

Appendix 3 – Draft Ipswich Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Equality Impact Assessment

Officer Name:

Chris Ward

Email Address:

chris.ward@ipswich.gov.uk

Title of report:

Ipswich Draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Report:

The draft Ipswich Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (or LCWIP) has been produced to meet the planning requirements of paragraph 111, part d) in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to 'provide for attractive and well-designed walking and cycling networks with supporting facilities such as secure cycle parking (drawing on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans)'. The draft LCWIP provides a dedicated active travel strategy for Ipswich, to encourage, walking, wheeling and cycling across the Borough, in identifying solutions to improve the safety and comfort of the existing active travel infrastructure. In addition to this, the LCWIP carries forward some of the active travel schemes previously identified in the Ipswich Local Plan, Cycling Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2016 and Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy SPD 2019 that are yet to be implemented. These active travel schemes have been appraised in accordance with the Department for Transport's (DfT) LCWIP Technical Guidance for Local Authorities and Active Travel England's requirements. The LCWIP also provides some further guidance and identifies requirements that help meet Local Plan policies CS5 (Improving Accessibility), CS20 (Key Transport Proposals), DM3 (Air Quality), DM12 (Design and Character), DM21 (Transport and Access in New Developments) and DM22 (Car and Cycle Parking in New Development).

What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply.:

A technical engagement exercise was undertaken with local Protected Characteristic Groups between November and December 2023, the Equality Panel, information from statutory partners (e.g police) and consultation with NHS Health Improvement staff.

Service area:

Planning and Development

Corporate Manager:

James Fairclough

Corporate Manager email:

james.fairclough@ipswich.gov.uk

Links to supporting documents where available:

National Planning Policy Framework (Dec 2024)- [National Planning Policy Framework](#)

DfT LCWIP Technical Guidance for Local Authorities (Apr 2017)-

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f32aa668fa8f57ac88dc9dc/cycling-walking-infrastructure-technical-guidance-document.pdf>

Adopted Ipswich Local Plan Review 2018-2036 - Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) Review (Mar 2022)-

https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/sites/www.ipswich.gov.uk/files/core_strategy_and_policies_development_erratum_with_plans_0.pdf

Cycling Strategy SPD (Mar 2016)-

https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/sites/www.ipswich.gov.uk/files/cycling_strategy.pdf

Ipswich Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy SPD (Jul 2016)-

https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/sites/www.ipswich.gov.uk/files/town_centre_and_waterfront_public_realm_spd_1.pdf

What is proposed?:

The consultation on the draft Ipswich LCWIP will help bring forward the active travel schemes identified in the Ipswich Local Plan, Cycle Strategy SPD and Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy SPD that have not been implemented. The implementation of these schemes will help encourage the uptake of active modes of travel (walking, wheeling and cycling), which will help reduce road congestion, pedestrian and cyclist safety, reduce the impact of air pollution and improve public health by increasing physical activity. The LCWIP also proposes a dedicated section on 'wheeling' which looks to improve the safety and comfort of individuals that use a wheelchair, pushchair, non-electric scooters and other forms of wheeled mobility.

Why are the changes being introduced?

An LCWIP has a key role to play in ensuring suitable active travel infrastructure is delivered to help reduce road congestion, reduce carbon emissions and to improve air quality and public health. In addition to this, the schemes that have been identified from the Local Plan and SPD documents must meet the requirements of the DfT LCWIP Technical Guidance in appraising and prioritising each of the active travel schemes. Without a dedicated Ipswich LCWIP that meets the requirements of the DfT and Active Travel England, the opportunities of delivering the schemes identified in the Local Plan or SPD's are greatly reduced.

What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?:

A technical engagement exercise was undertaken between the November and December 2023 with 47 local organisations that represented the protected characteristics groups, where eight responses were received. These responses have been taken into consideration in the draft Ipswich LCWIP.

How will this change be implemented?:

A draft Ipswich LCWIP vision document is due to be presented to Executive on the 26 November 2024. A public consultation for the Ipswich LCWIP will follow, which will also include consulting the 47 local organisations that were contacted through the 2023 engagement exercise. The feedback received through the consultation will be used to inform a final version of the Ipswich LCWIP that will be put to Executive and Full Council for adoption.

Age:

Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:

Improved active travel infrastructure can help improve safety for school age children to enable them to walk, wheel or cycle to school, either independently or with a parent or guardian.

Disability:

Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:

Improvements to footways can help improve the comfort for disabled users. Further feedback was received as part of the 2023 engagement exercise around ensuring kerb lines are visible to assist the visually impaired and ensuring footways are level to improve the comfort for users that have mobility impairments.

Marriage & Civil Partnership:

No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:

The draft Ipswich LCWIP would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.

Race:

No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:

The draft Ipswich LCWIP would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.

Pregnancy & Maternity:

Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:

The draft LCWIP has a section that focuses on 'wheeling' which would be of benefit to individuals that use prams and push chairs to transport their infants. Improvements to footways would be of benefit for this protected group.

Religion or Belief:

No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:

The draft Ipswich LCWIP would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.

Gender Reassignment:

No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:

The draft Ipswich LCWIP would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.

Sex:

Positive

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:

The draft Ipswich LCWIP identifies improvements to lighting and the public realm that would improve the perception of safety for both women and young girls.

Sexual Orientation:

No impact

Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:

The draft Ipswich LCWIP would not impact on this protected group in a different way from other people.

I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives:

I can confirm the report meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives.

The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s)::

Through positive improvements to the public realm. Through active travel improvements that will enhance natural surveillance and increased active travel through modal shift.

The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s):

The active travel improvements will make the public realm a safe and inclusive environment for all users.

The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s)::

The policy helps to remove barriers that would restrict or prevent protected groups from participating in activities of their choosing.

The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s)::

The draft Ipswich LCWIP will be reviewed to assess what schemes have been implemented. Monitoring will be reported through the Ipswich Authority Monitoring Report.

20 December 2024