

Douglas



Douglas Borough Council

Active Travel Strategy & Action Plan



Published 31st December 2019

Contents

Foreword by Council Leader **3**

Action Plan **4**

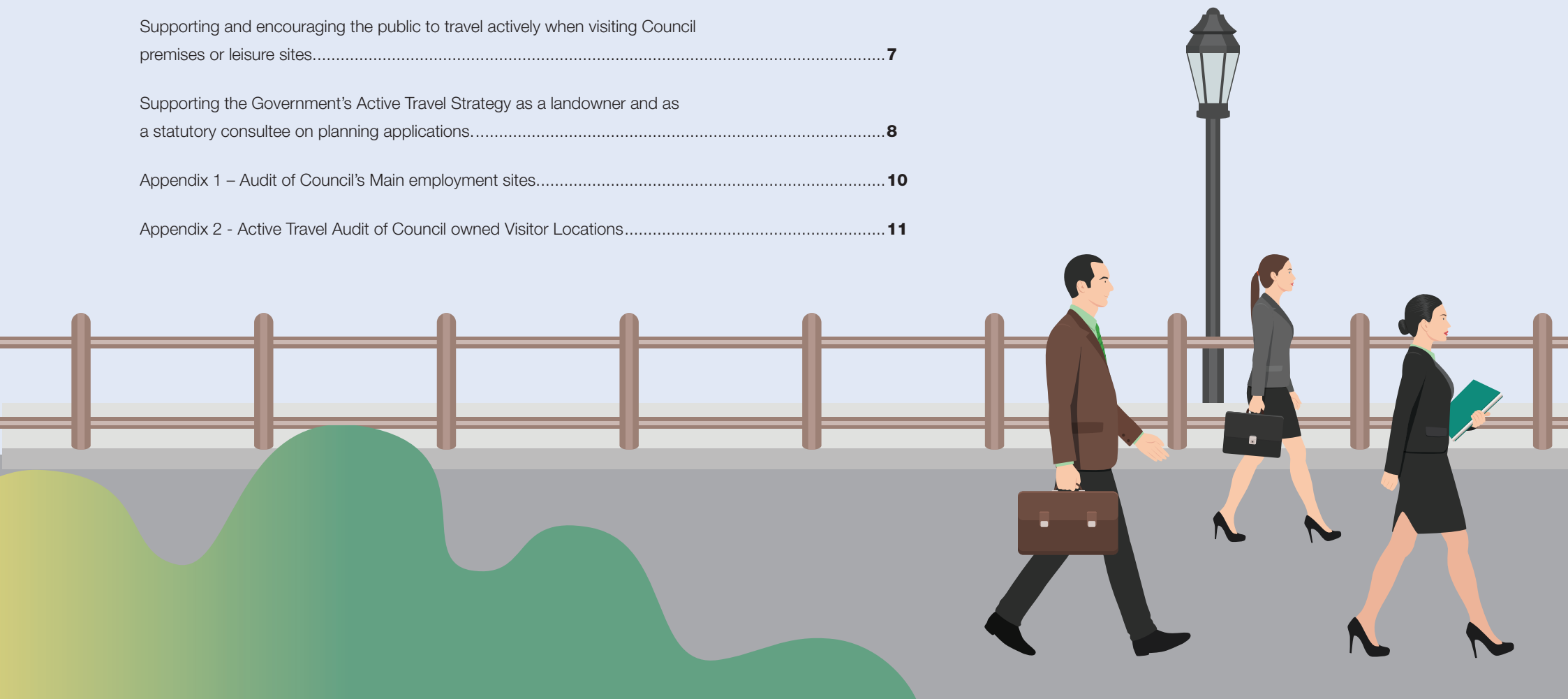
Supporting and encouraging employees to travel actively when carrying out their functions and when travelling to and from work..... **4**

Supporting and encouraging the public to travel actively when visiting Council premises or leisure sites..... **7**

Supporting the Government’s Active Travel Strategy as a landowner and as a statutory consultee on planning applications..... **8**

