

29 October 2020

Report of	Assistant Director of Environment	Author	Jane Thompson
Title	Safer Greener Healthier – Active Travel In Colchester		☎ 508642
Wards affected	All		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the work Essex County Council are carrying out to encourage more walking and cycling in Colchester, including the funding bid to Government to improve the routes and access to the town centre. This is part of the Government's initiative to promote active travel to help people access the town centres, jobs and services in a sustainable way, as part of the Covid19 recovery plan.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 The Panel are asked to consider the report and give feedback to support the measures being proposed.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 Support from the Panel will help ECC in their bid for funding and assist with the implementation of the proposed measures. A positive response will mean investment in active travel in Colchester

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 To not give ECC support for the measures could make it difficult to promote active travel in Colchester

5. Background Information

5.1 Essex County Council (ECC) have developed a programme to help deliver and enabling Safer, Greener and Healthier travel for current and future users of the transport network in Essex. Government invited Highway Authorities to submit a programme of measures to help deliver –

- More people walking and cycling for travel
- Improving physical and mental health
- Safer, quieter streets and Improved public realm
- Thriving local communities with better local economies and revitalised High Streets
- Increasing local jobs and benefit to local businesses
- Reduced congestion
- Improved air quality
- Combat climate change
- Be a blueprint for the future of sustainable transport

5.2 ECC are working with the Borough Council, stakeholders and the business community to develop measures to help deliver the objectives. These include –

- Continuous cycle tracks with priority over motor vehicles at junctions
- Contraflow cycling in one way/no entry streets considered where this will give a continuous route
- Cycle tracks and crossings segregated from pedestrians to improve the walking and browsing environment
- 20mph zones, Safer School Streets and Liveable (Low Traffic) Neighbourhoods to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians, and make the neighbourhood a more pleasant place to be.

5.3 Plans are being drawn up to introduce a north - south and east-west route which allow better access into the town centre, as well as a secure cycle hub for commuters, shoppers and visitors to securely park their bikes. Safer school streets and within the vicinity of the routes are being considered

5.4 The work with the business community is important to ensure servicing and parking are considered in the designs.

5.5 ECC expect to hear if their bid for funding has been successful by early November. If it is successful then design work and community engagement will follow very soon after.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

6.1 This is an ECC project, therefore ECC will carry out equality, diversity and human rights considerations as part of their design process.

7. Standard References

7.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.