



Leicester Cycle City Action Plan

2015 - 2024



Leicester
City Council

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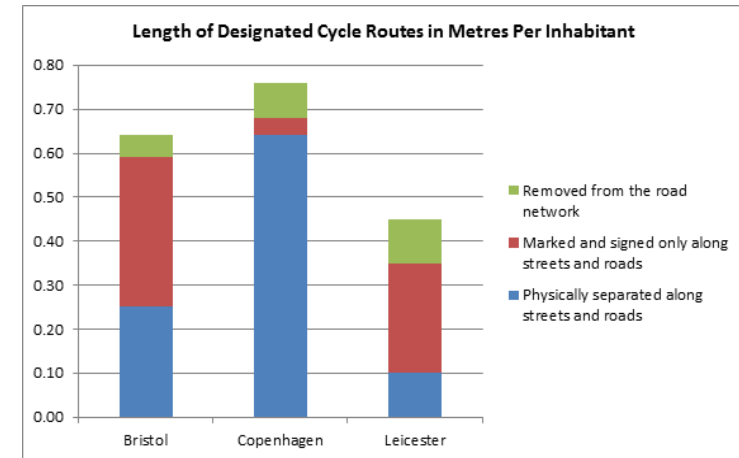


Aims

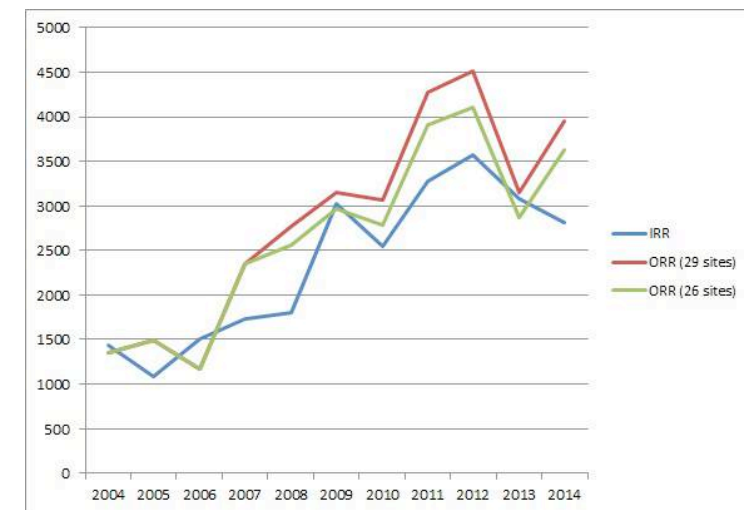
We will deliver the Government's Cycling Delivery Plan and establish Leicester as the UK's leading cycling and people-friendly city

To achieve this we will:

- Deliver a 10% modal share of traffic cycling to the city centre and double everyday cycling numbers by 2018 then again by 2024
- Develop an infrastructure network of high capacity, quality cycle tracks along main road corridors
- Create a plan for strategic cycling infrastructure and address missing links, pinchpoints and safer cycling within neighbourhoods
- Review existing schemes and work with the Department for Transport and other partners to attract additional resources and skills
- Extend cycle and mechanic training to enable inclusive cycling for all communities and abilities
- Work with delivery partners, stakeholders, business and social enterprises to enable increased capacity for growth
- Build a mainstream, inclusive citywide cycling culture as well as project specific promotions
- Implement workplace, residential and city centre cycle parking options to reduce cycle theft
- Consider action to reduce disruption by utility providers including Fixed Penalty Notices
- Broaden the Adult Cycle Training offer to include city-specific tips for vulnerable road users, fleet drivers and businesses
- Share this Strategy widely and create a clear schedule of meetings and engagement to support the Action Plan objectives



To match best practice examples like Copenhagen and Bristol we need to invest in safer cycling along main road corridors



There are an estimated 13,000+ daily cyclists and numbers are growing 10% per year

Recent Progress

2013 and 2014 have been busy, exciting and challenging years for cycling in Leicester. The level of change to the built environment and improvement for cyclists has been unprecedented, stimulated primarily by the implementation of the Connecting Leicester Project focussed on improving access for people on bicycle and on foot.

