Moving up the gears –
a manifesto for cycling

Scottish Parliament Election 2021

cyclinguk.org
A vision for cycling in Scotland

A Scotland where more people cycle for pleasure and everyday short journeys, in attractive and safe urban spaces and rural communities, benefiting their health and wellbeing, and reducing their carbon footprints – being part of efforts to contribute to a green economic recovery, meet our climate targets, reduce inequalities, cut road congestion, improve Scotland’s air quality and boost the nation’s health.

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 climate emergency and post-Covid recovery are challenges the next Scottish Government must grapple with but we know that cycling and active travel provision is a solution to these issues. Scotland must get in the right gear so we can speed through these challenges together.

It’s time for the next Scottish Government to move up the gears and invest 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 Scotland.
Our asks for the next Scottish Government:

**Invest in cycling**
1. Spend at least 10% of the transport budget on active travel – cycling, walking and wheeling, and make active travel a priority in all transport and neighbourhood decision-making.

**Create safe space for cycling, walking and wheeling**
2. Produce an active travel network ‘blueprint’ for Scotland – a plan including dense joined-up cycling infrastructure networks in every town and city, and rural routes to link these – and designate the active travel network as a national development.
3. Give councils the resources they need to create cycle lanes physically separated from traffic on busy roads in every town and city, cycle routes on quiet streets, and off-road cycle paths, based on the active travel network ‘blueprint’, and require compliance with design standards based on accessibility for all.

**Enable rural communities to cycle**
4. Make space for cycles on more rural and island bus services, and on the rail network – to make cycling a part of everyday journeys and days out, and to reduce car dependency.
5. Create local travel hubs in rural communities throughout Scotland to promote, enable and connect shared transport, cycle hire, e-bike charging, safe walking routes, and transport information.

**Make cycling available to those who need it most**
6. Make loans and grants available for the purchase of pedal cycles and their repair, especially for those most in need – to make owning a bike an option for everyone and reduce transport poverty.
7. Invest in projects and initiatives which help people to be physically active so that GPs and health professionals across Scotland can confidently prescribe physical activity, such as cycling, as a way to improve people’s health.

**Make neighbourhoods more attractive for cycling and people**
8. Roll out School Streets and create safe cycle routes to connect to them – to encourage children to cycle every day.
9. Make 20mph the default speed limit on residential streets, high streets and minor roads in built-up areas, and provide resources for enforcement.

**Make roads safer for everyone**
10. Make it a priority for Police Scotland to set-up an online system for anyone to upload camera footage of dangerous driving behaviour – a third-party reporting system for Scotland – to empower responsible road users and improve driving behaviours.

**Introduce a Sustainable Transport Bill**
11. Bring a Sustainable Transport Bill to the Scottish Parliament to provide the legislation needed to make this manifesto for cycling a reality swiftly and efficiently – moving Scotland up the gears to propel it towards an active, healthy and low-carbon nation that everyone needs and will benefit from.
Who we are

Cycling UK is a charity that has championed the cause of cycling for 142 years and has over 70,000 members, almost 5,000 in Scotland. In Scotland we campaign for policies and investment which will enable more people to benefit from riding a bike. We also run projects providing support to enable people to cycle, particularly older people, those with complex health conditions, and disabled people. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to ride a bike in order to live a healthy, active and low-carbon lifestyle.

For more information please contact:

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