

ENCOURAGING ACTIVE TRAVEL ON THE ISLE OF MAN

A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Isle of Man
Government

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Executive Summary

The Department of Infrastructure is committed to encouraging the use of active travel on the Isle of Man. Active travel is being defined as walking or cycling as an alternative to motorised transport (cars, buses, motorcycles etc) for the purpose of making everyday journeys.

The Department is also proposing that the term "walking" or "walker" will be used as a generic term to include running as well as non-motorised users for instance wheelchairs, electric wheelchairs, mobility scooters and other mobility aids.

The Department has worked with colleagues across Government to consider the needs of the Island in relation to active travel, in the preparation of this document.

The Department is proposing a long-term vision and a number of overarching principles which will set the direction for Island-wide active travel. These are contained within this document which forms the basis of the consultation exercise.

The Department is keen to consider views from the general public, Local Authorities, interest groups, and employers in relation to the contents of this document. The consultation exercise will run from 31st July 2017 until the 25th September 2017. All responses received will be reviewed and following which, the Department will continue to work with relevant stakeholders to prepare an appropriate and achievable Action Plan with identified Objectives to assist with the delivery of the long-term vision.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 By early 2017 the Isle of Man Government determined what the priorities would be for the next five years and published these as part of the Programme for Government. One of these priorities was to increase the number of people using more active forms of travel on a regular basis.
- 1.2 It was identified that in order to achieve this there would need to be a co-ordinated approach across Government and beyond. The Department of Infrastructure has been co-ordinating views from across government in the preparation of this initial document on active travel.

2. Encouraging Active Travel

- 2.1 Following discussions with colleagues across Government and outside bodies, the Department has identified a number of overarching principles to help inform the long-term vision for active travel on the Island. The Department is now seeking views in relation to these.
- 2.2 Once the consultation exercise has been completed, and the principles for active travel have been agreed, an Action Plan with identified objectives will be prepared.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 A number of questions have been asked throughout the document at the end of relevant sections, and a list of these is included in Appendix 3.
- 3.2 The consultation exercise will commence on 31st July 2017 and will close on 25th September 2017.

4. Definition of Active Travel

- 4.1 For the purposes of this work stream, active travel is defined as walking or cycling as an alternative to motorised transport (cars, buses, motorcycles etc) for the purpose of making everyday journeys.
- 4.2 The Department is proposing that the terms "walking" or "walker" will be used as a generic term to include running as well as non-motorised users for instance wheelchairs, electric wheelchairs, mobility scooters and other mobility aids.

4.3 Question 1 - Do you agree with the proposed definition of active travel?

- 4.4 The Department is proposing that an active travel journey is one to or from a workplace or educational establishment or to access other services or facilities. It could cover for example short-distance commuting, travel to school, shops, leisure facilities etc. Such a journey must connect to facilities and services and be suitable for utility, everyday journeys. It does not cover routes or sections of routes that are just used for leisure or recreational purposes. Active travel relates to journeys of necessity, rather than journeys of desire.

4.5 It is also possible to consider journeys which may include an element of active travel where it is not possible to undertake the whole of the journey by these means.

4.6 Question 2 - Do you agree with the proposed definition of an active travel Journey?

4.7 Question 3 – Do you currently travel actively?

5. Vision

5.1 The long-term vision for the Isle of Man is to ***be an Island where cycling and walking are normal and realistic transport choices for people of all ages and abilities***. One of the main ways in which to achieve this vision will be to increase the number of people travelling actively.

5.2 There is a baseline from the 2011 Census data which shows at that time 14.1% of people made journeys to work by active means upon which any increase can be measured. The Department aims to increase the number of people travelling actively to work to **20% by 2020**, and thereafter, to see an increase of **10%** in the total number of active travel journeys per year. In addition, the Department aims to increase the overall number of active journeys being made across the Island. The way in which this will be measured will be identified as part of the Action Plan.

5.3 The Isle of Man's communities are shaped around its people, with walking and cycling being the most popular and accessible choices for shorter everyday journeys. Travelling by foot or bicycle is a realistic option for many local journeys for individuals.

