

<b>Report on</b>	A 5 Walking Transport Corridor Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding Assessment
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	2nd March 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Dr Chris Boomer, Head of Development Plan
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Dr Chris Boomer, Planning Manager

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform members of WSP, on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure, is undertaking a Walking, Cycling and Horse-Riding Assessment and Review (WCHAR) for the A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC). The purpose of the WCHAR process is to facilitate the inclusion of all walking, cycling and horse-riding modes within highway schemes by gaining an understanding of existing facilities in the local area, providing background information to inform decision-making during the scheme development and identifying opportunities for improvements.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Members will be aware that the A5WTC is 85km of 2 lane dual carriageway and associated single carriageways between New Buildings and Aughnacloy. The dual carriageway will be of high standard with no access permitted to non-vehicular traffic. Two phases of the road (Phase 1B) Omagh to Ballygawley and (Phase 3) Ballygawley southwards run through Mid Ulster.
2.2	The <i>“Walking, cycling and horse-riding assessment and review”</i> is to facilitate the inclusion of all walking, cycling and horse-riding modes in the highway scheme development process from the earliest stage, enabling opportunities for new or improved facilities and their integration with the local and national network. This could include the creation and/or improvement of facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians that are separate from the highway. The <i>“WCHAR”</i> is intended to provide increased collaboration, interaction and engagement with key stakeholders.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	As part of the design process of the review consideration will be given to the needs of the users. Each of the affected Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) has been reviewed with other routes in the area. Online plans of the project can be

	<p>found on the <a href="#">A5WTC website</a>. The WCHAR requires that stakeholder organisations, local user groups and the wider public are consulted in relation to the existing PRowS and other Walking, Cycling &amp; Horse-Riding routes in the area. This will allow determination of their usage and identify potential improvements for recreation, commuting and general access to community facilities and public transport.</p>
3.2	<p>As part of this project, the assessment will examine potential for improvements to facilities with the aim of encouraging active travel. Mid Ulster Council has been asked to provide information on any current proposals you may have relating to facilities for walkers and wheeled users, including greenways, and would be appreciative of any information you can provide on these as well as pedestrian and cyclist usage counts in your area undertaken within the last two years, by the 10th of March.</p>
3.3	<p>Within the study area, existing routes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a high quality stretch of the Ulster Way running along the border and through the Clogher Valley</li> <li>• the Marshall County trail.</li> <li>• A local walking sites adjacent to the current road, which include one situated at Ballygawley Playing Field and the other Glencull path (a small riverside path between St Malachy's Primary School and St Malachy's church, not far from Todds Leap.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, there is the proposed Clogher Valley Greenway. Whilst funding has not been secured as of yet, it may become possible to implement it in part or in full.</p>
(	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: No cost to mid ulster</p> <p>Human: The suggestions are to make administration of the Planning system easier</p> <p>Risk Management: None identified.</p>
4.2	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>None for the Council</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: None for the Council. N/A</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	The Planning Manager will respond and make the Department's consultants aware of the identified existing and proposed routeways and greenways.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	A5 ASTA Master Plan can be found on <a href="http://www.a5wtc.com/A5ASTA-Master-Plan">www.a5wtc.com/A5ASTA-Master-Plan</a> which includes interactive maps of the proposed A5 roadline