In February 2013, the City Council was invited to give evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Focus Group for Cycling culminating in publication of the 'Get Britain Cycling' report. In May, the City Council adopted a 'Cycle City Ambition' strategy as part of the Connecting Leicester Vision. Work was undertaken to reduce road danger and improve access for cyclists and pedestrians along Southgates and The Newarke. High capacity paths were provided linking The Magazine and De Montfort University campus to Jubilee Square and Welford Place.

The City Mayor spoke at a national cycling conference in December highlighting the Connecting Leicester Project improvements for cyclists as part of people-friendly public realm projects. This 'step-change' has been given added momentum within the 'Story of Leicester' with the digging up of a car park to find something of more cultural and symbolic value to the city - King Richard III.

In August 2014, the second Castle Classic cycle race brought elite level road cyclists along with Euro-Sport TV coverage and over 500 amateur competitors for inaugural sportive and triathlon events. Leicester Wheels For All disabled cyclist project was established and 14,000 family riders joined the mass participation family Sky Ride through Leicester City Football Club's King Power Stadium.

Throughout 2014 preparations for the Richard III Reinterment have given added momentum and opportunities to implement the City Mayor's Vision to transform Leicester into a more people and cycling-friendly city. The 'Leicester Cycle City Action Plan' is part of the Connecting Leicester Programme. It will help reduce the dominance of cars and create an attractive, pedestrian and cycling-friendly city for citizens and visitors.

Four case study projects have been set out to give an in-depth view of ongoing work.





Case Studies

Safer Cycling - Southgates & The Newarke

This aim of this project is to reduce road dangers and improve access for cyclists and pedestrians between the DMU Campus and the city centre as part of the Connecting Leicester Project.

This method of infrastructure change was stimulated by the 2011 'Understanding Walking & Cycling Research Report'. Proposals in the report that included Leicester were developed with the 'Roads for People' planning project in 2012 after Deputy City Mayor Rory Palmer challenged cycling stakeholders to 'come up with plans for new cyclists to ride safely to the city centre'.

Preliminary ideas from stakeholders were developed by Transport Strategy Officers into a proposal for two-way cycling and improved road crossings along 1km of the Inner Ring Road. A bid was submitted to the Department for Transport Safer Cycling initiative with the support of Sustrans. Proposals included 1km of new cycle track and footway improvements, 2 new shared-use, 5 re-designed road crossings, street furniture and signing. Scheme plans were funded with a £550,000 budget from the Department for Transport.

A pilot project was initiated early in 2013 to remove 1 lane of traffic from vehicular use along The Newarke. This was achieved simply and cost effectively by deploying temporary traffic management and allowed for an assessment of traffic congestion before enabling a transition to a permanent scheme completed in 2014.

57 businesses were surveyed by the Department for Transport 6 months after the scheme was implemented. 14% reported more customers, 2% say they have increased revenue and 3.5% reported less car use. 10% of business managers walk or cycled to work and reported levels of 47% walking and 6% cycling amongst employees. From 278 route users surveyed, 30% said they felt safer after the changes were made. 47% were making shopping trips and 36% were commuting to work or education.

This project has set the standard for a new generation of high capacity, quality pedestrian and cycling routes in the city. Additional schemes are underway at St Nicholas Circle and new projects are planned for Welford Road and Belgrave Road in 2015.

John Grimshaw (Former Chief Executive of Sustrans) says;

'The Newarke scheme in Leicester shows that we can build high quality European-style urban bike routes in UK cities'.



Case Studies

National Cycle Network Improvements Project

This aim of this project is to improve and increase the use of existing National Cycle Network routes that cross the city north to south (NCN 6) and east to west (NCN 63).