5.4 There are a number of barriers which could have the potential to prevent the delivery of the vision of increasing the total number of people travelling to work or other places of necessity by active means.

5.5 The barriers include safety and the perception of safety, the provision of facilities at either end of journeys (including changing, storage and charging provision), the weather, the lack of identified routes or networks, the presence of hills, the distances involved, and the cost of equipment. Some of these barriers will affect some areas of the Island more than others, most obviously the presence of hills or the distances between residential areas and centres.

5.6 The Department will consider possible ways in which to overcome these barriers through the resultant Action Plan.

5.7 Question 4 - Do you agree with the long-term vision for active travel on the Isle of Man?

6. Why travel actively?

6.1 There are many benefits to be achieved from active travel. The Department has considered many of these benefits, and has split them into the following:

- Health and wellbeing – greater physical activity can improve individual health and wellbeing leading to a healthier overall population;
- Environmental - reduced emissions, improved air quality, reduced congestion, and possibly better, more vibrant places for people to live and visit; and,
- Social and economic - reduced travel costs as walking and cycling are cheaper than other forms of transport and do not tend to incur other associated costs such as car parking charges, and reduced time spent sedentary. A number of active travel interventions have the potential to make a difference and be delivered affordably.

6.2 There are also a number of dis-benefits to active travel which include the following:

- a possible loss of revenue to Government through fuel duty and car parking (and other bodies responsible for parking);
- a possible impact on the bus services which rely on a certain number of people using them to remain operationally effective; and,
- a greater propensity for accidents and injuries if more people are travelling actively.

6.2 *Question 5 – Can you suggest additional benefits or dis-benefits to those identified above?*

7. Overarching Principles

7.1 The Department is proposing using the following overarching principles in order to meet its long-term vision. They are to:

- enable more active travel by creating a safe, convenient and effective active travel network for people to use; and
- encourage and promote a shift of choice to active travel modes for every-day, functional trips.

7.2 *Question 6 - Do you agree with the proposed overarching principles?*

8. Delivering Active Travel

8.1 The Department will prepare an Action Plan with identified objectives and tasks following consideration of this consultation exercise. This will assist with the delivery of the long-term vision and will aim to achieve the overarching principles listed above.

9. Action Plan Key Issues

9.1 The preparation and delivery of the Action Plan will focus on a number of key issues including;

- infrastructure provision;
- behaviour change and improved education;
- a network of routes for people to walk and cycle on; and
- partnership working and delivery.

9.2 *Question 7 - Do you agree that these key issues should form the basis of the Action Plan?*

9.3 Examples of actions which could be incorporated within an Action Plan include the identification of active travel routes for people and their promotion, improved education and cycling training programmes (for children and adults), improved mapping and signage along active travel routes, development of a monitoring framework and reporting structure, encouragement of workplace and school travel plans as well as continued partnership working and collaboration.

9.4 The Department will continue to engage with colleagues across Government and outside bodies to assist with the formulation of any Action Plans.

9.5 *Question 8 - In addition to the above, is there anything that should be included within the Action Plan to assist the Department in meeting its long-term vision for active travel?*

10. Achieving the long-term vision

10.1 In working to achieve the long-term vision for active travel, the Department has identified two initial areas which could see numbers of people actively travelling increase with some focused investment and promotion. These are:

- to facilitate active travel choices for everyday journeys including journeys to work being made within a 2.5 mile radius of Douglas (shown on the map in Appendix 2); and,
- to encourage active travel choices for pupils and students in the Island's schools and the University College Isle of Man.

11. Monitoring and review

11.1 The Department will work with others to identify an appropriate evidence base which can demonstrate the impact of the approach to active travel. Such an evidence base will incorporate links with Public Health as well as national and international indicators for health.

11.2 To date, no comprehensive survey has been undertaken to ascertain current levels of active travel on the Isle of Man. There are however a number data sources which can be utilised to give an indication of the levels of participation in active travel and would allow for comparisons in future years to be made. A summary of this data currently available has been included in Appendix 1. The Department will consider sources of data which may not be currently available, but will be in the near future and could inform the Action Plan.

