

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)****DATE:** 1st MARCH 2017**LEAD OFFICER:** LUCY O'CONNELL, MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL
DAVID SHARPINGTON, SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**SUBJECT:** MOLE VALLEY LOCAL CYCLING PLAN**DIVISION:** ALL**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Surrey Cycling Strategy set the objective of developing Local Cycling Plans that reflect local priorities. Mole Valley District Council and the County Council have been working together to make progress on the Action Plan approved by this Committee on 10th September 2014.

This paper reports on progress in delivering the action plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to:**

- (i) agree that the 2014 Mole Valley Cycling Action Plan has been implemented as far as has been feasible.
- (ii) agree that the focus going forward will be promoting cycling at a local level with links to the wellbeing agenda and sustainable transport.

Recommendations will also require endorsement from the Mole Valley Executive.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

As this report will demonstrate, significant work has been undertaken to implement the action plan. The majority of actions having been completed and ongoing requirements are now business as usual. Mechanisms are in place to address the outstanding actions.

Focusing on cycling at a local level will help deliver both County and District Wellbeing aspirations and has strong links to the Transform Leatherhead project.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Cycling Plan is a joint one. The Local Committee approved Mole Valley Cycling Plan along with the Action Plan at its meeting of 24th September 2014. The report was adopted by Mole Valley District Council Executive at its

ITEM 9

meeting of 7th October 2014.

- 1.2 An update on the implementation of the action plan was taken to Local Committee in December 2015. The Committee also agreed to establishing the Cycling Plan online and it can be seen at:

<https://www.travelsmartsurrey.info/cycling/district-and-borough-cycling-plans/mole-valley-cycling-plan>

The original printed Cycling Plan has now been incorporated into the online plan.

- 1.3 The Plan acknowledges that there are different types of cycling and that each one has to be supported and managed in different ways. The Plan outlined eight local cycling priorities all of which are relevant and appropriate to the local area and aim to address the views and concerns of our communities:

- a. Seek to ensure that cycle training is widely available across all areas of Mole Valley;
- b. Encourage the take-up of cycling as a means of sustainable transport;
- c. Enhance the visibility of and promote existing cycling information;
- d. Encourage positive relationships between all road, bridleway, shared path and trail users;
- e. Promote and encourage cycling as part of a sustainable and healthy lifestyle;
- f. Reduce any adverse impacts of sport cycling on our communities, including businesses;
- g. Seek to design and build infrastructure that best suits the needs of residents in Mole Valley;
- h. Work with relevant organisations to maintain and improve existing cycle routes.

- 1.4 Update meetings have been held monthly with the Mole Valley District Council Executive Member. The Chairman of the Local Committee has been updated on progress, helping to ensure the Plan proceeds on a joint basis.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 When the Mole Valley Local Cycling Plan was drafted, the action plan was designed to address the increased popularity of cycling, both as a sport and as a past time. The full Action Plan, noting progress on each action, is shown as Annex 1.
- 2.2 Of the 36 actions, 32 are green with the remaining 4 being amber.

2.2 Progress has included:

- a. Establishing the online Cycling Plan (see link above in 1.2)
- b. The start-up and continuation of the Active Travel (Bike-It) scheme, funded jointly by the District and County. The Active Travel Officer continues to engage with local schools to promote active lifestyles and sustainable transport. Charlwood Village Primary School became the first school within Mole Valley to be awarded the Bronze school mark.

Following a successful funding bid, schools on the Active Travel Programme are also undertaking Bikeability Plus modules.

To date there are 7 schools signed up to the Active Travel Programme. These are

- Charlwood Village Primary School
 - Leatherhead Trinity
 - St Peter's Catholic Primary
 - The Priory School, Dorking
 - Barnett Wood Infant School, Ashted
 - St John's CofE Primary, Dorking
 - Powell Corderoy, Dorking
- c. A successful bid for EFRAD funding to develop a Destination Management Plan for rural Mole Valley, focusing on cycling, walking and equestrian pursuits within the Surrey Hills. This will provide an opportunity to engage with businesses, looking at possible economic benefits and managing impacts on the local communities.
 - d. MVDC has recently adopted a Rural Community Strategy, this recognises the challenges presented by increased numbers of cyclists and the need to maximise the economic benefits.
 - e. Countywide initiatives that have included Mole Valley; namely the summer media campaign through the Drive SMART partnership, promoting a 'share the road' message to all users; and, as part of the County Cycling Strategy, a survey of a representative cross-section of the population investigating levels of cycling and the potential for increasing cycling.
 - f. To enable us to engage with individual cyclists, SCC, MVDC and Drive SMART, funded a social media campaign, managed by Fusion Media. The intent was to attract a wide range of cyclists, who would not necessarily engage with a local authority, especially those visiting Mole Valley. Officers have worked closely with Fusion Media to ensure that the content of the campaign addresses the concerns raised by local communities.
 - g. Surrey Hills AONB commissioned a study looking at the development of off-road trails, including family-friendly routes and opportunities for reducing conflict between users. Funding opportunities are being explored to extend the popular summer lightening route on Leith Hill.

