

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Matters referred by the Sustainable Development Select Committee – Alternatives to individual car use in Lewisham: a scrutiny review	
Key Decision		Item No. 11
Ward	All	
Contributors	Sustainable Development Select Committee	
Class	Part 1	Date: 13 February 2008

1 Summary

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the scrutiny review into alternatives to individual car use in Lewisham.

2 Purpose of the Report

To inform the Mayor of the scrutiny review into alternatives to individual car use in Lewisham carried out by the Sustainable Development Select Committee over a period of 6 committee meetings from 16 September 2007 to 24 January 2008.

3 Recommendations

The Mayor is recommended to:

- (i) note the views and recommendations for action of the Sustainable Development Select Committee set out in the select committee report at appendix A and the recommendations as summarised in section 4 below
- (ii) agree that the Executive Directors for Regeneration and Children and Young People be asked to advise accordingly in relation to responding to the issues as indicated in the select committee report.

4 Select Committee Recommendations

Travel Demand Management

- 4.1 The select committee notes the early indications of modal shift from individual car use to alternative forms of transport achieved by the TfL funded Smarter Travel Sutton scheme and the proposal to extend the Sutton scheme to a second London Borough. The committee recognises that there are significant differences in common transport

modes between Sutton and Lewisham. However, given the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions from transport, would welcome efforts by Lewisham Council's Sustainable Transport Team to bid for funding for smaller scale neighbourhood projects in Lewisham. Indeed, this was alluded to by the Head of Travel Demand Management at TfL when he met with the select committee, where smaller scale Travel Demand Management exercises are carried out around new developments and in particular neighbourhoods as in Haringey for example.

Cycling for children and young people

- 4.2 The select committee identified a need for and recommends better co-ordination and management of school travel plans operating across Lewisham.
- 4.3 The select committee recommends that the council should actively promote, support and encourage schools to implement their own walking bus schemes.
- 4.4 The select committee note with concern that not all children in primary schools are provided with the opportunity for cycle training and recommend that this should be provided in all primary schools across Lewisham and that further efforts are made to encourage all primary schools to take up the offer of cycle training for their year 6 pupils.
- 4.5 Members commend the achievements at Monson School and Ashmead School, where they have taken the opportunity to tap into funding offered to Lewisham via TfL and CTC to train school staff to carry out their own in-house cycle training within the schools. It is recommended that the council promotes this achievement as a model to be emulated across all schools in the borough.
- 4.6 The committee also recommend that officers work with private schools within Lewisham and with neighbouring local authorities to reduce car use for school runs.
- 4.7 It is recommended that cycling is included as part the curriculum from year two, to help make cycling the norm for young people in the borough.
- 4.8 Members recognise the need for greater enforcement to ensure that all road-users follow the Highway Code and would like to see Lewisham Police direct greater resources into tackling irresponsible driving and cycling.
- 4.9 The committee welcomes holiday cycling schemes, but would like to see them more widely advertised and expanded to enable a much larger number of children to participate. Longer, organised bike rides to places of interest could also be incorporated into summer schemes,

to encourage young people to cycle for pleasure. In addition, there is a need to further emphasise in the Lewisham Physical Activity Sport and Leisure Strategy, the holistic promotion and development of cycling as a fun, leisure pursuit, a healthier way to travel, and in terms of a pathway of progression in the sport from beginner to excellence levels.

- 4.10 The select committee recommends that a competition is introduced for schools in Lewisham, perhaps as part of the Clean & Green Schools Awards, for the school which a) adopts the 'greenest travel plan', has the most innovative and effective scheme to promote walking and cycling, or b) the school which achieves the biggest modal shift in a year.

Cycling for adults

- 4.11 The select committee recommend the expansion of adult cycle training and that sources of funding such as TfL are actively targeted. Such training should ideally be free and should be actively promoted, for example in Lewisham Life magazine.
- 4.12 The select committee would like to see more Lewisham teachers train to be accredited cycle trainers who can then run in-school cycle training programmes, such as the successful programme at John Ball school in Blackheath. However, the committee also recognised the risk to Lewisham in investing in training up staff who then leave the borough. A London-wide scheme to train more teachers up as accredited cycle trainers or giving student teachers the opportunity to become accredited cycle trainers as part of their teacher training programme, could help to mitigate this.
- 4.13 With regards to workplace travel plans, the select committee recommends that a degree of competition is introduced among employers in Lewisham, perhaps as part of the existing BEE awards, to encourage employers to achieve a substantial reduction of car use through workplace travel plans. It is noted that SELTRANS leads on workplace travel planning and is funded by TfL so any additional costs could potentially be funded via SELTRANS.
- 4.14 The select committee recommends that the provision of workplace shower facilities for cyclists are stipulated in planning guidelines for new business units.
- 4.15 The select committee also recommends that the Council does more to promote existing government schemes such as 'Cycle to Work', which allows employees to benefit from a long term loan of bikes and commuting equipment such as lights, locks and panniers completely tax free.
- 4.16 It is recommended that more cycle racks are provided outside local

