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The last word

When the national Budget has nothing for cycling, membership of Cycling UK is more important than ever, says **Paul Tuohy**



The recent Budget announcement showed that there has never been a moment like now to support cycling. Whilst I am proud of the changes I have presided over since my arrival in 2014, I cannot stress enough that Cycling UK is needed now more than ever to hold Government to account for its continued lack of action on active travel.

It's beyond belief that the Chancellor has just announced, in the recent Budget, that £1bn will be spent on 'green transport solutions' without a single penny committed to cycling or walking. It leaves English councils outside London with no earmarked money whatsoever to spend on their local cycling and walking network plans from April.

Instead, he has announced a staggering £27bn road building programme, which will only serve to increase the climate, air pollution, congestion, and inactivity related public health crises threatening this country. More on page 12.

A fond farewell

Over the past six years, Cycling UK has built upon its roots as a brilliant club organisation into a truly national campaigning and advocacy organisation. We've worked with governments and independently to deliver programmes supporting those new to cycling. Cycling UK punches well above its weight, and its influence is growing every year that passes.

I feel my role in the transformation is now done. I'll be stepping down as Chief Executive in the spring, so this will be my last piece for Cycle magazine. It's been an amazing ride but it's time for me to climb off for the next chapter to begin. I will begin by renewing my membership!

Thank you, and see you out on the bike.

Paul Tuohy



Chancellor Rishi Sunak had nothing for cycling in March

Left: Alamy

Dan Howard, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said: "I'd like to thank Paul for his leadership over the last five years. During that time, Paul has worked to support the modernisation of the organisation, fostered new relationships with government, and helped more people discover the joy of cycling through programmes such as the Big Bike Revival. The Board will start their search for the next CEO shortly."

Stop press: Coronavirus

As Cycle magazine went to press, the Government announced unprecedented measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus, including asking people to avoid social situations. As a result, we took the decision to ask our groups to cancel group rides and activities to minimise the risk.

By the time you read this, things may have already moved on, but it's important we play our part keeping our staff, members, volunteers, and the general public safe. That's why we'll be continuing to monitor the situation and taking advice from the Government, the NHS, and other partners.

It's an unsettling and worrying time for everyone, with the country experiencing containment measures the likes of which haven't been seen since the Second World War. Hopefully things will improve soon, especially if we all do our bit. At time of writing, the advice remains that you should take regular exercise – and what better way to do that than on your bike? It's a great way to keep fit and healthy, and physical activity boosts your immunity.

Unfortunately, we're all going to have to forgo the club run and the social side of cycling for a little while longer. But it won't be forever.

“*We're all going to have to forgo the club run and the social side of cycling for a little while longer*”