



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Friends of the Earth - Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020

Date: 16 September 2009

Reporting Officer: Marie Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext 3470

Contact Officer: Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459
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Relevant Background Information

Friends of the Earth recently provided the Council with copies of the Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020 (Appendix 1). The document was written and published by Belfast Friends of the Earth with input from Sustrans and the Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative.

The Council recently adopted a reviewed and updated Transport Policy which included reference to the importance of supporting more sustainable modes of travel including cycling.

Key Issues

The aim of the Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020, is to bring cycle use in Belfast on par with the top ten cycling cities in the UK and Ireland. The collaborative vision is portrayed as representing the growing number of cyclists by calling for an ambitious target of 10% of all trips by bicycle in the City, increased funding for cycling projects, and the development of a comprehensive Cycling Strategy for the City.

In summary the Belfast Cycle City vision calls for three actions;

- 10% target for cycling in the City by 2020,
- An annual spend on cycling of at least £15 per person per year,
- A new Cycle Strategy for Belfast to be delivered in 2010.

The recently adopted Council Transport Policy supports the development and expansion of more sustainable modes of travel including cycling. The Strategic Objectives of the policy seek to:

- influence the development of transportation policies and proposals which improve connectivity and encourage a shift away from the private car to more sustainable forms of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport; and
- ensure a higher level of emphasis of capital expenditure on sustainable transportation schemes, ensuring that the priority is allocated to sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport schemes.

The correspondence from the Friends of the Earth also contained a request for the opportunity to address the Committee and outline their vision for the development of cycling within Belfast. The Friends of the Earth may also wish to take the opportunity to explore the potential for the Council to provide political and practical support towards the realisation of the vision set out in the appended Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020.

Resource Implications

There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- agree to the request from the Friends of the Earth for an opportunity to address the Committee in respect of the Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020.

Decision Tracking

Subject to approval the Planning & Transport Policy Manager will liaise with Committee Services to identify the most appropriate opportunity for the presentation to be brought before the Committee.

Timeline: December 2009

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Attachments

Appendix 1 – Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020