
CYCLING IN DARLINGTON PEDESTRIAN HEART

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor David Lyonette, Transport Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -
Ian Williams, Director of Economic Growth**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to the recommendations of Place Scrutiny Committee on Cycling in the Pedestrian Heart.

Summary

2. At the meeting of Council held 4 December 2014, Place Scrutiny Committee was requested to conduct a review of cycling in the Pedestrian Heart following an incident which had left a resident hospitalised.
3. Place Scrutiny Committee met on 5 February 2015 where a wide number of issues were discussed and considered at that meeting.
4. Scrutiny Committee heard the views of members of the public, Darlington Association on Disability, Durham Constabulary and various Cycling Groups.

Recommendation

5. Cabinet are requested to approve the following recommendations of Place Scrutiny Committee :-
 - (a) That the Council and the Police be encouraged to work together to inform cyclists of the concerns of pedestrians, particularly the elderly, through events and road safety marketing and publicity;
 - (b) It was noted that the Cycle Training includes advice on how to ride responsibly in the Town Centre where a child's school journey involves this route;

- (c) That the Police provide increased focus on anti-social behaviour particularly on bikes and skateboards;
- (d) That the profile of the incident reporting mechanism and the Code of Conduct be highlighted using various media forms, including social media, to encourage cyclists to be considerate and aware of other users of the pedestrianised area;
- (e) That improved signage be provided to delineate where cyclists can and cannot cycle in the pedestrianised area and that these be reported to Place Scrutiny Committee in six months;
- (f) That a further Attitude Survey be undertaken in February 2016, to be reported to Place Scrutiny Committee, as part of a comprehensive monitoring exercise;
- (g) That a Road Safety Audit be undertaken;
- (h) That Officers be requested to investigate the provision of a dedicated cycle route around the Pedestrian Heart in conjunction with cycling groups; and
- (i) That best practice of other local authorities be investigated.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported to conclude the work undertaken by the Place Scrutiny Committee.

Catherine Whitehead
Assistant Chief Executive

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Karen Graves : Extension 5801

S17 Crime and Disorder	The report supports the Council's Crime and Disorder responsibilities.
Health and Well Being	The report supports improving health and wellbeing, addressing road safety concerns and promoting active lifestyles.
Carbon Impact	The report promotes lowering carbon impact, through the provision and promotion of sustainable travel choices.
Diversity	The report supports the promotion of diversity.
Wards Affected	Central Ward
Groups Affected	All current and potential users of the town centre.
Budget and Policy Framework	
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not considered an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report supports the delivery of Greener Darlington and contributed to Healthier Darlington.
Efficiency	The outcome of this report does not impact on the Council efficiency agenda.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. Place Scrutiny Committee was requested to conduct a review of cycling in the Pedestrian Heart following an accident which had left a resident hospitalised.
8. A Special meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee was held on 5 February 2015 at which a wide number of issues were discussed and considered.
9. Scrutiny Committee heard the views of members of the public, Darlington Association on Disability, Durham Police Constabulary and various Cycling Groups.
10. Place Scrutiny Committee accepted the use of the Pedestrian Heart by cyclists as a component of the cycle route network designed for the Borough and the contribution of that Policy to carbon reduction measures and road safety.
11. It was also united in its objection and condemnation of anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre.

Director's Comments

12. I agree with the recommendations put forward in this Cabinet report. They demonstrate a commitment from the Council to address the concerns raised and considered at the Committee. These require a commitment of both financial and staff resources, which at this stage are not fully known. The recommendations are not built into current work programmes therefore both Place Scrutiny Committee and Officers will need to develop a programme to enable affordable recommendations to be delivered within an agreed timetable and to enable monitoring to take place.