Appendix 1 – Audit of Council’s Main employment sites..... **10**

Appendix 2 - Active Travel Audit of Council owned Visitor Locations..... **11**





Foreword by Council Leader

The benefits of walking or cycling as part of our everyday lives are numerous. They include benefits to our health, reduction of congestion and pressure on busy car parks as well as benefits to the overall environment by minimising the pollution and carbon dioxide released by the burning of fossil fuels. As a UNESCO Biosphere Partner, the Council takes these issues very seriously and is committed to supporting active travel as a healthy, environmentally friendly and enjoyable means of travelling around the capital.

Douglas Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2017 – 2021 "Our Town, Our Future" sets out the Council's priorities, objectives, responsibilities and aspirations up to 2021 and articulates the Council's commitment to the people whom it serves: ratepayers, residents, businesses, visitors and investors and there are several objectives contained in the plan that aim to encourage, support and facilitate active travel. The main policy framework underpinning this strategy is the Council's Corporate objective to;

Continue to maintain and improve a green and bio-diverse environment, providing accessible, open activity spaces and encouraging the use of sustainable transport, cycling and walking.

And the corresponding strategic objective to;

Ensure that active travel is encouraged and facilitated as a component of all infrastructure projects undertaken by the Council; and actively engage with partners in the production of an Isle of Man Cycling Strategy and the development of a cycle network in Douglas.

Other relevant Corporate and Strategic Objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan are set out in the following Action Plan.

Action Plan

Douglas Borough Council is the largest local authority on the Isle of Man and despite the fact that unlike many local authorities in the United Kingdom it is neither the Highway Authority nor the Planning Authority, there are numerous actions the Council can take as a large employer, a property owner and a provider of public services in addition to its important influential role looking after the island's capital. The Council aims to lead by example in all of these roles and this plan details the actions the Council proposes to take and, in some cases has already taken, to support the growth of active travel.

The actions in the plan are listed under three themed headings;

- Supporting and encouraging employees to travel actively when carrying out their functions and when travelling to and from work.
- Supporting and encouraging the public to travel actively when visiting Council premises or leisure sites.
- Supporting the Government's Active Travel Strategy as a landowner and as a statutory consultee on planning applications.

Supporting and encouraging employees to travel actively when carrying out their functions and when travelling to and from work.

Ref	Action	Status	Corporate Plan Reference
EAT1	Participation in the Cycle to Work Scheme.	This was agreed by the Executive Committee in April 2019 and 14 staff members have already taken advantage of the scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desirable place to live, work and visit. • A clean, green and safe place to live, work and visit. • Recruit, retain, develop and motivate employees with the necessary skills and high levels of performance to deliver customer- focused services, making the Council a stimulating and challenging place to work, and to become an employer of choice.
EAT2	Undertake an audit of all of the Council's main employment sites and ensure the provision of covered, secure cycle parking and shower and changing facilities for all staff.	<p>The Audit has been carried out and the results are provided in Appendix 1. All main employment sites have access to shower and changing facilities either on site or nearby. All sites apart from Ballacottier Service Centre have covered, secure cycle parking nearby</p> <p>Proposal; To prepare a business case for funding to install a suitable covered cycle parking facility at the Service Centre. This could potentially be a shelter installed in the car park. Budget Estimate £1,000 to be met from existing revenue budgets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desirable place to live, work and visit. • A clean, green and safe place to live, work and visit. • Recruit, retain, develop and motivate employees with the necessary skills and high levels of performance to deliver customer- focused services, making the Council a stimulating and challenging place to work, and to become an employer of choice.

