



**Name of meeting:** Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

**Date:** 8 February 2021

**Title of report:** Place Partnerships Active Travel Progress Report

**Purpose of report:**

To provide members of the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel with a progress report on the work of the Place Partnerships to date and next steps with regards to the Active Travel theme

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u> ?	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name  Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?  Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Rachel Spencer Henshall, Director of Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health  31 February 2022
Cabinet member Housing and Democracy Portfolio	Councillor Cathy Scott

**Electoral wards affected:** All

**Ward councillors consulted:** Cllrs Cathy Scott, Gwen Lowe, Andrew Pinnock, Nosheen Dad, Sheikh Ullah, Karen Allison, Elizabeth Reynolds and Charles Greaves

**Public or private:** Public.

**Has GDPR been considered?** N/A

**1. Summary**

- 1.1** Seven Place Partnerships were established at Annual Council in May 2019 to address strategic issues on a geography greater than a ward. They involve a number of wards working together and form part of our approach to Place Based Working
- 1.2** A Place Partnership Lead Councillor has been identified for each geography who has been working with ward Councillors using data, intelligence and insight, gathered through stakeholder engagement, to propose interventions that will lead to better outcomes. They refer recommendations to Cabinet on how their funding will be spent.
- 1.3** Place Partnerships cover the following geographies which have been determined using demographics as a basis. The lead Councillor responsible for each place, and the wards involved, are set out below:
- 1.3.1** Huddersfield North (Ashbrow, Crosland Moor and Netherton and Greenhead wards) - Cllr Sheikh Ullah
  - 1.3.2** Huddersfield Central (Almondbury, Dalton and Newsome wards) - Cllr Karen Alison
  - 1.3.3** Huddersfield Rural - (Denby Dale, Holme Valley North, Holme Valley South and Kirkburton wards) - Cllr Charles Greaves
  - 1.3.4** Colne Valley (Colne Valley, Golcar and Lindley wards) - Cllr Elizabeth Reynolds
  - 1.3.5** Dewsbury (Dewsbury East, Dewsbury South and Dewsbury West wards) - Cllr Nosheen Dad
  - 1.3.6** Spen Valley (Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, Liversedge and Gomersal and Mirfield wards) - Cllr Andrew Pinnock
  - 1.3.7** Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw (Batley East, Batley West and Birstall and Birkenshaw wards) - Cllr Gwen Lowe
- 1.4** For 2019/21 the themes were to improve mental health and domestic abuse outcomes, with funding of £1M and £400,000 respectively allocated to support this and spend of £955,219.50p and £400,000 respectively.
- 1.5** For 2021/22 the theme is Active Travel, with funding of £2M available for place leads to work with ward Councillors, schools and local communities on initiatives to encourage walking, cycling or alternatives to cars.

**2. Information required to take a decision**

- 2.1** In addition to working on their proposals; the seven Place Partnership leads have been meeting regularly since June 2019 in order to: -
- 2.1.1** Plan how they would work together and agree their overarching framework, which is attached at Appendix 1
  - 2.1.2** Share experiences, progress, challenges and explore opportunities to develop cross cutting initiatives.
  - 2.1.3** The Cabinet Member with responsibility for this area of work, Councillor Cathy Scott, also attends the Place Partnership lead's meetings and where required has attended individual place partnership meetings when invited to do so.
- 2.2** The approach adopted across the seven place partnerships has been to: -
- 2.2.1** develop an intelligence profile for each Place to better understand the factors that impact on their theme, share evidence-based approaches to improve outcomes, local good practice etc.
  - 2.2.2** share the profiles with all councillors so they can include their local ward knowledge and identify if further data/intelligence is needed.

- 2.2.3 plan engagement with stakeholders and partners to share and build on the intelligence profile and start to identify the outcomes that are most important and how these could be addressed.
- 2.2.4 Collaborate with stakeholders and partners to plan creative approaches and interventions to support local initiatives, whilst also supporting and building local voluntary and community capacity.
- 2.2.5 Only on completion of the above-mentioned stages can a recommendation be made to Cabinet to commission resources.

2.3 Progress to date on the active travel theme is outlined below: -

- 2.3.1 Colleagues from public health attended the July 2021 place partnership leads meeting to provide an update on the development of the active travel intelligence packs.
- 2.3.2 The profiles included health indicators, examples of best practice, a summary of planned schemes (what's already happening and what's in the pipeline), housing sites for future developments, place standard information, school travel data etc.
- 2.3.3 The active travel intelligence packs were circulated to place leads who were briefed on the content and key indicators in their profile.
- 2.3.4 This was followed with a meeting for all ward Councillors, via their place partnerships, to share and go through the profiles, to start to identify priorities and plan for engagement with community and external stakeholders. The key points from each place partnership meeting are summarised below: -

#### **2.3.4.1 Batley Birstall and Birkenshaw**

The Batley Birstall and Birkenshaw place partnership invited all ward Councillors to a meeting in October to receive an overview of their active travel profile from officers. They met again on Tuesday 18th January to explore ideas and priorities that included: -

- Improvement and maintenance of public rights of ways (PROWS) and footpaths that could be used to develop safe walking routes
- Journeys to and from schools with a focus on physical and behaviour change.
- Opportunities to add value to the small-town centre and streets for people programmes.

