ACTIVE TRAVEL POLICY AMBITIONS VERSUS DELIVERY REALITIES

Public Health information Network for Scotland 11 September 2015

LIVING STREETS SCOTLAND
Part of the UK charity for everyday walking
VISION
A walking nation where all generations walk on streets that are fit for walking by:

• Tackling the decline in walking;
• Making walking the natural choice;
• Helping people enjoy and benefit from the simple act of walking;
• Creating changes, big and small, to make streets fit for walking.

WALKING INITIATIVES
Delivering results

• Our Walk to School project instills good habits that can last a lifetime.
• Our community street audits identify changes that are often easy to put right and will get people walking.
• Our expertise helps put walking at the heart of public policy from a national to a local level
INTRODUCTION

Delivery vs Reality

- The case for active travel is well understood and unanswerable - but this isn't enough!
- There is a robust national policy framework that acknowledges and reflects this reality
- We aren’t consistently delivering changes at a local level which reflect our policy ambitions
- What needs to change?

DELIVERING CHANGE

Radical riparian policy intervention 400 years in the making
REVERSING 50 YEARS INACTIVITY ON WALKING

ACTIVE TRAVEL
The case for action
MOVEMENT 4 HEALTHY CITIES

ACTIVE TRAVEL
The Policy Response in Scotland
ACTIVE TRAVEL
POLICY & STRATEGY

IS SCOTLAND BRAVE OR
IS ENGLAND A BIT SILLY?
BETTER BY DESIGN
Designing Streets

PLANNING & PLACE MAKING

GOOD PLACES, BETTER HEALTH
A NEW APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH IN SCOTLAND
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Place Standard Tool
A tool to assist communities and professionals to assess the quality of places
SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY

“The planning system should support patterns of development which provide:

• Safe and convenient opportunities for walking and cycling for both active travel and

• For recreation, and facilitate travel by public transport”

REGENERATING TOWN CENTRES

Town Centre Toolkit
AIR QUALITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE
DOING EVERYTHING FAIRLY

“Scottish public authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.”

THE REALITIES
Are our policies working on the ground?
ARE WE THERE YET?

INVESTING FOR SUCCESS?

66% OF THE PUBLIC WOULD WALK MORE IF STREETS WERE BETTER MAINTAINED

LIVING STREETS & PATHS FOR ALL, WALKING AND PUBLIC SPACE OPINION SURVEY 2009

20% FALL IN LA MAINTENANCE BUDGETS 2009-13 (£19.5M TO £15M)

LIVING STREETS SCOTLAND FOI SURVEY 2014
COSTS AND BENEFITS
Share of highway maintenance budgets for walking

EDINBURGH: 31.9%
(HIGH WALKING LEVELS)

ABERDEEN: 19.1%

GLASGOW: 9.2%
(LOW WALKING LEVELS)

COINCIDENCE??

WALKING FEELS SAFE?
Welcome to Aberdeen
WAITING FOR A BIG CHANGE

SAFER SPEEDS- SLOW PROGRESS?

EDINBURGH 20 MPH
SOME LOCAL DIFFICULTIES

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

Individual, Social and Material Issues
INDIVIDUAL
Influencing beliefs and values

People need to value the freedom and practicality that walking brings for them and their families

Myths about the freedom and practicality of the car need to be challenged

Professionals believe in vibrant places and footfall - not traffic flow

SOCIAL
Walking is normal again

Walking to school is perceived as safe and parents can build it into routines

Levels of walking are seen as the measure of whether our towns and cities are healthy

Communities are working together to drive change at a neighbourhood level owning and using policy to promote change
MATERIAL
Our environment encourages & supports walking

We need some big changes in our city centres to make room for active travel through bolder interpretation of policy

But more importantly we need lots of small improvements to basic infrastructure at a neighbourhood level

Resources should match ambitions and priorities recognising active travel delivers multiple benefits

CONCLUSIONS
Beyond policy

1. We have all the evidence and policies we need at a national level

2. We know what success looks like but we need to be brave enough to let communities implement solutions at a local level

3. Implementation will be a messy, disruptive but transformative process
NOT SCOTLAND
But Could Be

Thank you for listening
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