Ref	Action	Status	Corporate Plan Reference
EAT3	Identify opportunities for staff to travel actively as part of their duties.	<p>An electric bike is available at 13 Church Street. Although the original intention was for it to be used by the Borough Wardens for patrols and by Building Control officers for inspections, it is also available for use by other officers for attendance at meetings or other site related visits. An online calendar is available for booking the bike.</p> <p>Borough Wardens are also being encouraged to patrol on foot within a specified radius from the town hall. Response times are being monitored to ensure that they do not increase as a result of travelling actively for certain functions.</p> <p>Proposal; Heads of Service to identify work related travel that could be undertaken actively and propose willing staff members to participate in training as necessary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve energy performance and increase the use of renewable energy throughout the Borough, both in the delivery of Council services and within the environment we live. • Continue to reduce vehicle emissions in line with the Council’s vehicle and plant procurement policy.
EAT4	Provide a pool of electric bikes with the necessary safety equipment and training to be used by Council employees as a legitimate alternative to motor vehicles.	<p>Proposal; That the Transport and Plant Renewal Fund be available for Services to purchase electric cycles and protective clothing, helmets etc. for use for work related travel. This may involve modest budget growth in the short term (allow £2,000 per cycle) but has the potential to result in longer term savings in fuel and mileage costs and ultimately replacement of fewer vehicles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve energy performance and increase the use of renewable energy throughout the Borough, both in the delivery of Council services and within the environment we live. • Continue to reduce vehicle emissions in line with the Council’s vehicle and plant procurement policy.
EAT5	Provide in-house training for staff using cycles for work purposes.	<p>The Senior Borough Warden has become qualified under the National Standard Instructors Course Bikeability Levels 1 to 3 and is now able to provide training to relevant staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve energy performance and increase the use of renewable energy throughout the Borough, both in the delivery of Council services and within the environment we live. • Continue to reduce vehicle emissions in line with the Council’s vehicle and plant procurement policy. • Recruit, retain, develop and motivate employees with the necessary skills and high levels of performance to deliver customer- focused services, making the Council a stimulating and challenging place to work, and to become an employer of choice.

Supporting and encouraging the public to travel actively when visiting Council premises or leisure sites.

Ref	Action	Status	Corporate Plan Reference
PAT1	<p>Permit responsible cycling where appropriate through all of the Council's parks and open spaces and ensure suitable cycle parking facilities are provided at locations likely to be visited by visitors to the Town/Island, including specifically Noble's Park, Douglas Head, Marine Gardens, Queen's Promenade Gardens, Summerhill Glen, Douglas Golf Course and Douglas town centre. Ensuring sufficient and suitable parking facilities will assist in discouraging cyclists from locking their bicycles to lighting columns.</p>	<p>Audit carried out. See Appendix 2. Most of the Council's parks and gardens are unsuitable for cycling through. Noble's Park, Douglas Golf Course and Douglas Head are the only three where cycling is considered appropriate at present and where through routes exist. The Marine Gardens and Queen's Promenade Gardens are easily accessible from the Promenade Walkway shared use route.</p> <p>Proposal; Prepare a business case for funding to install a cycle path next to the steps in Balloughton Park and modify the gates at the entrances to facilitate cycle access, particularly as there is a recreational BMX course in the park. Visitors to the new Adventure Playground are also likely to visit by bicycle so parking facilities should be provided.</p> <p>Proposal; Progress the planned perimeter path around Douglas Golf Course. This has already been agreed and is funded. Commencement is due over winter 2019/20.</p> <p>Proposal; With the assistance of the Department of Infrastructure, investigate opportunities for the island's new cycle network to utilise land owned by the Council.</p> <p>Proposal; Liaise with the Department of Infrastructure to access funding for improvements to cycle parking facilities in the town centre and at other key destinations through Active Travel budgets, Community Investment Levy (once available) and/or Section 13 agreements as appropriate.</p> <p>Agreement is already in place for a cycle rack outside the HBN Library in Duke Street.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desirable place to live, work and visit. • A clean, green and safe place to live, work and visit. • A place with improving infrastructure. • Develop a reputation as a destination and increase the range of tourism attractions. • Provide visitor interpretation and facilities at all sites owned by the Council that are likely to assist in attracting or improving the experience of visitors to the Island. • Continue to maintain and improve a green and bio-diverse environment, providing accessible, open activity spaces and encouraging the use of sustainable transport, cycling and walking.

