

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
Tel: 028 7034 7244

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Active Travel Delivery Plan: Public Consultation.**

I write on behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and in response to the Active Travel Delivery Plan Public Consultation launched on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024, through which, the Department is seeking comment on its priority schemes and/or other factors influencing where it should focus investment in active travel infrastructure throughout the region.

I can advise of the following in relation to this public consultation exercise:

- Council officials attended the public engagement event held in Coleraine Town Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and held discussions with the Department;
- Council officials held discussions with Atkins;
- Internal meeting of relevant Council departments;
- Council officials met with DfI and AECOM; and
- Officials received comments from Leisure and Development Committee Members.

Following on from this please find below the Council comments relating to the Delivery Plan:

The Council acknowledges the goal of the Plan - to transform communities by promoting active travel as a sustainable mode of transport for their shorter journeys, and how the Plan contributes to meeting the requirements of the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022. In doing so, the Department will prioritise and deliver high-quality active travel infrastructure within our urban and rural settlements, over the next 10 years.

The Department's three priorities, set out below, are noted and welcomed:

- Connections to local schools;
- Connections to public transport; and
- Connections to town centres.

The Council acknowledges the overall strategy for the region, and how the Network Plan for this Borough, which sits within it, sets out the proposed priority and future routes, as well as existing routes, and existing routes with the potential for future enhancements.

Comments regarding the six individual settlement proposals within the Borough (as set out at Appendix 4 of the consultation document) are set out in Table 1 as follows:

**Table 1: Council Comments on Active Travel Delivery Plan**

Town	Comments
<p><b>Coleraine</b></p>	<p>Priority Routes 1, 2 &amp; 3 are all welcomed. It is noted that Route 3 is currently being delivered and is scheduled to be off-site by Good Friday.</p>
	<p>The Council considers that proposals should be included for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Knocklynn Road, a feeder/link road into a significant residential area.</li> <li>• A link at Daneshill Road - Ballysally PS.</li> </ul>
	<p>The Council considers the proposed Future Route at Ballycairn Road, which stops short of linking into Christie PS, should be continued, approx. 250m further north along Ballycairn Road, and further northwards beyond the school until it reaches the 30mph limit.</p>
	<p>The Council wishes to highlight that the new shared use path within Christie Park (beneath Sandelford Bridge) is not currently mapped on the Coleraine Map at Appendix 4 of the Plan.</p>
	<p>The potential exists for a future capital project on Council land at Christie Park to provide an access ramp – creating new access/entrance into the park from the Old Town Bridge.</p>
	<p>The Mountsandel Road/Bannfield Road existing route line stops abruptly on the map. This should continue and link up to show the route loop.</p>
	<p>The Council considers that the Greenhall Highway, the equivalent to 'ring road' provision on eastern town boundary, and given its wide verges, has the potential to deliver at that location.</p>
	<p>It is considered that the A37 Future Route – should not continue on past Macosquin.</p>
<p><b>Limavady</b></p>	<p>Priority Route 1 is welcomed.</p>
	<p>The Council considers the existing A2 route from Ballykelly to Limavady via the Lisnakilly Roundabout is disjointed.</p>
	<p>It is acknowledged that a shared path already exists along the Limavady Bypass. However, it is of much lower quality than it should be at such a location.</p>
	<p>Remove reference to Limavady Junction. It is possibly more of a recreational route rather than one to be considered under this project.</p>
<p><b>Ballycastle</b></p>	<p>The Council welcomes Priority Routes 1 &amp; 2.</p>
	<p>It is noted that in a number of Council reports over recent years relating to active travel proposals for Ballycastle that the cycle/walking path would be the route around the perimeter of the town, a well-known walking route - Clare road and Whitepark Road,</p>