- 11.3 A monitoring framework and reporting structure will be considered as part of the Action Plan and this will provide an opportunity to review annual progress being made towards achieving the long-term vision for active travel on the Island.

12. Following the Consultation Exercise

- 12.1 Once the consultation exercise has been completed, the Department will consider all responses received, and will work with colleagues across Government and outside bodies work to prepare an Action Plan to assist with achieving the long-term vision for active travel.

13. How to Respond

- 13.1 The Department welcomes representations by anyone who wishes to comment on this consultation document. It should be noted that a response does not guarantee that changes proposed in a response will be implemented.

- 13.2 Comments can be either sent electronically to SPP.DOI@gov.im or by post to:
Strategy, Policy & Performance Division
Department of Infrastructure
Strategy, Policy and Performance
Sea Terminal Building
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM1 2RF

- 13.3 It should be noted that all comments and information will be made available for public viewing.

- 13.4 Information provided in response will be dealt with in accordance with access to information regimes – ‘Guidance on the Code of Practice on Consultation’ and ‘Code of Practice on Access to Information’.

13.5 This consultation begins on 31st July 2017, and will close on 25th September 2017 at 4pm.

- 13.6 If you require any further information please contact:
Dr Emma Rowan
Strategy, Policy and Performance
Department of Infrastructure
Sea Terminal Building
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM1 2RF
Email: emma.rowan@gov.im
Tel. 01624 685163

Thank you for taking the time to read this consultation document.

1. Census Data

1.1 The 2011 census asked all respondents how they had travelled to work in the last week. It did not ask respondents where they had travelled to, only where their journey originated from. Therefore assumptions will need to be made as to where they were travelling to. The census data only asked the question about how people travelled the week before the census was held on 27th/28th March 2011. Weather conditions for this time were very pleasant, dry, and often sunny. Although this gives an indication of travel to work modes of transports it does not provide any indication of regularity of use.

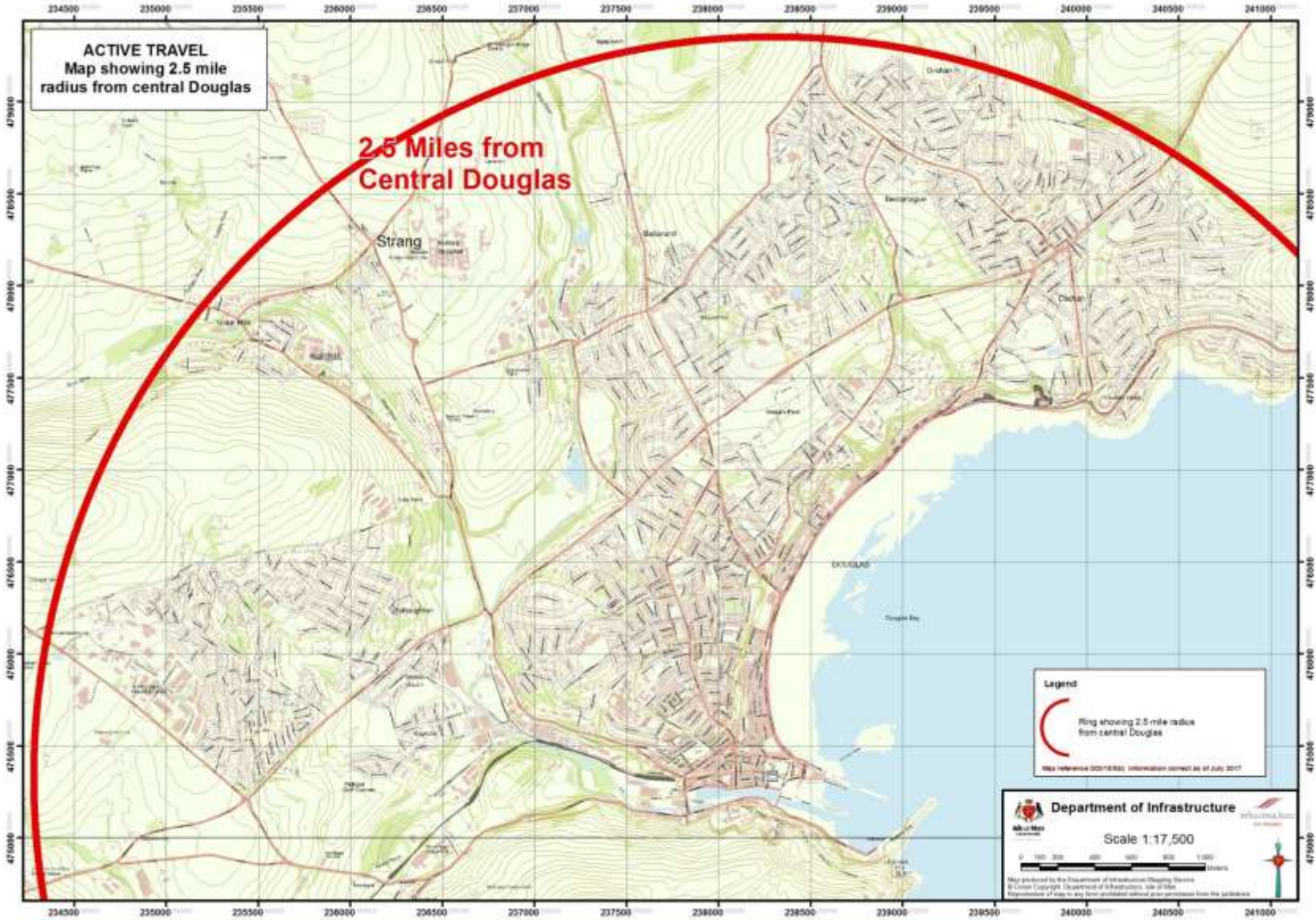
1.2 The following information is derived from the analysis of the data published in the 2011 Census results.