Ref	Action	Status	Corporate Plan Reference
PAT2	Provide facilities within car parks to support other sustainable modes of transport including cycling.	This is already Objective CE8 in the Council's Car parking Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desirable place to live, work and visit. • A clean, green and safe place to live, work and visit. • A place with improving infrastructure. • Develop a reputation as a destination and increase the range of tourism attractions. • Provide visitor interpretation and facilities at all sites owned by the Council that are likely to assist in attracting or improving the experience of visitors to the Island. • Continue to maintain and improve a green and bio-diverse environment, providing accessible, open activity spaces and encouraging the use of sustainable transport, cycling and walking.
PAT3	Introduce a standing item on the Council's Properties Group agenda to consider how active travel might be promoted at Council properties.	This is now happening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desirable place to live, work and visit. • A clean, green and safe place to live, work and visit. • A place with improving infrastructure. • Continue to maintain and improve a green and bio-diverse environment, providing accessible, open activity spaces and encouraging the use of sustainable transport, cycling and walking.

Supporting the Government’s Active Travel Strategy as a landowner and as a statutory consultee on planning applications.

Ref	Action	Status	Corporate Plan Reference
GAT1	Review all planning applications in Douglas to identify opportunities for applicants to support active travel and relay comments and recommendations to the Planning Committee as appropriate.	This has already begun.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desirable place to live, work and visit. • A clean, green and safe place to live, work and visit. • Improving the image and environment of Douglas as the Capital to make it an even better place to live, work, and visit. • Lead and participate in the physical regeneration of the Town’s physical infrastructure, creating an environment attractive to investment. • A place with improving infrastructure.
GAT2	Consider recommending section 13 agreements be entered into for applications where active travel is not or cannot be facilitated and use proceeds to improve public infrastructure.	This proposal has already been discussed with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture. A pre-requisite to the Council being able to seek commuted sums for active travel would be to have a programme of potential improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desirable place to live, work and visit. • A clean, green and safe place to live, work and visit. • Improving the image and environment of Douglas as the Capital to make it an even better place to live, work, and visit. • Lead and participate in the physical regeneration of the Town’s physical infrastructure, creating an environment attractive to investment. • A place with improving infrastructure.
GAT3	Request Government to produce design guidance for architects and developers setting out standards to satisfy requirements for bicycle parking and storage.	This request has been made.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desirable place to live, work and visit. • A clean, green and safe place to live, work and visit. • Improving the image and environment of Douglas as the Capital to make it an even better place to live, work, and visit. • Lead and participate in the physical regeneration of the Town’s physical infrastructure, creating an environment attractive to investment. • A place with improving infrastructure.

Ref	Action	Status	Corporate Plan Reference
GAT4	Identify opportunities for Council land and property to provide active travel routes as part of a wider network and cycle paths and footpaths e.g. Golf Course, parks, gardens and town squares.	<p>Proposal; Produce a programme of potential improvements to cycle routes and facilities that would be suitable for implementation using funds received from section 13 agreements.</p> <p>In principle approval has been given to the Dol to route the Enterprise Way cyclepath through part of the perimeter of Douglas Golf Course and part of a northern route through Noble's Park. Opportunities exist to create a network of cycle routes around Willaston using Council-owned land.</p> <p>Proposal; Explore potential routes through Willaston as part of the cycle network.</p> <p>Proposal; Request to be able to participate in the Government's Active Travel Group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desirable place to live, work and visit. • A clean, green and safe place to live, work and visit. • Improving the image and environment of Douglas as the Capital to make it an even better place to live, work, and visit. • Lead and participate in the physical regeneration of the Town's physical infrastructure, creating an environment attractive to investment. • A place with improving infrastructure. • Provide visitor interpretation and facilities at all sites owned by the Council that are likely to assist in attracting or improving the experience of visitors to the Island. • Continue to maintain and improve a green and bio-diverse environment, providing accessible, open activity spaces and encouraging the use of sustainable transport, cycling and walking.

