

Summary of Active Travel Board

8 February 2018

Welcome and introductions from Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Infrastructure

The Cabinet Secretary welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an overview of his priorities for the future. He highlighted the recent additional capital funding made available for Active Travel schemes in 2017-18 and welcomed discussion from the Board on how active travel is funded in the future. The Cabinet Secretary also emphasized the importance of the post legislative scrutiny inquiry being undertaken by the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee and briefly discussed the recent submission of the Integrated Network Maps (INMs).

The Board outlined their priorities with the Cabinet Secretary raising several areas including active travel funding, collaborative working, how to promote awareness of active travel and the recent statistical bulletin.

Integrated Network Maps – the Appraisal Process and Independent Validation

The Board was given a brief overview on progress on the Integrated Network Maps (INMs) and the role of an independent validator, who will be assessing the appraisal process. There was discussion on the level of information received from local authorities, including whether the Design Guidance consultation suggestions were followed, the possibility of expanding Sustrans pilot programme, which supported local authorities, and the Propensity to Cycle Tool (PCT) in Wales and how this can be effectively utilised to prioritise routes. The Board also discussed an appropriate response to insufficient INMs.

Active Travel Funding

The Board discussed Active Travel Funding as the Cabinet Secretary has expressed his commitment to ensure active travel is effectively funded in the future. The discussion included what level of capital / revenue split should be introduced, the importance of focusing on behaviour change programmes and the potential to fund grass-root level revenue schemes through community groups. The Board also discussed collaborative approaches found in other Welsh Government departments and the positive results from providing funding in this way. It was agreed the Board would discuss funding further at the next meeting to ascertain their collective recommendations for the Cabinet Secretary.

Statutory Design Guidance Update

There was a brief overview of the Design Guidance update provided to the Board, advising them that Phil Jones Associates has been contracted to review the technical aspects. The final document is due to be released at the Active Travel Conference in May. There will be a workshop on 1 March in Cardiff for those who would be interested in providing feedback and suggestions.

Welsh Government Update

The Board was given a brief update on Welsh Government activity including arranging a planning meeting for the Active Travel Conference in May.

AOB

1. The Board discussed the Let's Walk Cymru programme and the work currently being undertaken to develop their well-being bonds. More information is expected later in the year.
2. There was a brief discussion on the importance of using the term 'collision' instead of 'accident' when referring to road traffic collisions in statistical bulletins.
3. The Board were updated on the Active Travel to School National Stakeholder Group's progress in introducing a new survey question into 'healthy' schools and also plans to convene an expert group to discuss active travel targets.
4. It suggested that Cardiff Capital Region and TfW are invited to the Board in order to ensure they are involved in discussions.

Date of next meeting: 7 June 2018