The stimulus for choosing this method of intervention and infrastructure development was the 'Active Travel Conference' hosted in Leicester on behalf of Department for Health & Department for Transport in 2012. The Understanding Walking & Cycling Research Report (2011) highlighted fear or road dangers and a lack of high quality traffic-free cycle routes as a key barrier to the take up of cycling.

The development of open and accessible cycling and walking paths along the alignment of the derelict former railway lines began in Leicester in the 1980's and was supplemented by traffic calmed streets and quiet road routes to create the basic National Cycle Network in 2000.

Great Central Way (South) was rescued from overgrown vegetation and asbestos-laden scrapyards, anti-social behaviour and landfill from the 1980's. Forest Way (West) follows the former Leicester to Swannington Railway line to the Historic Glenfield Tunnel. The Riverside Route (north) now links Abbey Park, The National Space Centre & Watermead Park, NCN 63 (East) mostly follows quiet road routes as well as designated paths through Victoria Park. Most of the cycle tracks along these routes were unadopted permissive paths and poorly maintained.

Recent work includes 5km of improved shared-use path, formal adoption as Public Highway and 300+ new direction signs along 38km of National Cycle Network route and connecting links. The National Cycle Network routes provide a backbone of traffic-free, quiet road and recreational routes across the Central Leicestershire. The newly signed and adopted routes are marked on 20,000 new 2014 Leicester Cycling Maps distributed since last summer.

The scheme work cost approximately £500,000 funded by Leicester Public Health, Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Department for Transport budgets.

In October 2014 a new automatic 24-hour monitoring system for walking and cycling was introduced along National Cycle Network routes 6 & 63 and 1km to 2km north south, east and west of the city centre. These counters show around 6,000 people on foot and 1,900 cyclists passing fixed point sites on an average day. In the four months from November 2014 to February 2015 this accounts for almost 250,000 cycling trips.

Stephanie Dunkley (Public Health Principal) says;

'This work helps to address the health inequalities across Leicester. It improves and promotes a physical network directly linking communities with greatest need to enable active everyday travel'



Case Studies

Ride Leicester Festival

This aim of this project is to engage, develop and demonstrate a mass participation audience for cycling through an annual family-friendly celebration. The rationale for choosing this method is that a fun, free, safe and diverse showcase event can help to stimulate interest in active travel and support repeat behaviour for everyday cycling.

The City Council started the annual Ride Leicester Festival in 2005 with Cycle City Workshop stakeholders to promote and support new and established bike projects. Participant projects have subsequently involved; cycle training, bike recycling, led-rides, bike-art, film & media, cycle clubs, special needs engagement, campaign groups, performers and a diversity of cycling cultures.

In 2009, a new development partnership with Sky & British Cycling launched the 'Sky Ride' as part of a 4-city national pilot project with Glasgow, Manchester and Birmingham. 'Sky Ride Leicester' is now established in the national programme and the citywide festival calendar attracting an audience of 12-14,000 riders. Highlights in 2013 included a 'Sky Ride' route across the main stage of CURVE theatre and establishing 'Leicester Castle Classic' cycle race as a component part of the Ride Leicester Festival. The inaugural cycle race attracted elite-level teams to Leicester for the first time in over 20 years.

The 2014 festival include British Cycling's Elite Road Series race and an amateur sportive, triathlon and workplace challenge for almost 600 participants. Eurosport TV coverage for the race helped to showcase Historic Leicester to an international audience and attracted 3,000 spectators.

Funding for the Ride Leicester Festival is primarily supported by the Local Transport Plan, the Sky & British Cycling partnership and Local Sustainable Transport Fund Projects. The Business Plan for the festival is to maintain the 'Free' family mass participation elements and to grow income generation from the commercial, sponsorship and entry fees across the Castle Classic programme. Other key partners in this scheme are City Council delivery partners (Sustrans, CTC, Future Cycles), bike projects, businesses, social cycling groups and volunteers.