Appendix 1 – Audit of Council’s Main employment sites.

Premises	Covered, secure cycle parking	Staff changing facilities	Shower(s)
Town Hall	Yes, provided at 13 Church Street	Yes, provided at 13 Church Street	Yes, provided at 13 Church Street
13 Church Street	Yes	Yes	Yes
HBN Library	No, but outdoor cycle parking is due to be provided as part of the public realm improvements.	Although there are no specific changing facilities, there is a staff WC and staff could feasibly use the facilities at 13 Church Street.	No, although staff could use the facilities at 13 Church Street.
Ballacottier Service Centre	No	Yes	Yes
Ballaughton Nursery	Yes, sheds and garages are available which staff use now when cycling in	Yes	Yes
Golf Course Depot	Yes, sheds and garages are available which staff use now when cycling in	Yes	Yes
Noble’s Park Depot	Yes, sheds and garages are available which staff use now when cycling in	Yes	Yes within the pavilion
Borough Cemetery	Yes, sheds and garages are available which staff use now when cycling in	Yes	Yes
Lawn Cemetery	Yes, sheds and garages are available which staff use now when cycling in	Yes	Yes
Civic Amenity Site	Yes	Yes	Yes

Appendix 2 - Active Travel Audit of Council owned Visitor Locations

Location	Cycling Permitted?	Cycle Parking?	Comments/Recommendations
Noble's Park	Yes, no restrictions are in place.	Wheel rack parking only at Noble's Park Café	Recommend more cycle parking, particularly in the vicinity of the pavilion and grandstand. Cycle parking is proposed to be included as part of skatepark project.
Douglas Head	Yes, no restrictions are in place although some of the steeper paths and steps are unlikely to be suitable for most cyclists.	No	Recommend cycle racks are installed near the road. Douglas Head and Marine Drive are an obvious leisure destination where people could cycle to from all over Douglas and the surrounding area. At present, if they are visiting the Camera Obscura or having a BBQ there's nowhere for cyclists to leave their bikes securely.
Marine Gardens	Cycling is permitted on the shared space Promenade Walkway adjacent to the gardens.	No	Lobby Dol to ensure cycling parking is provided as part of Promenade scheme and include as necessary as part of improvements the Council makes on the Promenade.
Queen's Promenade Gardens	Cycling is permitted on the shared space Promenade Walkway adjacent to the gardens.	No	Lobby Dol to ensure cycling parking is provided as part of Promenade scheme and include as necessary as part of improvements the Council makes on the Promenade.
Summerhill Glen	Cycling through the glen is not considered appropriate although there are currently no restrictions in place.	No	Cycle racks to be installed at Victoria road entrance. There are no suitable opportunities at the Summerhill entrance.

Location	Cycling Permitted?	Cycle Parking?	Comments/Recommendations
Kaye Memorial Garden	Not applicable	No	
Glen Falcon	Not applicable	No	
Derby Square	Yes	No	
Woodburn Square	Not applicable	No	
Hutchinson Square	Not applicable	No	
Douglas Golf Course	There are currently public footpaths through the Golf Course but no routes for cyclists. The 15 Year plan for the golf course includes the provision of a perimeter cycle path and an in-principle approval has been given to the Dept. of Infrastructure to incorporate part of the route into the Enterprise Way cyclepath.	No	Cycle parking facilities should be provided at the Meadows Pavilion car park.
Douglas Town Centre	Cycling is permitted on most roads but is prohibited within the pedestrianised areas.	Yes	At present the only cycle parking available in Douglas town centre is at Shaw's Brow Car Park, the Sea Terminal, the Manx Museum and Regent Street. Facilities are being installed in Duke Street as part of the public realm improvements. Bikestyle at the old Market Hall has parking and shower facilities. It is recommended that the Council considers installing some public cycle parking for the Town Hall.
Allotments	It would not be appropriate to encourage cycling within the allotment site however, cycling to and from the allotments may be attractive to users.	No	Consult with allotment users about the likely level of use cycle parking facilities may have.