

4th April 2025

Dear Agent

Cycling UK (www.cyclinguk.org) is the UK's cycling charity, enabling and inspiring more people to cycle more often since 1878. Representatives of the local group, Cycling UK Stevenage, meet regularly with officers from Hertfordshire County Council to discuss issues of relevance to people who cycle or who would like to cycle around the town and beyond.

As we approach the Hertfordshire County Council elections on 1st May, we would like to address the following 5 questions to each of the candidates in your party that are standing in the 6 divisions in Stevenage to consider. I would be grateful if you could pass them on to the relevant candidates.

We will share the answers that we receive by Wednesday 23rd April on our website on Thursday 24th April. (www.cyclinguk.org/group/page/stevenage-cycle-campaign-cycling-uk)

Question 1

The current HCC Local Transport Plan includes a clear commitment to ensure modal shift from the private car to sustainable transport including walking and cycling.

What measures would you take to advance this modal shift and ensure cycling is a safe and easy option for everyday journeys both within Stevenage and to nearby towns and villages.

Question 2

Throughout Stevenage, there are cycle paths and links with barriers and bollards that make it harder to use the routes, and for some people using some cycles or mobility aids, they prevent access altogether. In many cases, their removal would be straightforward and inexpensive.

What will you do to ensure the Stevenage network is fully accessible?

Question 3

To reach the cycleway network from most residential areas, people must cycle along high traffic roads with no cycling infrastructure. Many residents are genuinely afraid to use these local roads, and parents fear for their children's safety due to the speed of traffic. People of all ages shouldn't feel scared to cycle for everyday journeys.

What will you do to ensure that active travel can be for everyone, not just the brave?

Question 4

In a recent audit shared on the Cycling UK Stevenage website we found that in 77% of randomly sampled locations across the town, the surface of the cycle path was worse than on the adjacent road. This was due to potholes, uneven surfaces and poor use of surface treatments. The Defect Management Approach currently used by HCC would appear to favour road maintenance over cycle infrastructure. This has led to a maintenance gap.

What would you do to close this gap and ensure that surfaces that people cycling use are prioritised in the future? How would you measure and publicly report progress toward this goal?

Question 5

If elected, would you agree to meet with Cycling UK Stevenage to discuss division specific priorities for active travel?

A copy of this letter will be sent by email to the local contact point for your party where it is available online. If you would like to receive a copy direct, please contact me at the email address below.

We look forward to hearing from the candidates.

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