

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

ACTIVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Report Reference ET-26-09
Meeting Date 7th September 2026
Agenda Item 8
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1.0 BACKGROUND

In developing the Strategic Plan, the biggest issue raised was the need to improve the pedestrian and cycling infrastructure across Knutsford to make 'active travel' for both travel and leisure, safer and easier. This led to the strategic aim of enabling "residents to choose to reduce their reliance on cars by improving the desirability of walking, cycling and using public transport".

Objective T1 of the strategic plan was to develop and implement a Knutsford Active Travel Infrastructure Plan. In November 2025, consultation was undertaken to inform this plan.

The plan was reviewed by the Active Travel Infrastructure Plan working group and refined for presentation to the committee. It is now presented for approval.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN

The Active Travel Infrastructure Plan is split into three sections, measures to promote walking, measures to promote cycling and aspirational extensions to the active travel network.

The plan sets out a number of actions to take over a number of years to make walking and cycling more convenient. Some actions are directly deliverable by the Town Council, however most require working with Cheshire East Council as the highway authority. A summary of the actions is as follows:

- W1 – Installation of benches along arterial walking routes to provide rest stops
- W2 – Creating formal crossings at key locations to make crossing the road safer and easier
- W3 – Installing dropped kerbs to make primary walking routes more accessible
- W4 – Installing lighting along three darker paths
- W5 – Exploring how to enhance the maintenance of pavements to ensure they are clear from vegetation
- W6 – Seeking the resurfacing of paths
- C1 – Creating cycle ways along main roads
- C2 – Improving two key junctions for cyclists
- C3 – Lobbying for 20mph speed limits
- C4 – Installing covered shelters in key locations
- C5 – Installing uncovered cycle stands in key locations
- C6 – Installing a town centre bike repair station

Actions deliverable by the Town Council are within the parameters of its budget and provision has been added to an Active Travel cost code for the 2027/28 budget based on the action plan contained

in the report. Major interventions (e.g. new crossings) would need to be funded through other means – this would principally be seeking planning contributions where relevant or using the local share of CIL. There may also be opportunities to secure grant funding for elements of the plan.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

The following table is the action plan within the report, setting out the specific actions the council would take to deliver the plan.

Year	Ref	Action	Budget
2027	W1	Installation of benches along Northwich Road, Bexton Road and Bexton Lane (5)	£2,500
2028	W1	Installation of benches along Longridge, Thorneyholme Drive and Higher Downs (5)	£2,500
2029	W1	Installation of benches along Tabley Road and Mobberley Road (5)	£2,500
2030	W1	Installation of benches along Parkgate Lane, Shaw Drive and Manor Park North and Manchester Road (5)	£2,500
2031	W1	Installation of benches along Chelford Road and Legh Road (5)	£2,500
2027	W2	Ascertain implementation costs and liaise with Cheshire East Council on design for identified crossings.	NIL
2027	W2	Lobby for inclusion of requirement to install desired crossings to relevant local plan site allocations. Identify which are unlikely to be fundable through s106/s278 obligations and consider CIL funding.	NIL
2028	W3	Develop proposed project programmes of dropped kerb installation across routes and explore funding options	NIL
2029	W4	Design lighting scheme for Church Walk	£2,750
2030	W4	Design lighting scheme for Mobberley Road to Woodlands Court	£2,750
TBC	W4	Implement lighting schemes (subject to cost and CIL funding)	TBC
2027	W5	Explore options for funding enhanced pavement maintenance in advance of preparation of 2028/29 budget proposals.	NIL
Annual	W6	Undertake survey of pavements to prioritise for repairs; work with Cheshire East Councillors to secure funding for works.	NIL
2028	C1	Liaise with Cheshire East Council to develop design proposals for how cycle ways could be implemented and understand impact on traffic flows of any changes.	NIL
2028	C2	Work with Cheshire East Council to develop scheme for improvement to junctions.	NIL
TBC	C3	Take any opportunity to lobby Cheshire East Council for a change to its speed management strategy	NIL
2028-32	C4	Install a cycle shelter	£2,750
2027	C5	Install cycle parking stands at convenience shop locations	£1,000
2028	C5	Install cycle parking stands at play areas	£1,000
2029	C5	Install cycle parking stands at public sports pitches	£1,000
2030	C5	Install cycle parking stands at medical/service locations	£1,000
2030	C6	Install a public bike repair station in the town centre	£1,000
Ongoing	A	Continue working with partners to implement the aspirational routes	TBC

4.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should consider the approval of the Active Travel Infrastructure Plan.