

## **ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Wednesday 15 May 2002

**Time:** 2.00 to 5.00 pm

**Venue:** Committee Room 3,

## **WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT**

### **DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – WALKING AND CYCLING STRATEGY**

#### **Purpose**

1. To inform the Committee about the work of the Walking and Cycling sub group of the Welsh Transport Forum, and the drafting of the Consultation Document.

#### **Summary**

2. This document is being drafted for public consultation. Response will be sought from walking, cycling and horse riding organisations, disability groups, local authorities and community organisations. The Committee is invited to comment on key issues and to indicate any further changes members would wish to see before issue.

#### **Timing**

3. The Consultation document will be issued at the beginning of June with responses requested by early September. The Walking and Cycling Strategy will be prepared by November 2002.

#### **Background**

4. The Welsh Transport Forum received a presentation from Sustrans at its meeting on 26 March 2001. The Forum agreed to set up a sub group to consider the issues raised and help prepare a Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales. The sub group, chaired by Andrew Hemmings of Transport Policy Division included representatives from walking, cycling and horse riding organisations, the Welsh

Local Government Association, disability groups and Assembly Transport Directorate. Originally, the sub group included a representative from motorcycling organisations. The members preferred not to include motorcycling which is not being progressed by a separate sub group.

5. Members of the sub group agreed to work together on a draft Consultation Document which recognised the common features, potential conflicts and solutions for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. In addition, the representatives of Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee and Access Association are asking that the Welsh Assembly Government explicitly reinforce its commitment to the absolute priority of providing facilities for people with disabilities. In particular they are seeking full segregation of routes for the three different modes of travel.

6. The draft Consultation Document fits with the paper on Transport Grant Invitations for Bids for Support in 2003-2004, and the Countryside Division paper on greater access to the countryside under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act. There are also close links with recommendations in the emerging Road Safety Strategy. The sub group has recognised some degree of overlap for example in advocating 'Quick Wins' which meet the dual objectives of Road Safety and encouraging sustainable travel.

### **Compliance, Financial Implications and Other Impacts**

7. There are no immediate financial implications from proceeding with issue of the Consultation Document.

### **Cross-Cutting Themes**

8. The document is written in the context of the Assembly's sustainable development scheme and its commitment to tackling social disadvantage and equal opportunities. The Transport Framework for Wales and the Road Safety Strategy have provided the policy contexts.

### **Action for Environment, Planning and Transport Committee**

9 To consider this draft and to offer any further comments before the Document is sent to members of the Welsh Transport Forum and formally issued for public consultation.

### **Contact Point**

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