Area of Residence	Total	Pedal Cycle	On foot	Total travelling actively	% travelling actively
Douglas	15,408	133	3,354	3,487	22.6
Onchan	4,663	60	297	357	7.6
Braddan	1,842	18	140	158	8.6
Lonan	761	6	14	20	2.6
Santon	387	0	12	12	3.1
Castletown	1,469	22	222	244	16.6
Port Erin	1,705	15	176	191	11.2
Port St Mary	954	7	67	74	7.6
Malew	1,104	13	87	100	9.0
Arbory	888	6	21	27	3.0
Rushen	707	6	17	23	3.3
Peel	2,728	19	342	361	13.2
German	509	2	37	39	7.6
Patrick	812	7	27	34	4.2
Michael	908	3	45	48	5.3
Ramsey	3,650	52	702	754	20.7
Andreas	693	4	26	30	4.3
Ballaugh	493	1	22	23	4.7
Bride	192	1	11	12	6.3
Jurby	311	1	20	21	6.8
Lezayre	550	5	20	25	4.5
Maughold	425	2	7	9	2.1
Laxey	870	15	45	60	6.9
Marown	1,105	8	26	34	3.1
Total	43,134	406	5,737	6,143	14.2

1.3 **The BIG Youth Survey**

- 1.4 This survey enabled young people to express their views and opinions about what life is like growing up on the Isle of Man in 2015 and comprised questions relating to schooling, leisure, health, social attitudes, lifestyle choices and wellbeing. The target audience was young people living in the Isle of Man aged 11 to 18. From a potential of 5,315 respondents, a total of 1370 responses were received.
- 1.5 A total of 400 children responded and said they actively travelled to school (392 walked while 8 cycled).

Appendix 2 Map - 2.5 mile radius from Douglas



Appendix 3 Consultation questions

General questions including:

**Name;
email address;
organisation; and,
permission to publish results.**

Question 1

Do you agree with the proposed definition of active travel?

Question 2

Do you agree with the proposed definition of an active travel Journey?

Question 3

Do you agree with the long-term vision for active travel on the Isle of Man?

Question 4

Do you currently travel actively?

Question 5

Can you suggest additional benefits or dis-benefits to those identified above?

Question 6

Do you agree with the proposed overarching principles?

Question 7

Do you agree that these key issues should form the basis of the Action Plan?

Question 8

In addition to the above, is there anything that should be included within the Action Plan to assist the Department in meeting its long-term vision for active travel?