre cycle routes - do you have any comments on particular routes or suggestions for others? Which routes are the most important to you?
- Core walking zones - do you have any comments on particular zones or suggestions for others?
- What criteria should we use to prioritise future investment? Tick all that are relevant. High levels of cycling demand (existing and potential), high levels of walking demand (existing and potential), road safety, air quality, health, deprivation, lack of facilities, links to facilities, community programmes and partnerships, availability of funding, availability of land, other. Which is the most important?
- Which areas of the city should we prioritise?

### **Appendix 2 Drop-in event format**

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- What everyday journeys do you make in this area? How do you travel? What can be improved?
- Provide paper copies of the Strategy. What do you think of the Strategy? Provide surveys (as above)
- Provide local area maps for discussion of area issues, local mapping of routes – what's good, what could be improved, what's the future?
- Provide information on types of infrastructure – to discuss what might be appropriate and what would encourage more walking and cycling