



**North Yorkshire County Council  
Harrogate and Knaresborough Constituency Committee – 9 January 2020  
Update on the Walking Infrastructure Plan for Harrogate and Knaresborough**

**1.0 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To update members on the Walking Infrastructure Plan for Harrogate and Knaresborough.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 In 2017 North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) commissioned WSP to prepare a Cycle Infrastructure Plan (CIP) for the Harrogate area. The work was carried out in broad accordance with the Government's suggested Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) guidance, though at that stage the walking element had yet to be investigated.
- 2.2 The draft CIP was completed in late 2018, and approved by the Corporate Director, Business and Environmental Services (BES) in consultation with the BES Executive Members in July 2019. Area Constituency Committee members also had the opportunity to feed back on the draft plan prior to it been approved.
- 2.3 Alongside the CIP, in 2018/19 Officers from the transport planning team at NYCC led a study into potential ways of reducing congestion in Harrogate.
- 2.4 As part of the Harrogate Congestion Study, a wide scale public consultation was undertaken in Harrogate and the surrounding areas. The public consultation gathered views on a range of measures that could potentially help reduce congestion. The outcome of the public consultation helped officers understand which potential measures were considered acceptable by the public.
- 2.5 As part of the public consultation, the following question was asked; *Having read the information, how strongly do you feel we should improve **cycling & walking** infrastructure and facilities to reduce congestion in Harrogate and Knaresborough?* The results highlighted that 77% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed, 13% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 10% disagreed or strongly disagreed. A supplementary question also asked *How often would you use improved cycling and walking facilities in Harrogate and Knaresborough?* 15% of respondents answered with always, 40% answered often, 24% answered sometimes, 13% answered rarely and 9 % answered never.
- 2.6 On the basis of the results from the public consultation, one of the recommendations following the consultation on the Harrogate Congestion Study was to produce a walking infrastructure plan for Harrogate and Knaresborough. This recommendation was supported by the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee in August 2019 and subsequently approved by the County Council Executive in October 2019.

### **3.0 Local Walking Infrastructure Plan**

- 3.1 Following the approval of officers to progress with the walking infrastructure plan it was agreed that NYCC partner consultants WSP would undertake the work, and where possible use members of the project team that completed the Harrogate Cycle Infrastructure plan. This would essentially upgrade the LCIP to a full LCWIP, in line with DfT guidance.
- 3.2 The work is anticipated to take around 4-5 months to complete, with the final report due with NYCC early February 2020.
- 3.3 Once complete the walking infrastructure plan will sit alongside the cycle infrastructure plan as a sister document.

### **4.0 Equalities implications**

- 4.1 Consideration has been given to the potential for any adverse equalities impacts arising from the recommendations of this report. As this report is for information only, it is the view of officers that the recommendations included in this report do not have any adverse impacts on any of the protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010 and no equalities impact screening is required.

### **5.0 Finance implications**

- 5.1 As this report is for information only, it is the view of officers that the recommendations included in this report do not have any financial implications.

### **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 As this report is for information only, it is the view of officers that the recommendations included in this report do not have any financial implications.

<h3><b>7.0 Recommendations</b></h3>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>7.1 It is recommended that Members;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) Note the content of the report.</li></ul></li></ul> |
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