

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Council		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	10 th February 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
Agenda item Report Title	17 Cheshire East Council Tranche 1 Active Travel Measure Review		
Background and concerns	<p>In March 2020 the UK Government shut down the country and encouraged residents to walk and cycle more to get some exercise. Coming out of the first lockdown the UK Government gave highway authorities funding to implement Covid 19 Active Travel measures that would encourage residents to continue good habits of cycling and walking for everyday fitness and to not use their vehicles for everyday journeys. Three of those measures were to open up town centres in Crewe, Congleton and Macclesfield which would provide a safe route through the town centre for residents who want to cycle.</p> <p>These measures are under review with the decision to make them permanent.</p>		
Proposals and Solutions	<p>It was the government's intention to allow Tranche 1 Active Travel Measures to be in place for 18 months, which would assist highway authority leaders advising that active travel schemes supported by government funding are kept in place for their impacts to be adequately assessed. These measures have been assessed by residents, highways officers and town councils, the outcome of these assessments are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The incidences between pedestrians and cyclists resulting in injury have been nil.2. The measures support active travel and create a safe environment for residents to use a mode of transport that supports climate change, the authorities' number 1 priority.3. They provide safe passage for cyclists to access the town centre and encourage more residents to leave their car at home for short journeys.4. They comply with The Equality Act 2010, which legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of a protected characteristic. Leaving the measures in place would protect the town and borough council from future lawsuits. <p>There are many types of bicycles including trikes and adapted bikes which for those who have a disability use to travel, by not allowing access could make the council liable and be subject to being prosecuted under the Equality Act 2010.</p>		

Summary and Conclusion

There was a concern that the measures to create shared spaces through the town centre would result in injuries and serious incidents.
The measures have been in place for almost 18 months and there have been no reported incidents, serious or otherwise, between pedestrians and cyclists in either Crewe, Congleton or Macclesfield.
It is the intention of the council to make the measures permanent for the following reasons:

1. The measures create a safe route through for both walkers and pedestrians.
2. The measures would comply with the Equality Act 2010 to not discriminate against residents because of a protected characteristic.
3. Cheshire East Council no longer use cyclist dismount signage because not everyone can dismount from their bike.
4. There have been no reported incidents between pedestrians and cyclist that could justify their removal.

Cheshire East Council (CEC) Highways are seeking the opinion of Congleton Town Council as a consultee on these measures, along with other groups and members of the public before making a decision.