

# **Peak District Local Access Forum**

**Date:** 11 June 2025

**Item:** 6

**Title:** Active Travel Update

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## **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Active Travel England Capability Fund programme.

## **Background**

In April 2024, the Peak District National Park received £100k of funding to develop a programme for active travel and a Peak District Walking, Wheeling, Cycling and Horse-riding Infrastructure Plan.

An Active Travel Sub group, comprised of LAF members and other key stakeholders was established to advise on and support this work.

## **Active Travel Consultation**

A consultation on the development of a high-level network of routes took place February to March 2025. The Active Travel Sub-group met on 5 March and 16 April 2025.

The consultation process drew out a good number and range of comments largely supporting the proposed routes, but also useful specific concerns and suggestions for change (e.g. landowner and resident concerns regarding indicative routing). Changes have been made as a result.

A summary of the consultation is attached in Appendix 1.

## **Next Steps**

The finalised plan will include identification of a series of schemes, that would enhance the existing strategic high-level network. Once the plan adopted, this will allow for prioritisation of these schemes with a view to securing further funding for scheme development.

Subject to further funding, to continue the work undertaken over the last 12 months to work with partners in the design, development, and delivery of the strategic network and to identify a secondary network, which will provide enhanced links to the strategic network.

## **Recommendation:**

- 1) To note the contents of the report and to consider the response to the active travel consultation at a future meeting of the Active Travel Sub-group.**

## **Appendix 1 – Active Travel Consultation 2025**

### Public Consultation

The consultation ran from 5 February 2025 to 16 March 2025. Those previously involved with the workshops and other key contacts were notified.

A press release was issued on 7 February 2025. This went out to over 100 local and regional media contacts. Details were provided in the consultation sent to the Parish Councils on 7 February 2025.

Posters and postcards were provided at the National Park Authorities car parks and cycle-hire facilities along the existing multi-user Trails. With their agreement, posters and postcards were also provided at other key venues, including visitor centres, cycle-hire, and retail or for circulation to contacts.

The consultation was circulated via social media on 7 February 2025, 18 February 2025, and 8 March 2025. There have been approximately 47k views of the posts resulting in 1.8k interactions.

There have been approximately 5.5k web views of the consultation and 860 views of the video providing help with using the mapping.

### Consultation Responses

The consultation used interactive mapping to enable locational detail to be provided. The consultation asked for important locations by activity and frequency of visiting and for locations where improvements by type were required. Responses could also be provided without using the mapping. Details of the respondents' home address was requested to whatever level of detail they were comfortable with providing. There was no restriction on the number of locations or submissions which could be made.

The precision provided by the mapping has been helpful to provide detail both in terms of routing and for noting locations and improvements. As stated above, proposed routes are indicative only at this stage.

Consultation responses identified need, challenges, and concerns. They relate to active travel in practice, the network as a whole, and/or provide detail on individual locations and routes.

In total 388 submissions were made, providing details of 673 important locations for a variety of activity types, and 402 improvement locations. Important locations and improvement locations may overlap. This allows for priority areas to be gauged where more than one person has identified and where the frequency of use or propensity to use is high.

### The Network

The network consulted on includes existing key routes, their extensions, and new link routes. It includes former rail trails, Sustrans routes, canal tow paths, Derbyshire County Council's adopted Key Cycle Network, and other routes from constituent and adjoining Highway Authorities. Routes and sections of routes outside the National Park boundary up to a distance of approximately 10km are included.

The network includes both existing and proposed routes. Existing routes are shown as solid lines, proposed routes as dashed. Proposed routes may follow roads, tracks, public rights of way, or other infrastructure features. The mapped line is indicative and at this stage provides a general intention only for connectivity. The development of a proposed route would be subject to detailed design and feasibility with the involvement of all those with an interest and include further public consultation. The routing therefore is fluid.

Notwithstanding the fact that the network where proposed is indicative, this consultation on the interconnectivity of routes to form a high-level network has highlighted modifications to be made to the network for the purposes of this Plan. This includes sections of DCC's proposed route along the Derwent Valley connecting Hathersage to Rowsley to follow minor roads where available. In other locations, where public rights of way are followed, it is recognised that braiding of routes for different uses may be an option.

It should also be noted that work is underway by Derbyshire Country Council for Active Travel Masterplans for both Glossop and Hope Valley. This may include consultation on parts of the Derwent Valley route.