

Agenda Item 8(i)

Executive Member	Councillor Corinna Osborne-Patterson
Strategic Management Team Lead Officer	Graeme Kane
Author	Lucy O'Connell
Telephone	01306 879191
Email	lucy.oconnell@molevalley.gov.uk
Date	24 th November 2015

Ward (s) affected	All
--------------------------	-----

Subject	Local Cycling Plan – Progress Update
----------------	--------------------------------------

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to note the progress made to achieve the actions in the Local Cycling Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Surrey Transport Plan – Cycling Strategy 2014-2026* was published by Surrey County Council in March 2014. As part of this strategy, there was a commitment to develop local cycling plans for each of Surrey's 11 boroughs and districts in order to best reflect local issues and priorities.

In November 2014, the Executive and Mole Valley Local Committee approved the Mole Valley Local Cycling Plan.

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.

The Report highlights the key achievements from the last 12 months which include:

- Active engagement with local communities and stakeholders regarding infrastructure needs
- Appointment of an Active Travel Officer in conjunction with Sustrans
- 'Be Safe Be Seen' campaign
- Creation of a cycling section on the MVDC website

During the next six months we will continue to work with Surrey County Council and other key stakeholders with particular attention being targeted to infrastructure engagement and a communications campaign to promote 'Responsible Cycling' and event management.

The full action plan, with updates against each action, is included in Appendix 1.

CORPORATE PRIORITY OUTCOMES
COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Active communities and support for those who need it
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make the most of local cycling opportunities to promote sustainable travel and support our rural economy whilst educating cyclists and other road users, and protecting residents and businesses from the impacts of formal and informal cycling events.

1.0 BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

1.1 The *Surrey Transport Plan – Cycling Strategy 2014-2026* was published by Surrey County Council in March 2014. As part of this strategy, there was a commitment to develop local cycling plans for each of Surrey's 11 boroughs and districts in order to best reflect local issues and priorities.

1.2 In November 2014, the Executive and Mole Valley Local Committee approved the Mole Valley Local Cycling Plan.

1.3 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. The Mole Valley priorities are:

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

1.4 This report provides an update on the progress made over the course of the last 12 months.

2.0 PROGRESS

2.1 When adopted, it was recognised that the timeframes within the action plan were ambitious. The intent being that initial scoping work and engagement would be carried out within the specified dates, with the recognition that it could take longer to fund and implement the proposed changes.

2.2 To further demonstrate the Council's commitment to the Local Cycling Plan, a new Executive post was created in May 2015 with responsibility for Rural Economies and Cycling.

Progress is detailed in the action plan attached at Appendix 1. The key achievements to date are summarised below.

2.3 Key Achievements

- An Active Travel Officer has been appointed to work with five schools within Mole Valley this academic year. The post is employed by Sustrans and part-funded by MVDC and SCC. He will work with the students, parents and teachers to promote cycling and walking as a healthy and sustainable alternative to cars. The Active Travel Officer has started working with Charlwood Infants School and is actively working to finalise the remaining four slots.
- A 'Be Safe Be Seen' safety campaign was launched at the end of October 2015, with adverts in the Dorking and Leatherhead Advertisers and a social media campaign. The aim of the campaign is to remind cyclists of the need to ensure they are visible to other road users. The campaign forms the first strand of Mole Valley's Responsible Cycling campaign which will be further developed next year to tackle other issues related to cycling.
- A cycling section has been created on the Council's website, making it easier for customers to find information on:
 - events, such as RideLondon;
 - local facilities including cycle parking;
 - codes of conducts to promote responsible cycling on and off road.
- In conjunction with the Surrey Hills AONB, we commissioned Sustrans to identify opportunities for additional off road cycle paths to provide safer cycling routes within the Surrey Hills. This also has close links with the work of the Surrey Hills Mountain Bike Group, in providing safe, managed mountain bike trails in the Surrey Hills and reducing possible conflicts between the various users.
- Surrey County Council carried out an infrastructure workshop in Leatherhead, which was open to all. Attendees were asked to identify the barriers which prevented them cycling more frequently when travelling around their local community. The most common factor related to cycle paths; either poor maintenance or the lack of paths connecting key routes. Further engagement on infrastructure is planned for 2016 both face-to-face and electronic.
- Working closely with the Mole Valley Neighbourhood Police Team, MVDC brought together local communities, cyclists and horse riders to understand the concerns of each group and how we can manage and support the shared use of the roads throughout Mole Valley. The event, held in October 2015, was well received by those in attendance. Attendees were grateful to have the opportunity to discuss their concerns and possible solutions. We would hope to run a similar event in 2016 to update on progress.