Officers have started to scope some ideas and options around these priorities which are due to be discussed at the next place partnership meeting in February where next steps will be discussed and agreed by Members.

#### **2.3.4.2 Spen Valley and Mirfield**

Spen and Mirfield place partnership met on 19 October to explore the Spen Valley Active Travel Profile (ATP). A summary of the ATP was presented by public health officers who were supported by colleagues from a range of services due to the wide topic area, to fully support the discussion and respond to queries. A further place partnership meeting took place on 23 November where an initial action plan, based on earlier discussions, was considered.

The initial scoping discussions highlighted the potential to prioritise:

- Support life-course interventions
- Purposeful journeys and school routes
- Circular routes
- Enhancing major schemes including associated behavioural changes
- Access to the Greenway & Ringway
- PROW improvements
- Building on community activity.

Officers have started to scope some ideas and options around travel to school and PROWs as these are cross cutting themes common to several or all place partnerships. These ideas

are due to be discussed at their next meeting in February for members to discuss and agree their next steps.

In addition, Councillors will also be encouraged to take up the offer of Kompass training if they are not already familiar with using Kompass.

#### **2.3.4.3 Dewsbury**

The Dewsbury Place Partnership has held three meetings to date (Sept, Oct, and Nov 2021) where they have discussed their active travel profile and emerging priorities. They started to scope and prioritise potential actions and at their meeting in November, councillors agreed they would explore: -

- The feasibility of e-bike lending scheme should be further explored involving West Yorkshire Combined Authority and EPIKs, who are working with Huddersfield University and others to develop e-bike use. Scooters not to be included/too complicated and potentially problematic.
- Walking and cycling network route improvements (tackling overgrown and litter strewn areas, lighting, signage, surface improvements. Greenway, PROWS and canal paths all need attention.
- Confidence building and practical improvements on safety in using greenspaces with an enhanced 'offer' that includes walking routes developed and promoted across 3 wards and supported through Dewsbury: Your Health in Mind project
- Safe walking to and from school.

The next place partnership meeting is due to held in February and will explore options on the development of a pilot e-bike scheme with EPIKs and ideas and options around travel to school and PROWs.

#### **2.3.4.4 Huddersfield North**

The Huddersfield north place partnership met in October to receive an overview of the active travel profile from various officers. They met again on the 7 December 2021 to agree on their top priorities.

It was agreed by all those present that officers draft three proposals for consideration at a future meeting. The priorities are:

- Improvements and Maintenance of priority PROWs across the 3 wards – targeting routes in and around schools, shops, bus stops etc.
- Engage our Schools across the 3 Wards – footpaths in and around schools. Promote opportunities under Modeshift
- Facilities and local assets – safety/storage, cycle hubs/stands linked to public transport

#### **2.3.4.5 Huddersfield Central**

The Huddersfield central place partnership met on 16 September to receive an overview of the active travel profile from various officers. They met again on the 7 December 2021 with all wards represented to agree on their top priorities.

It was agreed by all those present that officers draft three proposals for consideration at a future meeting. The priorities are:

- Improvements and Maintenance of priority PROWs across the 3 wards – particularly around routes around schools, bus stops, shops etc
- Engage Schools across the 3 Wards – links to above priority to enable safe routes to school and opportunities that can be explored under Modeshift
- Enhance Huddersfield Broad Canal Tow Path – primarily those that span the 3 wards. First to confirm the position of any external funding bids which have previously been submitted and secondly to identify additional investment from the Place Partnership.

#### **2.3.4.6 Colne Valley**

The Colne Valley place partnership has met four times between October and January where they have received an overview of their active travel profile from various officers, discussed potential priorities amongst themselves and then talked through and explored these with officers. Initial ideas explored by Members with officers to date include: -

- Footpath improvements and schemes to encourage purposeful cycling and active school journeys.
- Street lighting improvement (feeling safe whilst traveling)
- Improvements and Maintenance of priority PROWs

The place partnership meetings are very well attended with all wards being represented, Future meetings are scheduled on 21 February and 21 March to agree priorities and then plan engagement with groups, schools and the community around the priority themes.

#### **2.3.4.7 Huddersfield Rural**

The Huddersfield Rural Place Partnership has met twice to consider the Active Travel profile – In October and December. The December meeting was not well attended due to a clash with Cabinet. Cllr Greaves met separately with the 2 Rural Cabinet members in January to update them and discuss the schools and any ward priorities as below.

