

Draft cycling and walking investment strategy Sport and Recreation Alliance response

May 2016

Sport and Recreation Alliance

1. The Sport and Recreation Alliance is the umbrella body for governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation in the UK. We represent 320 members covering a wide range of activities from football, rugby and cricket to rambling, mind games and dance.

Comments

2. We fully support the aim of creating a walking and cycling nation. We know the value of outdoor recreation to individuals, communities and the economy and support moves to embed being active outdoors in everyday life. However, we are concerned that without significant, sustained investment and priority given to cycling and walking at local level, the strategy will not fulfil its potential.
3. The reference to other Government strategies, such as the sport strategy, is welcomed as it demonstrates a more joined-up approach to achieving a shared aim of getting more people active. The Government's sport strategy signalled a move to include walking and cycling in Sport England's remit and Sport England's new strategy – *Towards an active nation* – now provides more detail on that. Sport England will directly fund walking for leisure but not walking or cycling to work. We are concerned about a division between utility transport and walking and cycling for leisure as we see both as important ways to get people moving. We would welcome a joined-up approach to investment in these areas.
4. The Department for Transport's (DfT) aim to increase the percentage of children aged 5-10 that usually walk to school is another opportunity to joined-up working as Sport England's remit has now been lowered to include 5-14 year olds. But we are unclear whether walking to school sits within or outside of Sport England's direct funding proposals.
5. The cycling and walking investment strategy highlights the importance of infrastructure, space and access to getting more people active. We have raised the opportunity to maximise the potential of the DfT's digital road mapping work by joining with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to include rights of way and footpaths with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. We would encourage a collective approach to this.
6. We support the 'success tests' for the strategy proposed by Bicycle Association, British Cycling, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Cycling UK, Living Streets and Sustrans. These include the need for clear milestones to reach the stated objectives and a framework for assessing performance.
7. We welcome the creation of an independent Expert Committee to review the strategy and its implementation. We hope this will provide a clear monitoring and evaluation process as well as encourage joined-up working across departments as well as fostering other partnerships.