

CABINET RESPONSE TO COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

SURREY CYCLING STRATEGY

Recommendations:

- a) That the impact on, and potential benefits for, businesses in Surrey as a result of cycling events be a key element of the Strategy. In particular, staff access to businesses when events are taking place.
- b) That consideration be given to including cycling infrastructure schemes on future programmes in Operation Horizon.
- c) That the County Council be encouraged to lobby central government for a change in primary legislation so that unregulated 'sportive' events become regulated.
- d) That Parish Councils and Local Committees be involved with Surrey County Council and Surrey Boroughs and Districts when working together to develop cycling plans that reflect local priorities and issues.
- e) That paragraph 7.4 of the Cycling Strategy be amended to read 'Any additional major events would involve a road closure only when there is clear evidence that there is strong local resident and business support to do so.'

RESPONSE

I welcome the valuable discussion at the Select Committee meeting on the 28th November, and the recommendations that resulted.

I will take each of them in turn:

- a) We recognise the economic significance of cycling and have identified economic impact as an overarching objective of the strategy. We will focus on the role of cycling in tackling congestion and the potential tourism benefits from Surrey's profile as a destination for cycling. With regard to the Prudential RideLondon Surrey events, we are working with the event organisers to ensure that more is done to support businesses to manage impacts and capitalise on the day.
- b) The County Council is investing £100million over the next five years in roads maintenance. As part of this investment we will be identifying opportunities to improve cycling provision and building our internal expertise in designing provision for cycling.
- c) Whilst we welcome the increase in cycling in Surrey, we are concerned with the levels of unregulated events taking place in parts of rural Surrey. We are aware that these events can cause disruption and potentially lead to safety issues. We have committed in the Strategy to lobby central government for a change in the current regulations to require sportive organisers to notify the police and the highways authority of planned events.
- d) The strategy proposes development of local cycling plans, to reflect local needs and issues. The development of these strategies will be overseen by the local committee

and we would anticipate that parish and town councils will be key stakeholders in developing the plans.

e) This change has been made in the strategy.

Mrs Helyn Clack
Cabinet Member for Community Services
17 December 2013