facilities in the borough including shopping parades and health centres, to make it easier for cyclists to use local facilities.

- 4.17 The select committee recommends an assessment should be undertaken of how bike stations could be rolled out, so that Lewisham would be in a position to take advantage of and facilitate such a scheme.
- 4.18 It is recommended that the off-road cycle routes in Lewisham e.g. LCN 21 and along Waterlink Way (WLW), are promoted more widely, particularly as an ideal route for family bike rides and a way of seeing Lewisham's green spaces. The select committee urges the Mayor and Cabinet to look for all possible funding sources to complete the WLW cycle route by bringing the WLW through the Wearside Depot along the River Ravensbourne to Ladywell Park.
- 4.19 While recognising current budget constraints, the committee recommends that the Mayor examines the level of staffing within the newly restructured team, particularly to promote cycling and implement schemes, and considers whether there is a need for more staff in Lewisham's sustainable development transport team.

Walking and the physical environment

- 4.20 Members requested that the soon to be published Streetscape Guide for Lewisham should be considered by the Sustainable Development select committee at a future session to consider any additions or amendments, in particular with reference to cycle scheme design.
- 4.21 The committee acknowledge the work planned for the Kender Triangle and Sydenham High Street to make the areas more pedestrian friendly and recommend that if they are proven to be successful, funding should be sought for similar schemes in other areas across the borough.

20mph zones and speed limits

- 4.22 The select committee believes that the benefits of a 20mph safety limit should, where practicable, be extended to all residential roads in the Borough. It notes that the Mayor of London is to carry out a feasibility study for introducing a 20mph limit on all roads in London and recommends that the Mayor of Lewisham bids for Lewisham Borough to be a pilot for this. The committee believes that 20mph limits could be achieved using signage rather than physical features, and that all opportunities to secure the necessary funding for this, such as from TfL for being a pilot borough for a London-wide scheme, are taken.

Planning issues

- 4.23 The select committee believes that the Council should continue to promote low or zero car developments, particularly in high PTAL (Public Transport Accessibility Level) areas and the provision of car club spaces ought to be encouraged as an alternative.
- 4.24 When considering planning applications, officers should take into account the positive benefits of other modes of transport available in a site to assess the requirement for parking provision. Subject to DDA requirements (Disability Discrimination Act), a very high PTAL rate, coupled with appropriate design, should assume low or zero parking provision.
- 4.25 The select committee recommends that car club provision should be included in new developments, for example where developments of 30 or more homes are proposed this should automatically include car club parking provision.
- 4.26 The select committee recommends that the council continues to bid for funding from TfL for on-street car club parking and recommends that off-street car club provision is included in the Local Development Framework.
- 4.27 The select committee recommends that the council maintains a strong preference for a single provider for a car club operator in order to build the capacity before encouraging other car club companies to set up in Lewisham, whilst being mindful of a longer term monopoly.
- 4.28 It is recommended that car clubs use standardised signage across the borough to be easily identified.
- 4.29 To promote the car club scheme, the select committee recommended that editorial features are encouraged to be included in Lewisham Life to promote StreetCar in Lewisham and highlight the benefits including that the car club will pay for the use of your driveway as a parking space for car club vehicles.
- 4.30 The committee note and encourage that the council moves to using car clubs as opposed to paying mileage allowance to staff for casual car use during work.

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report, however subsequent financial implications arising from the recommendations of the select committee will be reported in the response of the relevant Executive Director(s) to Mayor and Cabinet.

6. Legal Implications

The Constitution provides for the Select Committees to report to the Mayor and Cabinet and for the Executive to consider the report within one month of receiving it.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Eleanor Parkin, Policy and Research Officer, extension 49534 or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business and Committee, extension 49327.