Janet Hudson (BC Rec Manager East Midlands) says;

'We always look to add innovation to add interest and to showcase our great city. We are currently working with LCFC, RIII Visitor Centre, Museum Services and CURVE to make plans for 2015 events'.



Case Studies

CURVE Schools Ride

This aim of this project is to promote and reward cycle training with an annual mass participation ride for pupils, schools, instructors and ride leaders. It marks the start of the Ride Leicester Summer of Cycling promotions.

The Schools Ride is a fun, free and safe cycle ride to the city centre cultural quarter demonstrating the new riding skills of young riders. It helps to highlight established safer routes from schools to and from the city centre. It rewards participating schools and adults supporting on-going programmes that help people learn to ride, fix bikes and join social and family-friendly bike rides.

The City Council started the annual Phoenix Schools Ride in 2006 with cycle training delivery partners to demonstrate that it is possible for primary school pupils to ride safely to and from the city centre. Initial rides were hosted by the old Phoenix Theatre before moving to the new Phoenix Digital Media Centre in 2009. Growing demand prompted a move to CURVE in 2013.

The highlight of last year's event was to use of Curve's main auditorium with a show hosted by children's comedian Tiernan Douieb and art-bike specialists Cyclone Works. Leicester BMX Champion and TV star Keelan Phillips supports the Schools Ride each year with a display on Orton Square.

The event is led by the City Council with support from County Council, Curve Theatre, Leicestershire Police, British Cycling, Sustrans and other delivery partners. The Schools Ride is funded from the City Council's Promotion of Cycling budget, with support from Leicestershire County Council and in-kind support from CURVE. 1800 primary schools pupils received up to 8 hours of Bikeability cycle training each year alongside 700 adults who had some form of training in 2014.

The Business Plan for the Schools Ride is to develop and promote an event that showcases city cycling and training. We will continue to grow delivery capacity to fill the 700+ available space to deliver a low cost event increasingly attractive to schools.

Suba Das (Assistant Community Director of Curve Theatre) says;

'We are delighted to open up our wonderful theatre to a new and young audience as part of our community engagement work'.

