



Quick releases

Cycling news and views from around the UK

CAMPAIGNS



Accounting for active travel

More and long-term funding for cycling has been one of Cycling UK's key asks for many years. Yet it's increasingly difficult to work out how much money has been specifically allocated by governments for active travel, might be spent from other discretionary funding streams, or has actually been spent.

In June the UK government published the first multi-year spending review since 2021. Most funding-related decisions affecting cycling are devolved, so from a cycling perspective the spending review was only directly relevant in England.

While local authorities want more money from central government, it's the stop-start nature of government investment in cycling that causes huge uncertainty. So, parking the question

“It was good to see a four-year £616m settlement for Active Travel England”

of how much, it was good to see a four-year £616 million settlement for Active Travel England.

In March 2023 the last government cut the dedicated active travel budget for the next two years by 75%. It's very hard for local authorities to develop and deliver active travel schemes when funding is turned off like that.

Last year the current government reversed those cuts, but only partially. That £616 million settlement equates to £154 million a year – less than the £274 million active travel funding provided in 2022–23 (before the March 2023 cuts).

But here's where it gets complex. On top of the £616 million dedicated funding for active travel, £9 billion was allocated for the same four-year period through Transport for City Regions settlements for a wider range of sustainable transport measures. There's also a Local Transport Grant of £2.3 billion from 2027–30, which the government says will quadruple in real terms by 2029–30 relative to 2024–25. Money from both of those will almost certainly be spent on active travel, but how much?

So, it's great that we now have multi-year funding, but the dedicated funding for active travel is still well below the total funding needed. How much that dedicated funding will be supplemented by other funding streams? We're still trying to find out!

Light up the night

No one should feel forced to choose between busy roads and dark, isolated paths. That's why Cycling UK is calling on supporters across the UK to organise mass rides to light up the darkness and demand safer cycle routes on 22 October 2025.

Look out for more information over the summer. We'll be running regular webinars and providing guides, social media templates and a map of planned rides across all four nations to help you organise and promote your own. Want to get involved? Email campaigns@cyclingsuk.org.

→ Transport minister supports Cycling UK

After Local Transport Minister Simon Lightwood visited Big Bike Revival partner Northside Bikes in Leicester, he was spotted wearing a Cycling UK badge in Parliament. Find out about The Big Bike Revival at: cyclingsuk.org/bigbikerevival.