	<p>linking up to the GAA pitches on the edge of the town. A topological survey was carried out on this in 2022. The solid red line to demonstrate this proposal is not included in the current draft Active Travel Delivery Plan.</p>
	<p>No linked access from Priority Route 2 to the school to its south/parallel with the old railway. Maybe trim this back and connect the school instead.</p>
	<p>The Tow River path at the seafront may provide an opportunity for an active travel route.</p>
	<p>The Council wishes to highlight the A44 Causeway Coastal Route. Tourist frequently stop to this road to take photographs.</p>
<b>Ballymoney</b>	<p>Welcome Priority Routes 1 &amp; 2.</p>
	<p>The Council considers that proposals should be included for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A route adjacent to/through the Ballymoney Show grounds from the Schools to Charlotte Street, as well as a route in the other direction through the Trust grounds.</li> <li>• Government lands to be used for active travel infrastructure at St. James Road link to Coleraine Road, through Northern Trust grounds. The Council highlights the major traffic issues experienced at North Road and St James's Road (Ballymoney Controlled Integrated PS and Dalriada School).</li> <li>• Intermediate Road (High School and Leaney PS).</li> <li>• Westgate (Our Lady of Lourdes HS and St Brigid's PS).</li> <li>• Balnamore to Drumahaglis – A key tourist destination with no safe existing footway to link into Balnamore village and onwards to Ballymoney. This could be part of the rural scheme.</li> <li>• Linking Dunaghy and Landhead PS with neighbouring village of Dunaghy, or links back into Ballymoney town.</li> <li>• A potential future link at John Street and Parkview - feeding into high density housing in The Glebe and key link to shops and town centre</li> </ul>
	<p>The Plan does not link into the Ballymoney Town Centre Masterplan.</p>
	<p>Concerned re the new cycle route, the bottom of Ballymoney High Street and the derelict Northern Regional College site.</p>
<b>Portrush</b>	<p>Priority Route 1 is welcomed.</p>
	<p>It is noted that the existing shared use route along West Bay promenade north of Castle Erin is not shown on map. The black line should continue right up to the Harbour.</p>
	<p>Mill Strand PS – new school location on Ballywillan Rd – the Council asks the Department to consider this as a priority scheme, rather than future route. Complaints are arising due to traffic congestion, egress and sight lines. There is no active crossing patrol yet at the school.</p>

	Magheramenagh Lane/Primrose Lane shared use pathway – not shown as existing route on map.
<b>Portstewart</b>	The Council welcomes and agrees Route 1. However, it considers that it should continue into the Harbour.
	Portstewart Primary School – Safer Routes to Schools might apply here.
	Signature Project (Ring Road to Portstewart) will link into the B185.
	The Growth deal project is between Portrush and the Causeway. However, feel it should be from Portstewart and the Causeway.

### Council's Local Development Plan

The Council published a Revised Local Development Plan Timetable on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025. It is available to view on the Council's website at:

<https://causewaycoastandqlens.gov.uk/live/planning/development-plan>

Our LDP Transportation (including Active Travel) policies, will be informed by our ongoing consultation with the Department and will consider the Dfl Accessibility Analyses prepared for the Borough.

### General Comments

It is noted that detailed design is yet to be undertaken for each of the areas identified. As such, the Council makes the following general comments:

The Council raises the following concerns:

- The capacity in the existing road network to take the proposals, particularly in rural locations where the road width is very restricted.
- The conflict between vehicles, pedestrians and wheeling.
- Visual amenity and natural heritage issues arising from tree and hedge row removal.
- How the proposals fit into the wider Dfl issues e.g Schools, public transport and town centres.
- Existing footpaths are not well maintained by Dfl therefore proper maintenance of the new cycle paths could become an issue.

The Council seeks consideration to be given, at the very early design stage, to the infrastructure required e.g shelters, charging points, streetscape and design, etc.

The Council notes there will be further opportunities for the public to comment on specific schemes as these are developed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely



Ms Sharon Mulhern  
Principal Planning Officer/Development Plan Manager  
on behalf of Council