



South Staffordshire Local Plan 'Preferred Options' Response

Together Active Jackie Brennan (Active Places Manager)

1. Introduction

- 1.1.** Together Active (formerly known as Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent) is a local charity which forms part of a national network of 43 Active Partnerships.
- 1.2.** We are funded by Sport England, our local authorities and our universities. As a strategic organisation, we work behind the scenes to create the conditions for physical activity and sport to happen across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
- 1.3.** We do this by coordinating and commissioning programmes, providing information, advice and guidance and working lobbying and influencing systems to create change.
- 1.4.** Our strategic approach is outlined in [Together Active Step Up Strategy 2020 - 2025](#)

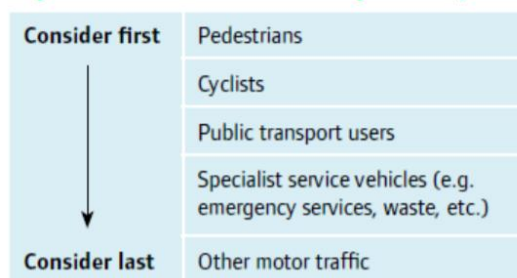
2. Issues and challenges

- 2.1.** Together Active agree with the challenges around ensuring access to health services as well sport, leisure and recreational facilities, making a positive contribution to health.
- 2.2.** We particularly welcome the recognition of the importance of physical activity and the role of planning in health well-being and encouraging exercise. For decades we have been designing physical activity out of our everyday lives¹ so we now need to take every opportunity to build everyday activity back into our lives for our physical, mental and social wellbeing.
- 2.3.** We welcome the facilitation of active travel through scheme design and off-site financial contributions.
- 2.4.** Also we welcome the acknowledgement of the importance of meeting the needs of children and young people, including the provision of good education and play spaces.
- 2.5.** We understand the challenges around increasing cycle and footpath provision for leisure or commuting, including connecting to established routes
- 2.6.** We agree with ensuring sufficient good quality public open spaces and green infrastructure is available for residents and visitors to the district for recreational use and informal leisure opportunities
- 2.7.** Together Active appreciate the major challenge of ensuring new development is sustainable, addressing the implications of climate change and the reduction of CO2 emissions.

¹ Shu Wen Ng, Barry Popkin, "Time Use and Physical Activity: A Shift Away from Movement Across the Globe", Obesity Reviews, Vol 15, No 8, (2012): 659-80

3. Local Site Allocations

- 3.1. Together Active agree that the 4 sites detailed in policies SA1-SA4, warrant their own policy to set the vision for the site, alongside a requirement for a detailed masterplan and design code.
- 3.2. We welcome the proposal to have stronger design policies for all sites and site-specific Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) for the four strategic housing allocations.
- 3.3. Together Active recommend the use of the guidance in Manual for Streets and Manual for Streets 2, produced by CIHT (the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation) and endorsed by the Department for Transport, when considering the development of detailed masterplans and design codes.
- 3.4. These are guidance documents which explain how to design, construct, adopt and maintain new and existing residential streets. The Manual for Streets advocates considering the needs of pedestrians and cyclists first. Its principles deliver streets that enable a reduction in the need to travel by car through the creation of mixed-use neighbourhoods with interconnected street patterns, where daily needs are within walking distance of most residents.
- 3.5. In particular it recommends a street user hierarchy² of people first:



- 3.6. A revised version of the Manual for Streets is due to be published in 2022.
- 3.7. Whenever possible cycling infrastructure should be segregated from the highway to increase safety and uptake of Active travel (following DfT LTN 1/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design guidance) It should provide for cyclists from 8 to 80 years of age.
- 3.8. Any design codes should ensure that on street parking does not compromise safe walking and cycling networks and provide adequate access.
- 3.9. Together Active would also recommend that Sport England Active Design principles should be formally adopted within any new SPDs. Active Design, developed by Sport England and supported by Public Health England (now Office for Health Improvement and Disparities) provides a set of principles for creating the right conditions within existing and proposed development for individuals to be able to lead active and healthy lifestyles. [SE Active Design](#)

4. Development Management Policies

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/341513/pdfmanforstreets.pdf p29

- 4.1. **HC9 - Design requirements.** Give safe and convenient ease of movement to all users – as above Together Active would recommend a user hierarchy with people first in residential areas so that walking and cycling is the easy, safe and attractive option for short local trips rather than the car.
- 4.2. **HC13 – Health and Wellbeing.** Together Active welcomes the inclusion of a Health and Wellbeing Policy, including the policy hook for a health and wellbeing SPD.
- 4.3. **HC17 - Open Space and HC18 - Sports Facilities and Playing Pitches.** Together Active welcomes the commitment to the protection of open spaces and existing sports facilities and playing pitches.
- 4.4. Together Active offer our support to the development and delivery of an Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD.
- 4.5. **HC19 – Wider green infrastructure design principles.** We welcome a policy to ensure green infrastructure is provided to meet open space, biodiversity, active travel, climate mitigation/adaptation in a multi-functional manner and the development of a Green Infrastructure SPD.
- 4.6. Consider incorporating a green infrastructure standard withing the SPD for example Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) (62) which addresses amount, access and quality or the Building with Nature standard which includes wellbeing <https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/>
- 4.7. Together Active offer our support to the development of a Green Infrastructure SPD.
- 4.8. **EC1 - Sustainable economic growth.** We welcome the provision of active travel measures.
- 4.9. **EC11 - Sustainable transport .** Together Active support the development of a Local Walking & Cycling Infrastructure Plan to identify strategic opportunities for walking and cycling improvements within the District.
- 4.10. **We welcome the assurance that** development will be designed to promote high quality walking and cycling, both within sites and to links to nearby services and facilities.
- 4.11. **We welcome the requirement that** new cycle infrastructure to be compliant with Local Transport Note 1/20, or subsequent updates.

Prepared by Jackie Brennan, Active Places Manager, Together Active

Email: Jackiebrennan@Togetheractive.org