



Why should your MP attend the funding debate

The Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) sets out aims and targets to increase walking and double levels of cycling by 2025. However, as former Transport Minister Jesse Norman MP accepted in May 2019 in his evidence to the Transport Select Committee (TSC), those targets aren't going to be met without substantially increasing investment.

To achieve the CWIS targets, local authorities (LAs) in England were asked to produce local cycling and walking infrastructure plans (LCWIPs) outlining improvements and priority schemes, but no designated funding was made available so that they could implement them. LAs can't and won't build separated cycle routes and deliver their LCWIPs without any prospect of money from central government, and there's no earmarked capital funding for active travel available to local authorities from April 2020 onwards.

The Government will say that there are funding streams such as the Transforming Cities Fund and the Future High Streets Fund, which are potentially available to LAs to bid for. Their proposals can incorporate active travel, but bidding is a costly, time-consuming and competitive process, typically for short-medium term funding. That doesn't address either the urgency which LAs face, namely active travel funding falling off a cliff in April, or the need for long-term funding to deliver LCWIPs.

Evidence commissioned by the Department for Transport (DfT) on the cost-effectiveness of different measures to boost cycling and walking also highlights both the need for long-term funding and the problems created for infrastructure delivery by a competitive funding process, the model we currently have.

That's why we're asking you to ask your MP to attend a forthcoming debate on short and long-term funding for cycling and walking. The two priorities are the urgent need to make designated funding for cycling and walking available to LAs for the year from April 2020, when current funding ceases, and long-term funding without which the Government won't get anywhere near its CWIS targets.

Funding has reached the edge of the cliff. Not only that, but this debate is also essential to wider concerns over decarbonising transport, the decline of the high street, congestion, air pollution and public health, part of the solution to which is increased investment in cycling and walking.