

Statement of Harrogate and District Cycle Action, together with the response provided at the meeting by Louise Neale (Team Leader Transport Planning, Highways and Transportation) which is shown in red and italic font

Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement to the Committee today about Harrogate and District Cycle Action (HDCA),

The organisation is known to a number of Members as we have made presentations to this committee on cycling related issues and also been in active contact with a number of you regarding cycling

The Organisation is made up of representatives from various cycling organisations in the District and we have over 300 plus Supporters and we have an active website which is available to our Supporters and general public which is <https://harrogatecycleaction.org.uk> Over the past 7/8 years HDCA has tried to work closely with the Local Authorities to facilitate the improvement of the cycling infrastructure and is an active Member of Harrogate District Cycle Forum. We have regular monthly meetings with Officers on current projects and we have input on various projects to give local knowledge and insight which has helped in securing funding. Whilst the Authority has been successful in securing funds our major concern is the delivery of those Projects.

These include:-

- a) Otley Road scheme where funding was secured in 2017 and is still less than one third complete. *Response – We accept that there has been a delay, with various design issues and land issues having delayed delivery, but phase 1 has now been completed with consultation on phase two due imminently.*
- b) Victoria Avenue and Knaresborough Road where funding was secured in 2020 and still not started or final designs agreed. *Response - Active Travel England, who are the funders, have been involved in discussions about these schemes and are keen to be involved in the ongoing design work. They are fully aware that these schemes have not yet been delivered and they have suggested further design work as a way forward.*
- c) Oatlands Feasibility Study-which is still only internal work with no public involvement so no likely outcome in 2022. *Response – We are ready to go with public engagement due to start this month and this will be publicised very shortly.*

We believe this lack of progress will impact on potential future funding bids as the authority has already been unsuccessful in the ATF3 bid and is unlikely to be successful in ATF4 unless good progress is made on the current schemes. *Response - Ongoing dialogue with Active Travel England will help us deliver strong bids in the future as well.*

We see the major problem as a lack of an Officer who leads on the Cycling agenda in the local area and who has local knowledge and authority to deliver these schemes. We believe that the Area Committee must play a key role in helping shape local strategies and plans and the need for action in a number of areas. *Response – There is now an officer within the Area 6 Highways Team who is responsible for delivering specific projects, so the larger projects. This is not specifically Active Travel but it is picking-up on a lot of Active Travel projects.*

These areas are:-

1. The development of a detailed Cycling Plan for Harrogate District which will inform future development and transport infrastructure.
Response - This is in progress and officers have been working with Harrogate and District Cycle Action on network and zone plans over the last year. This work is being pulled together alongside some updates to the priority corridors that we looked at through the Local Cycling Network Infrastructure Plan and these are being updated to LTN1/20 standard.
2. The appointment of a dedicated Cycling Officer for the District at a senior level to monitor projects, and input into planning and other developments.
Response - North Yorkshire County Council have a duty to ensure future active travel delivery takes place across the county where opportunities allow so this would

need to be carefully considered if considering a role in one District alone. It is however recognised that the improvement schemes in Harrogate do have a significant impact on the Local Highways team on top of their existing business as usual delivery requirements. As a result they are recruiting to a new manager role – ‘Improvement Project Delivery Manager’ who will be able to invest time into ensuring the delivery of improvement schemes across the District.

3. A local area budget to deliver the small-scale improvements and schemes that arise. This could be managed via the Local Area Committee.
4. The transfer of the Harrogate District Cycle Forum to the County Council and brought under the auspices of the Area Committee with Area member involvement.

Response to 3 and 4 - The development of the area constituency committees is being picked up through the Member Working Group on Locality and Governance. Any county councillor can attend the Working Group's meetings and participate in discussions so the future arrangements for a cycle forum will be picked up as part of that process.

Conclusion We welcome the opportunity of being able to make this statement to give you some background on our organisation, highlight some of the key issues and outline some of the proposals that we feel will address the lack of progress.