Progress

Infrastructure and Training - Delivered in the past 24 months

Infrastructure

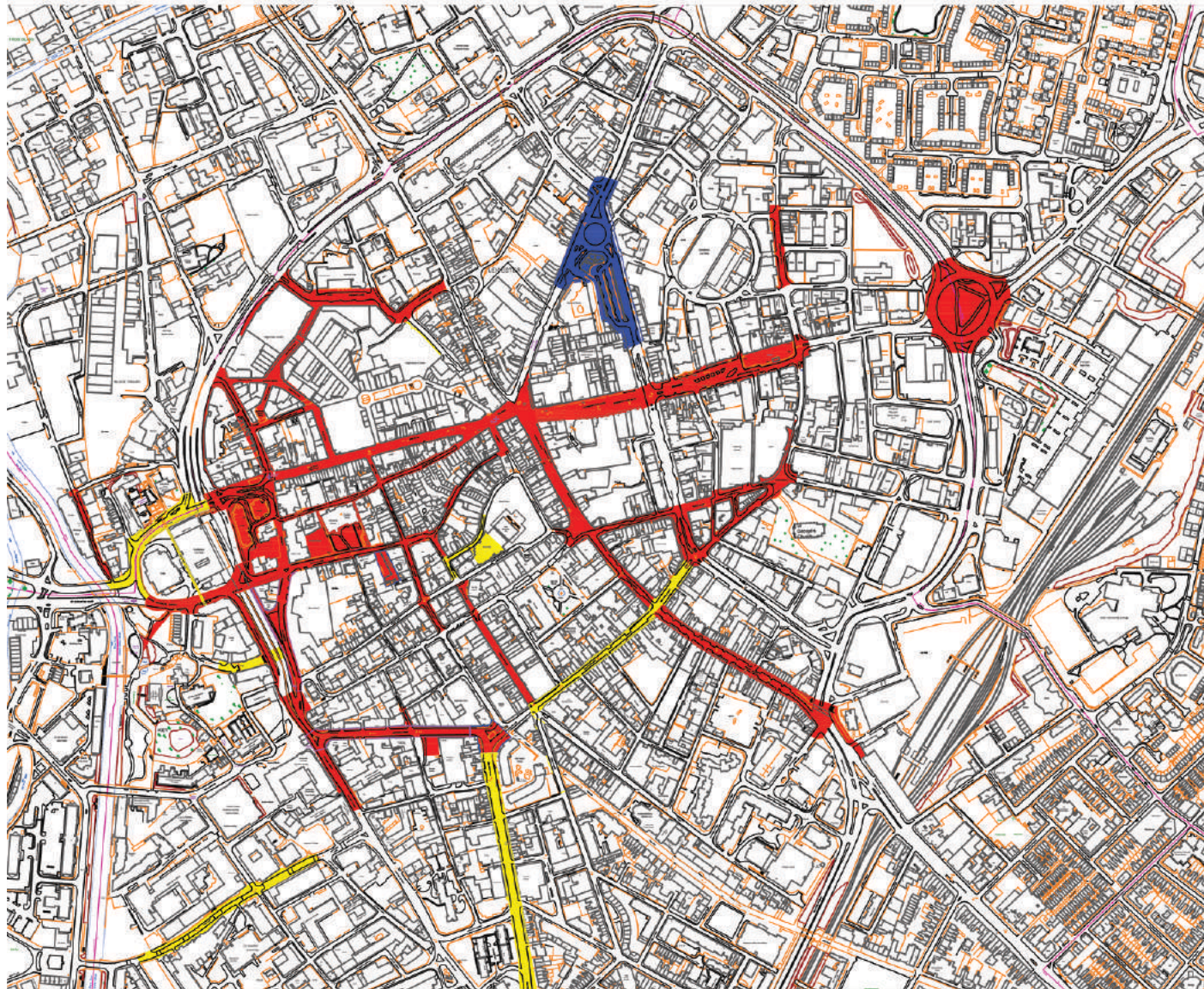
- Guildhall Lane refurbished with traffic calming and two-way access for cyclists
- Applegate refurbished with traffic calming and two-way access for cyclists
- Berridge Street refurbished with wider footpaths and two-way access for cyclists
- King Street pedestrianised retaining traffic-free two-way access for cyclists
- Southgates refurbished with two-way cycle track and two uncontrolled crossings
- The Newarke refurbished with two-way cycle track and 3 new cycle crossings
- Railway Station Bike Hub complete with parking for 240 indoor & 150 outdoor
- DfT, LSTF & NHS funding invested to improve NCN cycle routes including;
- Great Central Way overlaid and subsidence removed over 1,100m, Riverside Way overlaid and re-graded over 700m, Forest Way overlaid and re-graded along 2,200m
- LSTF & NHS funding for 300+ signs & 29 information posts over 24 miles including; Route 2 (City Centre to Groby), Route 3 (City Centre to Narborough),
- Route 4 (Westside Circular from A6 Oadby to A6 Red Hill) and Bennion Road new shared-use route
- New match-funded cycle parking facilities at 10 businesses
- Town Hall Bike Park electronic 'One-card' system for Bike Park Membership
- Bike mechanic workshop equipment purchased for community bike recycling

Training

- Bikeability Cycle Training delivered to ,3500 Primary School pupils
- Adult Cycle Training delivered to 1,000
- Cycle Maintenance Training delivered to 360 adults & young people (14-18)
- Ride Leader Training or CPD for Ride Leaders delivered for 20 people
- Cycle Instructor Training or CPD for Cycling Instructors delivered for 44 people



City Centre Projects




2015-2016

KEY

 Schemes Completed.

 Haymarket Bus Station

 2015-2016
Proposed Schemes.