3.0 Next Steps

3.1 In partnership with Surrey County Council, we will continue to implement the actions within the plan. Building on the engagement carried out to date and developing these relationships we will work with our communities to both manage the number of cyclists within Mole Valley and look to maximize the potential benefits to the area.

3.2 In particular over the next six months we will be focusing on:

- The creation of a trial 'Report it' section, which will be available on the Council's website. It is intended that this will enable residents to report maintenance issues with cycle paths within the District so that issues can be logged and followed up with the relevant authority;
- The development of a 'Responsible Cycling' campaign to launch in Spring 2016;
- Working with Surrey County Council, develop and launch an online infrastructure engagement page to be hosted on the Travel Smart website;
- Evaluate and potentially extend the Active Travel Officer post for a second year, if further budget is secured.

	Initiative	Action	Org Lead	Target date	RAG	Progress	Milestones
A1-1	Promote and extend where possible, the Bikeability offer in the District's schools.	Engage with schools to encourage Bikeability provision, promotion and the possible development of reward schemes.	SCC	Jan-15	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All eligible schools are contacted annually inviting Bikeability participation. MVDC and SCC have funded an 'Active Travel Officer' who will work in selected schools, promoting sustainable transport through the Bike-It project, starting autumn 2015 and running to summer 2016. 	
		Liaise with SCC and cycle shops in the area to promote better the training provision available	SCC	Apr-15	G	All eligible schools are contacted annually with an offer of cycle training. The public can book customised training through http://www.travelsmartsurrey.info/cycling/training	
A1-2	Promote and extend where possible the provision of cycle training for adults.	Liaise with Bikeability to provide and promote training provision for adults and families.	SCC	Sep-14	G	Surrey County Council provides Bikeability training to schools and the public. See A1-1 above.	
A1-3	Promote alternative training/coaching methods	Identify provision of and promote alternative cycle training and coaching provision in the District.	SCC	Apr-15	A	Various options have been discussed with British Cycling and they are close to finishing preparation of a proposal	
A2-1	Improve availability of cycle parking facilities.	Investigate current cycle parking provision at train stations, MVDC parks and car parks.	MVDC	Mar-15	G	Information is now available on our website and updated as new facilities become available.	
		Liaise with relevant stakeholders to identify current need for cycle parking provision in the District's town and village centres.	MVDC	Sep-15	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MVDC officers have spoken with PCs and RAs and requested thoughts on areas where additional provision is required. Information from SCC infrastructure events will be used assist this. Links to the MVDC Infrastructure Needs Assessment consultation - further opportunity to gather information. 	Infrastructure workshop (March 2015) - additional workshop intended for Dorking area in the summer Spring Parish & RA meetings
		Seek to improve cycle parking facilities in schools where possible (As part of the SCC school expansion programme – schools which have inadequate levels of cycle parking will be required to increase provision as part of the planning process)	SCC	Sep-15	A	Extra cycle parking included in Greville School Travel Plan.	

A2-2	Encourage commuter cycling.	Encourage and support local employers to promote cycling to work.	SCC / MVDC	Apr-15	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC Travelsmart Challenge took place again in May 2015, with participation rates at the similar level to those in 2014. • No decision has yet been taken as to whether the scheme will run in 2016. • SCC carried out a business workshop with large employers in Leatherhead at the end of April 2015. • A business will be included in the first year of the Bike-it programme
		Seek to increase participation in the Surrey Commuter Challenge.	SCC	Sep-14	G	Travel Smart was run in May 2015, including a visit to Springfield Business Park.
A2-3	Improve road safety outside schools	Through the <i>Safer Routes to School</i> initiative and using statistics on cycling to school, identify routes that need improvement or extension to enable cycling to school	SCC	on going	G	Being developed as part of the Bike-It programme.
A3-1	Maximise the value of the cycling pages on MVDC's website, and further promote Surrey's Travel SMART cycling pages	Review current website pages and identify gaps in information.	MVDC / SCC	Mar-15	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MVDC webpages have been reviewed and updated. Officers will continue to review and update the new pages regularly. • SCC pages have been migrated over to the Travelsmart website.
A3-2	Enhance the promotion of existing cycle routes.	Increase distribution of hard copies of cycle route maps at key contact points.	SCC	Sep-15	G	Maps are now available free of charge and have been updated. Route map produced for Ashtead-Leatherhead path. Maps are available in the MVDC Reception, Helpshop, LLC, Leatherhead Institute as well as local libraries.
		Promote the Travel SMART journey planner and website.	SCC	Apr-15	G	Promoted through the Travel SMART commuter challenge in May and on-going via social media.
E1-1	Work with relevant organisations and groups to challenge and improve behaviour of problem groups.	Work with stakeholders across the country e.g. British Cycling, Sport England and other local authorities with high levels of cycling, to increase mutual understanding of current issues and potential solutions.	SCC / MVDC	Sep-15	A	National lobbying is being led by British Cycling and SCC are liaising with British Cycling. British Cycling are producing a series of behavioural videos called 'Ride Smart'

