

Report To: Charity Committee

Date of Meeting: 16th March 2020

Report Title: Electric Bike Trial Project

Report By: Victoria Conheady, Assistant Director Regeneration and Culture

Key Decision: Key

Classification: Open

Purpose of Report

1. To request the use of the electric bikes from the Seaside Cycle Hire for a short-term trial which encourages local work-related journeys, encouraging the switch from car to electric bike.
2. This proposed trial is aimed at council staff and would rely on additional use of the bikes when the Cycle Hut is closed or possibility at off-peak times. If the trial is successful, then there is potential to investigate external funding for a more permanent scheme.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the electric bikes are used for a trial period without impacting on the agreed Seaside Cycle Hire provision.

Reasons for Recommendations

To trial the use of electric bikes as an alternative mode of transport for local work-related use. If this short-term trial is a success, there is potential for it to be expanded and made more permanent. Possible long-term benefits include healthier and more efficient local work force and a more environmentally friendly mode of local transport.

Introduction

Background

1. The Seafront Cycle Hire is funded by the Foreshore Trust and operated by Active Hastings. The service includes 23 bikes available to hire, 6 of which are electric.
2. In 2020 the service will open during the Easter and May school holidays and throughout the summer holidays. The service will also be open for selected days during the year, such as the Cycle Festival and Sea Food and Wine Festival. The Active Hastings team are currently working with more partners to further improve promotion.
3. The timetable is reviewed annually to ensure opening times respond to demand. The service aims to maximise resources by being flexible where possible to capitalise on opportunities. Such as increasing the number of language school bookings as an example.

Proposal

4. The project aims to encourage more council workers to cycle to local meetings. The trial period will enable us to gather insight regarding the potential benefits, including:
 - Promotion of healthy lifestyles amongst council workers
 - A more environmentally friendly way to travel for those switching from car and taxi use
 - Efficiencies regarding lower vehicle running costs, reduction in staff sickness and travel time during peak traffic.
5. The proposal requires borrowing electric bikes from the Seafront Cycle Hire to make them available to council staff at Muriel Matters for local work-related journeys.
6. The trial will rely on borrowing a number of electric bikes, depending on demand and logistics, at key times when the Seafront Cycle and Deckchair service is closed. We propose to begin the trial using a single bike. The bikes will be kept securely. Existing locks and helmets will be made available to staff. Bike use will be risk assessed and insured.
7. The bike/s will be made available on weekdays from April to October with the exception of school holidays and a handful of special events.
8. The bikes will be prioritised for the Seafront Cycle Hire service at all times. And only used for the purposes of the trial when there is no conflict.

The trial will be reviewed and evaluated during December. A case study will be drafted as part of the project evaluation. If successful, then there is the possibility of exploring further opportunities perhaps to broaden the offer to other partners and residents. Cycle to Work and eCargo Bike Grant Fund are examples of schemes which contribute towards sustainable transport.

Timetable of Next Steps

9. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Documentation finalised (risk assessments, insurance etc)		February	Active Hastings
Commence trial		April	Active Hastings
Evaluation		December	Active Hastings

Wards Affected

All

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score: 49.3

Have you used relevant project tools?: Y/N

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	
Risk Management	Y
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	
Economic/Financial Implications	Y
Human Rights Act	
Organisational Consequences	Y
Local People's Views	Y
Anti-Poverty	
Legal	Y

Additional Information

Insert a list of appendices and/or additional documents. Report writers are encouraged to use links to existing information, rather than appending large documents.

Officer to Contact

Victoria Conheady
VConheady@hastings.gov.uk
 01424 451796