

Cycling in Bath and North East Somerset

The Council doesn't treat cycling separately when developing strategy. Cycling is viewed as an important mode of transport and is an integral component of the Bath, Keynsham and Sommer Valley Transport strategies. It is important that each strategy produces a Delivery Plan which set outs the key projects required to achieve the objectives of the strategy. Moving forward it is important to build stronger links to other Policies and strategies, especially in the areas of Health and active lifestyles where cycling brings benefits .

The role of Sustrans and other interest groups.

Sustrans in particular, work in partnership with the Council and have carried out an audit of our cycling infrastructure and are currently developing an action plan for Bath. This work helps identify key projects to include in the delivery of Transport Strategies.

The Cycle Forum is another potentially valuable source of information and advice on cycling needs and infrastructure provision. The group has struggled to fulfil its potential and therefore the Council working with the forum is planning to broaden its remit to include pedestrian and accessibility issues.

The Capital Programme is the mechanism used to fund many of the cycling projects, both large and small.

Over many years the Council has invested annually in small schemes such as the provision of cycle stands as part of the Transport Improvement Programme. This grant, although it has fallen in recent years also funds many traffic management schemes which included cycling benefits.

Where possible, the Capital Programme for Maintenance has also benefitted cyclists with new cycle lanes etc. being installed as part of the scheme.

Sub-Regional working across the West of England has proved particularly successful with funding from the Local Growth fund, Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Cycling Ambition fund. This has enabled the Council to fund schemes such as Seven Dials the Kennet and Avon towpath improvements. The Council has invested its own capital in schemes such as the £1m bridge and link path at Batheaston.

The results include: Issuing over 400 vouchers to access our "borrow a bike" scheme to trial electric, standard and fold up bikes stimulating local bike use and purchase at bike shops.

Cycle Hire delivered under the new operator, Nextbike, has seen total hires of 19048 since July 2014, average per month of 794 and average per day of 21. Schools engagement was targeted under LSTF, in 2015/16 alone there were in excess of 6,000 pupils participating in events across 8 schools. Included were cycle skills and enrichment, maintenance, road safety and route planning sessions.

Employer grants provided around £30k over the last 3 years for cycle storage facilities, with additional match funding of £30k provided by business recipients of the grants.