		Engage with cycling clubs, race organisers, equestrian groups and walkers to increase understanding of each other's perspectives and their impact on each other and explore potential local solutions.	MVDC / SCC	Sep-15	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MVDC is working closely with Surrey Hills as significant overlap in issues. • The British Horse Society and British Cycling Code of Conduct is available on the Mole Valley Website. • Engagement event was held on 15 October, hosted by Surrey Police and MVDC with cycling clubs, British Horse Society and Local Communities 	
		Promote the Surrey Hills Mountain Bike Code of Conduct	MVDC	Apr-15	G	This information is now available on the MVDC website.	
		Work with Surrey Police to encourage responsible behaviours and promote the safe and co-operative use of the road by all users, with officers using their range of powers during interventions in order to educate all road users and take the appropriate action to address road traffic infringements	SCC / MVDC / Police	on-going	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrey Police have issued 'Advice and Interventions' guidance to all officers. • MVDC 'Be Safe Be Seen' Campaign launched in October 2015 • MVDC Responsible Cycling Campaign being developed for Spring 2016 	
		Use cycle maps to identify and highlight areas of high risks to cyclists and other road users	SCC	on-going	A	Cycling Board are reviewing a potential app based on one developed in Yorkshire	
		Work with partners and land owners to improve signage, information and car parking provision for off road cyclists	MVDC	Apr-15	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking in with Surrey Hills Mountain Bike Group • Sustrans report has been developed outlining improvements to off road tracks to ensure usable for all users (cycle, walk, equestrian) and additional paths to link up current trails • SCC are looking to develop a rural cycling strategy (awaiting confirmation of new timetable) • Funding options to deliver improvements are being sought 	
E1-2	Promote Cycle SMART campaign in Mole Valley.	Continue and enhance the Cycle SMART promotional campaign in the area.	SCC / MVDC	on-going	G	Cycle Smart summer campaign ran 29 June – 30 August 2015	on-going promotion as and when information available

E2-1	Target encouraging cycling in areas of the District which experience health, social and economic exclusion	Work with community cycling projects to encourage and facilitate cycling in areas of deprivation	MVDC / SCC	Dec-15	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiative in place at St John's Dorking Bike-It programme has targeted schools in areas of highest need Wheels For All operating at LLC on Wednesdays.
E2-2	Support inclusive cycling to enable disabled residents to enjoy the activity	Promote and support opportunities for inclusive cycling	MVDC	Mar-16	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships have launched inclusive sporting event days at both leisure centres. Wheels For All operating at LLC on Wednesdays
		Consider the needs of inclusive bikes when designing and maintaining cycle routes	SCC	on-going	G	
E2-3	Support off-road cyclists to enjoy the sport whilst limiting the damage to the environment and the effect on other activities	Promote safe and well designed off-road routes for mountain bikers	MVDC / SCC	Dec-15	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustrans report has been received. Work underway with Surrey Hills Mountain Bike Working Group to look at how to take this forward and mapping of the existing routes Report will also be used to assist in the development of the SCC Rural Cycling Strategy when work on this is taken forward.
E2-4	Enhance the cycling offer within MVDC parks and open spaces	Enable younger children to use parks as a safe place to learn and explore cycling	MVDC	Apr-15	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness to families that the parks are a safe environment Information available through the MVDC website Desire to produce a local information booklet detailing safe route and family opportunities within Mole Valley in 2016
		Expand and improve cycling routes in MVDC parks where it does not jeopardise the enjoyment of other users	MVDC	Mar-16	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpath in Meadowbank to be widened as part of the redevelopment of the site. Consideration to be given as to how to collect data on targeting areas to improve.
E3-1	Encourage event organisers to consider the impact on local residents and businesses when organising their events	Work with stakeholders across the country e.g. British Cycling, Sport England and other local authorities with high levels of cycling, to manage the effect of sportives on our communities and other road users	SCC / MVDC	Sep-15	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacting other LAs where there has been a significant increase in cycling such as Yorkshire and New Forest SCC leading on discussions with British Cycling

