

Review of County Durham Cycling Strategy 2012 - 2015

The key successes between 2012-15, including schemes delivered and total spend are outlined below.

Key successes

Building Block 1: **audit, assess, record, plan, design, build**

- Delivered £2.7million of **infrastructure** schemes directly benefitting cyclists (2012-2015/16).
- Devised and delivered an innovative **Cycling Network Planning** process to audit, assess and plan the network for operational and strategic management.
- Established a **hierarchy of routes**: Cycling Super Routes, Primary and Secondary Routes to better protect, manage, plan and develop the network.
- Delivered two **Cycle Safety Schemes** in Durham City with DfT funding.
- Embedded cycling in the development of **key strategies** and plans such as the County Durham Plan, Air Quality Management Plan and the Durham City Sustainable Transport Strategy. Review of Cycling Strategy 2012-2015.
- Trialled **user count and people profiling** and carried out Big Summer 16 Count on over 20 sites countywide to attain essential information on use.
- Created the **Locomotion Way**, a new 2 mile tarmacked multi-user route between Shildon and Aycliffe which is used by approx. 1,250 people per week of which 421 are cyclists and 829 are pedestrians (one week survey Sept 16). The route is half the distance of the equivalent road route and provides an excellent facility for commuting between the towns.

Building Block 2: **operate, maintain, improve, refine, enforce**

- Launched **ParkThatBike** and installed 35 bike stands at workplaces, community buildings, tourist attractions, educational establishments and businesses. The scheme was rolled out in 2016 for two years with £50,000 delivering 400 stands and also in 2018 for a further three years with £15,000 to deliver 110 stands.
- Installed 27 **cycle parking stands** in Durham City.
- **Operation Spoke** – 10,000 bikes marked (in Durham and Darlington) and 27% reduction in bikes stolen from Jan 2014 to Dec 2015.
- Number of drivers issued with **fixed penalty notice** for obstruction and speed offences 2012-15: Unnecessary Obstruction 709, Wilful Obstruction 11 and Excess Speed 29,705 (includes speed offences in 30-70mph limit zones, including safety camera).

Building Block 3: engage, educate, promote, inspire, motivate, encourage

- Continued to host **Durham City Cycling Forum**, with 75 members and Durham County Council's Bike User Groups, 33 members and engaged with other local cycling forums/groups.
- Trained 9,813 school children to safely ride through **Bikeability** (mixture of levels 1, 2 and 3).
- Encouraged 269 new cyclists through the **Bike4Life* guided rides** (Sept 2014 to Dec 2015).
*renamed Cycle Durham
- Delivered a two day **Cycling Infrastructure Design Course** in May 2014 for 13 Durham County Council staff and other organisations.
- Held the annual **Durham Big Ride** and **Beast rides** with annual averages of 600 and 480 participants respectively.
- Hosted the **Velo29** and **Tour series** each year with approximately 200 and 13,000 spectators at each event respectively.
- Continued to deliver the **salary sacrifice bike purchase scheme** for staff at Durham County Council which encouraged 428 people to buy bikes (April 2013-2015).

Other schemes and interventions have also contributed to a better cycling offer over the last four years and these include major road junction improvement schemes with toucan crossing provision and **20mph zones** around schools. A thriving **Recyke Y'Byke** shop has opened in Durham City, which is a much needed resource for repair and sales and has added significantly to the cycling offer in the city centre. In particular, Durham University students are benefitting from the support offered by RYB by buying affordable second hand bikes, getting advice on safety and security and learning basic repairs. In addition, **Hamsterley Forest** continues to develop off-road trails and the **North Pennines AONB Electric Bike Network** is in early stages of development with the hope that it will be extended. These cycling and walking facilities and routes, and others, have been promoted by Visit County Durham on their cycling and walking pages, through their **Outdoor and Active campaign** and the town-tourism-plans. In addition, Visit County Durham have produced toolkits for tourism businesses to encourage a good offer for walking and cycling visitors.



Total Spend

Approximately £2.16million of Local Transport Plan and nearly £500,000 of other DCC capital funding was spent on infrastructure delivery throughout the life of the plan. Other funding was via DfT for LSTF, Cycle Safety Schemes and Link2 funding (Locomotion Way).