

Councillor for Town Moor

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3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013

Mayor Jones  
Doncaster Council  
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Dear Ros

### **Cycling Strategy**

At the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel Meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the Panel received feedback and ratified recommendations made by a working group established by the Panel to feed into the development of the Cycling Strategy.

Therefore, please find outlined below the recommendations and observations made by the working group to be put forward to the development of the new Cycling Strategy: -

- 1. That consideration is provided to trialling a 'Free Bike' scheme similar to the Barclays Cycle Hire one in London from venues such as the railway station and park and ride areas.**

It was felt that this may be a positive way of encouraging Doncaster residents to use bicycles more as a favourable mode of transport as opposed to other alternative options such as walking, trains or cars.

- 2. That further promotion and ways are looked at as to how we can make Doncaster a more cycle friendly town and improve its resident's perception of it as a cycling town.**

Members felt that in general Doncaster was not viewed as a cycle friendly town although it was recognised that there are many different groups of cyclists and non-cyclists that the strategy needs to target. It was also acknowledged that within the number of cycling groups within Doncaster there is a vast range and levels of groups and categories of cycling which should be promoted more.

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**3. When undertaking consultations, that alternative ways are considered to engage with surrounding communities and not just the town centre.**

The group heard that public consultation would take place in the town centre but would like to ensure that consideration is taken to ensure that communities are engaged with.

**4. That support is provided to a proposal of opening the town centre (from Frenchgate via Mansion House) during quieter times of the day, for example, commuter hours.**

The group listened to how there were many other town centres that had provided access to cyclists across pedestrianised areas such as Birmingham. It was accepted that people in general would always take the direct route to where they want to be. It was heard that this would potentially be a low cost action that would help move Doncaster town centre towards being more cycle friendly.

In addition to the above, at the Panel meeting a Member put forward the following which was supported by the Panel: -

**5. That further investigation is undertaken to check whether Doncaster's cycling paths are meeting the minimum width in accordance with legislation.**

It was commented from observation that some of Doncaster's cycle paths were narrow. Concern was also raised that some of Doncaster's cycling paths were potentially dangerous in some areas, for example, outside of the hospital.

Finally, I would be grateful if the group could have sight of the draft strategy prior to it going to Cabinet for approval.

On behalf of the Panel, I would like to thank Neil Firth, Head of Service Transport and Accessibility, Stephen King, Transportation Unit Manager, Suzanne Higham, Transport Planner and also Tim Pheby and Andy Wild Consultants at Cycling Matters for taking the time to meet with Members as part of the working group. I therefore look forward to receiving a response from you no later than **3rd November 2013** on the recommendations and comments outlined above as part of the developing strategy.

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Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Wray', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor P Wray**  
**Vice Chair – Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

cc. Jo Miller, Chief Executive  
Chair/Vice Chair of O.S.M.C.  
Cabinet  
Peter Dale, Director of Development  
Gill Gillies, Assistant Director of Environment  
Neil Firth, Head of Service Transport and Accessibility  
Stephen King, Transportation Unit Manager