		Encourage event organisers to devise routes that reduce the impact on local residents and businesses	SCC / MVDC	Sep-15	A	SCC Events Process in place for closed road events - review in progress, Member workshop scheduled for 30th November 2015
		Devise a code of conduct for event organisers, and incentivise their use, to lessen the impact of events on communities.	SCC	Apr-15	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A code of conduct was included in the SCC Event Organisers Guide for events on closed roads. This will be reviewed in Autumn 2015. • In the absence of national regulation, Surrey County Council is now developing a voluntary code of conduct for sportive organisers and plans to promote this with relevant partners
E3-2	Enhance the information accessible to residents and businesses about cycling events taking place in their communities	Develop a public access portal with information about cycling events taking place on public highways, and incentivise its use by event organisers	SCC / MVDC	Apr-15	R	The creation of an online portal has been delayed due to changes to the SCC website. SCC intend to have a proposed approach and timescale drafted by the end of November.
E3-3	Campaign for changes to national regulations	Identify improvements to regulations that would enable greater control of events by the Highway Authority e.g. requirement for advance approval for events in sensitive areas	SCC / MVDC	Sep-15	A	Liaising with British Cycling as per E3-1
E3-4	Seek to increase the net economic effect of cycling on local businesses	Through communication, advice and route planning, seek to reduce the disruption caused by major cycling events on local businesses	MVDC	on-going	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers continue to work closely with RideLondon to ensure that information is made available to members of the public. Better use is being made of local publications such as parish newsletters. • Event signage is continually reviewed and discussed with local communities. • MVDC attends de-briefing sessions with RideLondon • RideLondon representatives have attended Scrutiny Committee to update Members both pre and post event and will continue to do so.

		Gather evidence of the costs and benefits experienced by businesses and residents arising from the increasing popularity of cycling, cycle events (including the associated road closures) and any associated growth in the visitor economy	MVDC / SCC	on-going	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting feedback from SCC and RideLondon on specific event economic benefits. • Surrey wide Tourism Survey planned towards the end of 2015. • A first stage bid has been submitted for EAFRD funding, if successful, this will enable systematic evidence to be gathered.
		Publicise evidence, including best case examples, how businesses have and can benefit from the popularity of cycling in Mole Valley.	MVDC / SCC	on-going	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify local businesses willing to share experiences and data. • Links to E3-4 and the EAFRD funding bid
V1-1	Create a prioritised list of improvements and extensions to the cycling network	Work with relevant stakeholders to identify demand for new routes and improvements to the existing cycling network.	SCC	Sep-15	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot event at Leatherhead Leisure Centre March 2015 completed. • SCC are developing an online mapping facility for Mole Valley which will enable users to directly input their infrastructure suggestions.
		Where appropriate, extend the use of cycle counters to inform the management and promotion of cycling	SCC	on-going	G	County survey completed August 2015; Box Hill Counter trials completed Sept 2015
V1-2	Secure funding for infrastructure improvements	Seek funding from a range of sources to support the development and improvement of cycling infrastructure	SCC / MVDC	on-going	A	SCC gathering evidence to create a list for endorsement by Local Committee.
V2-1	Improve the maintenance of existing cycle paths in Mole Valley.	Confirm responsibility for maintenance of existing cycle paths.	SCC / MVDC	Apr-15	G	<p>Paths attached to highways are cleansed as part of the MVDC contract. Separate cycle paths are the responsibility of SCC.</p> <p>A 'report it' function will be added to the MVDC website to enable cyclists to report issues which can then be passed on to the relevant authority to action.</p>

		Engage with relevant stakeholders to prioritise maintenance in areas of greatest need.	SCC / MVDC	Apr-15	A	At present this is carried out on an adhoc basis but it is hoped that as evidence is gathered, prioritised lists can be created. MVCF regularly inspect cycle paths and share this data with the relevant authorities for action.	
V2-2	Improve signage of current routes.	Work with relevant stakeholders to identify gaps in cycle path signage and de-clutter where signage is unhelpful, unnecessary, redundant, or inappropriately sized.	SCC	Apr-15	A	Will be included as part of V1-1	
		Establish a prioritised list of signage improvements.	SCC	Sep-15	A	Will be included as part of V1-1	
		Review and improve where necessary signage at MVDC car parks and parks to advise of cycling facilities and access	MVDC	Apr-15	A	Feedback from the community has largely been around signage in Meadowbank. There is an issue on the footpath adjacent to the Football Ground where it is too narrow to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. It is hoped that this path will be widened as part of the Meadowbank redevelopment project and improve access to the park for cyclists. Cycle parking was reviewed as part of the car parking strategy - feedback at the time was that cyclists did not want to park their bikes in car parks. We can look at putting racks in parks, such as Meadowbank, to prevent users from chaining bikes to railings.	