

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Introduction of a Cycling Scheme in Belfast

Date: 14th October, 2009

Reporting Officer: Neil Malcolm, Committee Administrator (extension 6309)

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At its meeting on 1st October, the Council referred for consideration by the Development Committee the undernoted Notice of Motion which was moved by Councillor Attwood:

"Belfast City Council notes the introduction recently of the Dublinbikes scheme in Dublin which seeks to encourage cycling and which makes available bicycles for public use at a negligible cost to the user; notes also that this scheme has been developed with a commercial sponsor thereby minimising the cost to the public purse and that similar schemes have been introduced successfully in Blackpool, Copenhagen and Paris.

The Council's recently adopted Transport Policy encourages a shift away from private car use towards more sustainable forms of travel such as walking, cycling and greater use of public transport and includes a provision which commits the Council to use its influence with Statutory Agencies to seek to further these aims. The Council agrees therefore to engage with the Department for Regional Development, and other relevant agencies, in relation to the possibility of the introduction of such a cycling scheme in Belfast."

Councillor Attwood has been invited to attend the meeting on 14th October to discuss his Notice of Motion.

The Committee will note from the agenda that it will be receiving at the start of the meeting a presentation from Friends of the Earth regarding its Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020. It is possible that this may relate to Councillor Attwood's Notice of Motion.

The Committee will have to consider the Notice of Motion and the comments thereon of Councillor Attwood and the Director of Development, together with any relevant matters arising from the Friends of the Earth's presentation, and decide what action it wishes to take in order to progress the matter.