Progress

Engagement and Promotions - Delivered in the past 24 months

Engagement

- Monthly Cycle-city Workshops hosted on 21 occasions
- Public Health Active Travel Inequalities partnership meetings on 6 occasions
- British Cycling development partnership meetings held on 8 occasions
- Sustrans Bike It Project partnership meetings held on 8 occasions
- Future Cycles Bike Park & Cycle Works partnership meetings on 24 occasions
- CTC Cycling Champions partnership held on 4 occasions
- Community Bike Recycling delivery partnership meetings held on 3 occasions
- Park Strategy & Open Spaces Strategy meetings held on 3 occasions
- Theft Prevention Strategy meetings held on 2 occasion
- City Centre Access Strategy meetings held on 4 occasions

Promotions

- Curve Schools Rides attended by 700+ school pupils from 16 schools
- The Led-rides programme accommodated 1500 over 150 rides
- £300 Bike Challenge grants facilitated events for 40 organisations
- Festival Bike Parks attended 22 events over 40 days
- Ride Leicester Festival engaged approximately 33,000 people in 2 years
- (Including 'Castle Classic', Sky Ride', & Wheels For All Workshops)
- Neighbourhood Cycling Festivals engaged 750 people over 8 neighbourhoods



Next Steps

- The Action Plan (Updated Annually)
- Infrastructure
 - Includes day to day asset management & major public realm improvement projects
 - Main Roads
 - Network 'Safer Cycling' & 'Missing Links'
- Training

This area of work includes cycle training, led-rides, bike maintenance and development
- Engagement

Involves stakeholders, community groups, volunteers, advocates, funding & delivery partnerships enabling strategic delivery
- Promotions
- A mainstream, inclusive, public-facing programme of festivals, events and media

Connecting Leicester

Creating a thriving heart within the city



Programme to 2018

Infrastructure and Training - Planned projects including:

Infrastructure

- St Nicholas Circle
- A50 Groby Road (City Centre to Glenfield)
- Connecting Leicester Wave 2 City Centre Projects
- River Soar / Grand Union Canal Corridor Improvement
- North City Centre (Belgrave Gate, Abbey Park Road, Charter Street)

'Pinch Point', 'Missing Link' & 'Safer Cycling' including;

- Improvement, signing & adoption of all NCN Routes
- Missing Links (On & Off-road) Feasibility Study
- Bike/Rail Integration Feasibility Study
- RIII Bike Route Feasibility Study
- Forest Way Cycle Route will be improved over 400m
- 20 mph Zones

Training

- Scootability Training offer for 50% of Early Years pupils
- Bikeability Cycle Training for 80% of Primary School pupils
- Cycle training for 850 adults p.a
- Mechanic training for 200+ young people & adults p.a
- Social enterprise support for bike project partners
- Open Ellesmere & New College 'Special Needs' Tracks



Programme to 2018

Engagement and Promotions - Planned projects including:

Engagement

- Quarterly Cycling Forum (Chaired by the City Mayor)
- Monthly Cycle-city Workshops
- Public Health Active Travel Inequalities quarterly meetings
- Delivery Project quarterly meetings
- Establish a Community Bike Recycling Centre
- Establish a Park & Opens Spaces Group and implementing strategy
- Establish a Bike Theft Prevention Group and implementing strategy



Promotions

- CURVE Schools Ride for 500+ pupils p.a
- Led-rides for 1,000+ participants p.a
- £300 Bike Challenges for 20 projects p.a
- Mobile Bike Parks for 20+ days p.a
- Ride Leicester Festival for 25,000 participants p.a
- Establishing Leicester Castle Classic as an international event for Elite level riders, Go-ride Youth races of 500+, Sportive athletes of 500+
- Triathlon athletes of 500+, Amateur Challenge riders of 500+
- Sky Ride 'Open Streets' family event for 15,000+ people
- Neighbourhood Cycling Events in 8+ areas p.a
- National Best Practice Seminars & Events



