

Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London SW10 4DR

22 April 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

**West of England Cycle City Ambition  
Statement of Intent**

The West of England authorities are committed to a vision of a safe and attractive on and off-road environment for cycling, building on the vibrant cycling culture that is developing throughout the area.

Our aim is to have 'more people cycling, more safely, more often' and to provide safe and accessible cycling for users aged from 8 to 80 years on all routes.

This requires a commitment to high quality routes with safe, convenient, efficient and attractive infrastructure with links between the main urban areas that have the potential to generate significant growth in levels of cycling. Traffic free routes and prioritisation of cyclists and pedestrians at crossings, cycle lanes, tracks alongside the carriageway and shared paths will provide a high quality environment for cycling.

Cycling in the West of England is already benefiting from the integrated approach of other transport initiatives; the introduction of 20 mph zones in Bath and Bristol helps to create a higher level of subjective safety and the existing resident parking zones in Bath and their planned further rollout in Bristol will encourage the greater use of sustainable transport for the shorter journeys.

Cycling infrastructure requirements are considered at the design stage in all developments and advice is provided to developers and development control as part of the usual way of working. This helps the development of a comprehensive network of cycle schemes amplifying the benefit of individual schemes.

Programmes to improve the levels of cycling via promotional activities, media campaigns, educational measures and signage take place regularly, linking in to the Public Health and the Community Safety responsibility of the councils.

We recognise the importance of links with partners in the voluntary sector, government, police, transport providers, landowners and business, health care, sports development and physical activity teams encourage the culture of cycling and promote it as the norm.

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The West of England has seen significant growth in cycling in recent years with the number of cycle journeys increasing by 31% between 2008 and 2012. For journeys to work we have the highest mode share in the South West and amongst the Core Cities.

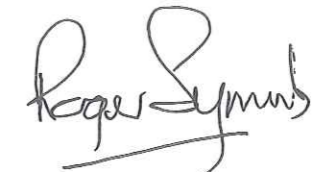
Cycle schemes recently completed include the Bristol to Nailsea cycle path, the Two Tunnels project along disused railway lines from Bath to Frome and the three routes between Parkway Station, Lockleaze and Cribbs Causeway retail centres.

Our firm, systematic and enthusiastic support for cycling will ensure that we build on this progress, and the Cycling City and Local Sustainable Transport Fund projects, and that more people cycle, more safely and more regularly. The Cycle City Ambition Fund will take us beyond our target to increase cycling by 78% (2008-2016) bringing benefits to health and wellbeing, reduction in carbon emissions and sustainable mobility across the West of England.

Signed,



Cllr Brian Allinson,  
South Gloucestershire Council  
Chair of the West of England  
Joint Transport Executive Committee



Cllr Roger Symonds  
Bath and North East Somerset  
Council



Mayor George Ferguson  
Bristol City Council



Cllr Elfan Ap Rees  
North Somerset Council

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