ITEM 9

- h. A [framework for event organisers](#) for closed road events has been developed. This sets out very clear guidance for organisations wishing to host an event on closed roads.
- i. A [code of practice](#) has been developed for event organisers holding sportives within Surrey. This has been shared with event organisers and is available to all through the SCC website.
- j. A [Sporting Events](#) calendar is available through the website, this is enabled communities to see upcoming events and provides links to the event organisers.
- k. Working with local club to promote safe and responsible cycling to young riders (Meadowbank).
- l. Dorking STP phase 1 included cycle track improvements
- m. Improvement of cycle parking at Dorking Station.

2.3 In addition to the work streams noted above, throughout the implementation of the action plan data has been collected various sources, ensuring we are able to respond, where possible, accordingly:

- a. The Local Committee's forward programme;
- b. Mole Valley Transport Plan;
- c. Mole Valley Cycling Forum ideas;
- d. The Deepdene Station project;
- e. Transform Leatherhead Consultation;
- f. Mole Valley INA;
- g. Mole Valley Focus Groups;
- h. Suggestions from individual members of the public and members.

2.4 This information has been used in the creation of the online infrastructure map. This was launched in 2016 and as previously agreed, this is a living page, enabling continuous engagement.

2.5 The level of correspondence received regarding cycling events has reduced significantly over the last three years. There is a greater understanding within communities regarding both the County and Districts powers to prevent these events from taking place. Without changes to legislation, which have to date been met with resistance, these powers will not change.

2.6 Whilst it is recognised that sports cycling continues to be a serious concern for some rural areas of Mole Valley, it should be noted that engagement with event organisers has increased significantly. The SCC Code of Practice for Sportives has been shared with event organisers. This enables us to provide communities with access to information on events and the organisers.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The Local Committee sign off the current action plan and agree the revised focus
- 3.2 The Local Committee may wish to suggest amendments to the current Action Plan.
- 3.3 These would then also need to be put to Mole Valley District Council Executive.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 As described above, in addition to the consultations undertaken so far, both organisations will continue to engage with a range of stakeholder regarding cycling issues.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 A Framework Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the development of the Surrey Cycling Strategy, reported as Annex 4 of Cabinet Item 224/13a Tuesday, 17 December 2013. This provides the framework for assessing the implications of Cycling Local Plans.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The local cycling plan is specific to Mole Valley and acknowledges that different communities experience different beneficial and negative consequences of cycling, and to differing extents. The initiatives within the local plan allow for local flexibility and the involvement of local stakeholders in their implementation.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	Set out below

ITEM 9

8.1 Sustainability and Public Health implications

Increased walking and cycling, where it replaces motorised forms of transport such as the car, will improve air quality and reduce carbon emission levels. Increased walking and cycling has a positive impact on personal health. The NHS identifies cycling as an activity which provides significant health benefits.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 Work has been completed on the implementation of the 2014 Action Plan.

9.2 The focus going forward will be promoting cycling at a local level with links to the wellbeing agenda and sustainable transport.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Officers will continue to deliver against the Mole Valley Local Cycling Priorities and engage with stakeholders to ensure that these are met.

Contact Officer:

Lucy O'Connell, Strategic Leadership Manager, Mole Valley District Council
David Sharpington, Cycling Programme Team Leader, Surrey County Council 0208 541 9977

Consulted:

Annexes:

1: Mole Valley Cycling Action Plan.

Sources/background papers:

- Surrey County Council Cycling Strategy – Cabinet item 224/13a Tuesday, 17 December 2013.
- Mole Valley District Council - Executive Meeting - 7th October 2014 Item 7