Forward Planning to 2024

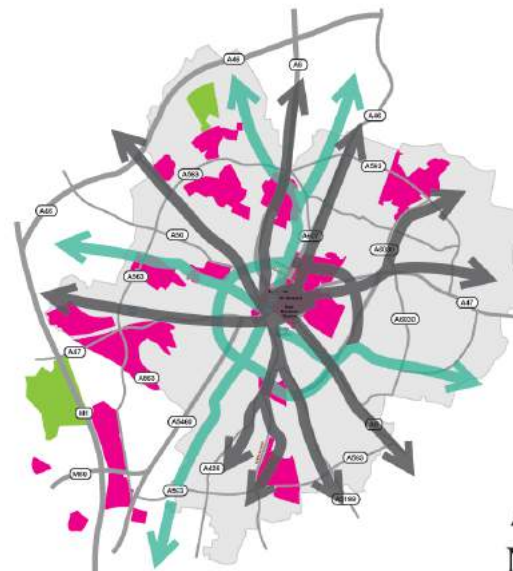
Infrastructure and Training - Strategic Developments' potentially including:

Infrastructure

- Radial Corridor Improvements
- (Including London Road, St Augustine's & Saffron Lane)
- A6 / A50 Stage 2
- North City Centre Access Improvements Stage 2
- A5199 Welford Road
- NCN6 (Bede to Abbey Park)
- Hamilton Way Link
- Public Bike Share
- Rail Electrification Improvement Projects
- 'Pinch Point', 'Missing Link' & 'Safer Cycling' including;
- Neighbourhood Railway Crossings Severance Project
- Cycle hubs at all transport interchanges
- Citywide 20mph Zones
- RIII Bike Route Heritage Route (Leicester to Bosworth)
- Cycle Streets on all strategic neighbourhood routes
- Advanced Stop Lines on traffic signal junctions

Training

- Scootability Training offer for 100% Early Years pupils
- Level III Bikeability Cycle Training on request
- Cycle training for all adults on request
- Mechanic training for 500+ young people & adults p.a
- Social enterprise development programme
- Ellesmere & New College 'Special Needs' Programmes



Green – Existing NCN & Recreational Network
Grey – Proposed Main Road Strategic Network

Forward Planning to 2024

Engagement and Promotions - Strategic Developments' potentially including:

Engagement

- An Annual 'Leicester Cycling Account' Action Plan
- Regular Cycle-city Workshops/Seminar Programme
- Citywide Public Health Active Travel Outreach Project
- Delivery Project development plan
- Community Bike Recycling Delivery Programme
- Facilitate a Parks & Opens Spaces Development Plan
- Deliver a Bike Theft Prevention Strategic Plan



Promotions

- CURVE Schools Ride for 750+ pupils
- Led-rides for 2,000+ participants p.a
- £300 Bike Challenges for 40 projects p.a & grant project
- Mobile Bike Parks for 20+ days p.a
- Ride Leicester Festival for 25,000 participants including
- Leicester Castle Classic Elite Race plus Go-ride Youth races & regional development programme, Sportive athletes of 1,000+, Triathlon athletes of 1,000+, Amateur Challenge riders of 1,000+, Sky Ride 'Open Streets' family event for 20,000+ people
- Neighbourhood Cycling Events in 16+ areas p.a
- International Best Practice Seminars & Events

The Cycle City Partnership

We will work with existing and new Cycle City partners to promote Leicester as a cycling and people-friendly city

Current Supporters

- Sustrans
- British Cycling
- Future Cycles
- Cyclist Touring Club
- Leicester Forest Cycling Club
- Leicestershire Road Club
- Western Park Free-riders
- Leicester Women's Velo
- De Montfort University
- University of Leicester
- Friends of the Earth
- City Council BUG
- County Council BUG
- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicester Triathlon Club
- Leicester Cycle Campaign
- Leicester Spokes
- Evington Bicycle Club
- Ride Leaders
- NCN Rangers
- Leicester City Football Club
- University Hospitals Leicester
- Breeze Champions
- Hope Against Cancer
- New College
- Living Streets
- The Ramblers
- Go Travel Solutions



Contacts

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