Moving up the gears –
a manifesto for cycling

English local authority elections 2021

cyclinguk.org
A vision for cycling in every community

Towns, cities, and rural communities designed for people, where more everyday journeys are cycled, our air is cleaner, our health and wellbeing are prioritised: recovering from Covid stronger, greener, together, and more actively.

Time to move up the gears

Cycling should be for everyone – from a child learning to ride using a balance bike, to an older person visiting friends on an e-bike; from a disabled person handcycling to work, to a family having a day out at the weekend. Cycling is all about being physically active whilst getting about for whatever reason we choose.

During the Covid-19 lockdown we saw a huge increase in cycling and walking as people were encouraged to take physical activity and found their local roads were less busy and felt safer. It proved that people will choose to cycle when they feel safe.

The post-Covid recovery presents huge challenges for every local authority, but cycling and active travel provision is part of the solution to a green recovery and a more active community. It’s time for every local authority to move up the gears to tackle these challenges together, investing in the cycling infrastructure and safety improvements needed so that more people can cycle and experience its benefits.

Together we can create a healthier, happier, more attractive and low-carbon places to live, work, thrive and play.
Making cycling and walking the natural choice

To achieve its ambition to make cycling and walking the natural choices for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey, the Government set a target to double the 2013 levels of cycling in England by 2025.

The actions needed to achieve this will vary between different towns, cities, and rural communities, and each local authority needs to think about where and what infrastructure is needed, and which interventions will work best.

Listening to local people, organisations and community groups is a good place to start, and Cycling UK urges cycling campaigners and campaign groups to let their candidates know what’s needed locally to move up the gears so that cycling is for everyone.

That’s why we want to support what local groups and campaigners are asking for and amplify their voice – because local people know best what’s needed where they live.

But there are two things are needed throughout England if we are to create a country where cycling is for everyone: investment and a network of high quality cycling routes.

Our ask for local authorities throughout England

We’re asking every candidate in the elections whether they’ll commit to support:

1. The investment needed in active travel to achieve the 2025 target to double levels of cycling, making active travel a priority in all transport and neighbourhood decision-making.

2. The development and delivery of an active travel network of safe, accessible and direct routes including cycling infrastructure networks designed to national standards in every town and city, and rural routes to link these.
Who we are

Cycling UK, the UK’s cycling charity, imagines a world where the streets are free of congestion and the air is clean to breathe, where parents encourage their children to cycle to school and everyone shares the exhilaration of being in the saddle. For more than 140 years, we’ve been making our streets safer, opening up new traffic-free routes and inspiring more people to cycle more often.

For more information please contact us:
campaigns@cyclinguk.org

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