- The agreed priority population is schools and surrounding communities (drop and go as well as afternoon pick up) and a focus on safe walking routes to school; potentially managing traffic around schools and programmes that encourage parents & children to walk and cycle (not just enforcement) and explore potential to use local spaces such as parks and partner with local sports clubs.

The next Rural Place Partnership meeting is arranged on 22nd February, the purpose is: -

- To consider PROW and school options for active travel and to consider engagement with the priority populations and communities, PROW for example to and from local train stations
- For councillors to consider whether any issues have been highlighted by Place Standard conversations so far such as other priority groups and street-based issues that can be addressed on a ward basis.

To take forward the schools' priority, Holme Valley North ward will pilot the first walkabout and feedback at the next meeting. There will also be a ward walkabout offer in the school's options put forward by officers.

#### **2.3.5 Place Partnership Leads Meetings**

The seven place partnership leads met in November to share progress with each other, identify any common themes that can be progressed collectively and to consider how they will evaluate and measure impact. The leads met again on 26 January and received information and costs on sustainable travel to school options and PROW proposals that included: -

- Current delivery taking place currently and which can be scaled up with further resources and capacity
- New interventions to enhance the active travel in school settings (based on place priorities/ barriers/ concerns)
- All interventions support the Kirklees Walking and Cycling Strategic Framework Outcomes (including scooting)
- All activities and approached are considered in the context of inclusivity
- Approximate costings for works on paths for improvements
- Approximate costings for -general maintenance (vegetation) and improvements such as surfacing, mapping and general items.

The leads will now share and discuss options and proposals with their councillor colleagues at their respective place partnership meetings scheduled in February and March where they will be able to agree the priorities they wish to focus on, and work will then take place to work up proposals.

Where priorities, issues and opportunities are bigger than the place partnerships remit allows, the leads are keen that these should not be lost but are picked up and considered by the council and, that work funded by place partnerships should be consolidated and mainstreaming options need to be considered where possible.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

- **Working with People**

The success of place partnerships is based on engagement with councillors, third sector, partners and communities sharing data, intelligence and lived experience to inform and share solutions together.

- **Working with Partners**

The place partnership approach is data and intelligence led and involves stakeholders and partners, including from the third sector, working together to identify the outcomes that are most important and how these could be addressed.

- **Place Based Working**

Place partnerships involve a number of wards working together to address strategic issues. A framework has been developed that utilises data, intelligence and insight, gathered through engagement with partners and stakeholder, that is specific to each place to inform collaborative approaches that will help maximise impact on outcomes in those places.

Whilst some of the place partnerships may have similar priorities, the approach taken to improve active travel will be shaped in collaboration with locally based organisations and tailored to the needs of the place (not a one size fits all approach)

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

The active travel fund will be used by place leads to work with ward Councillors, schools and local communities on initiatives to encourage walking, cycling or alternatives to cars, which will contribute to the Councils air quality plans.

- **Improving outcomes for children**

Opportunities to increase active travel amongst children and young people will be explored as part of the data and intelligence gathering and engagement approach.

- **Other (e.g., Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

None

#### **Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?**

Not applicable for this report

### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder and Place Partnership Leads have been consulted in the production of this report and support the officer recommendation.

### **5. Next steps and timelines**

Following the place partnership leads meeting on 26 January, the leads will share the information and costs on sustainable travel to school and PROW options with their councillor colleagues at their next meetings, scheduled in February and March, to agree the priorities they wish to focus on, and work will take place to work up proposals.

Evaluation will be planned and built into all proposals recommended to Cabinet and a communication plan is in development to help raise awareness and promote the work of Place Partnerships.

**6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the Economy and Neighbourhoods scrutiny panel note the contents of this report, the progress made to improve active travel outcomes to date and that further engagement, including with ward councillors, will take place to develop projects for Cabinet to consider.

**7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder supports the approach, progress made and the officer recommendation.

**8. Contact officer**

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**9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Annual Council Meeting 22 May 2019 – Ward and Place Partnerships

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s28786/Item%207%20-%20Place%20Based%20Working%201.pdf>

**10. Service Director responsible**

Rachel Spencer Henshall, Director of Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health

## **Place Partnership Lead – A 9 Stage Framework for Delivery**

- 1. Framework Development**
- 2. Resource allocation**
- 3. Initial scoping meeting of Place Partnership Lead Member, Intelligence colleague and key officer**
- 4. Agree a priority theme and population group based on intelligence**
- 5. Develop an action plan to include:**
  - a. Engagement with elected councillors, relevant departments and sections operating in the designated area with responsibility for the priority theme to understand what already exists and what the gaps are
  - b. Engagement with the community and key stakeholder groups / organisations
- 6. Following engagement, determine the commission and consider evaluation**
- 7. Work with place partnership lead members to share commonalities**
- 8. Recommend to Cabinet**
- 9. Implement, monitor and evaluate**
- 10. Celebrate successes, thank partners for their contribution and share the learning with local citizens, key stakeholders and other place partnerships.**