



Department for Transport

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From the Minister of State
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Dear Caroline,

22 JUN 2016

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2015 to Patrick McLoughlin, on behalf of your constituents, about walking and cycling. Unfortunately we have no record of having received the original letter. I am replying as Minister responsible for this issue.

Like your constituents, I recognise the benefits that cycling and walking bring and want to create places which encourage cycling and walking for short journeys or as part of a longer journey. I am keen that we create the right policy and funding environment to deliver change, complementing the work of delivery partners in communities across England.

The Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy will establish the strategic framework for increasing cycling and walking in England - the first step towards achieving long-term transformational change. It will set out the objectives that we are working towards to meet our ambition, the associated financial resources, delivery approach and governance arrangements.

In terms of funding, we have committed over £300m for cycling and walking over the five years of the spending review period from 2016-17 to 2020-21. This includes:

- Cycle Cities Ambition grant totalling £99m
- Bikeability cycle training grant totalling £50m
- Highways England Fund totalling £85m
- Sustainable Travel Transition Year / Access Fund totalling £80m

Long-term funding for cycling and walking is also available from DfT's Integrated Transport Block, Highways Maintenance Block and Pothole Fund as well as from the Local Growth Fund. Other public support for cycling and walking includes NHS Healthy New Towns and the Department for Health Walking Cities among others, supported in many places by local and city programmes and funding from business and the third sector.

Local bodies are best placed to determine local solutions to local transport issues and our ambition will be delivered only if we work with local government, businesses, the third sector and the public - as in other nations that have achieved high levels of cycling, such as the Netherlands. It is only by working together that we can support individuals in the travel choices they make, whether that is cycling to work or walking to school.

The Government published its first Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy in draft on 27 March¹. At the same time a Consultation was launched focusing on five consultation questions. We are in the process of recording and analysing feedback received during the consultation period, which closed on 23 May. We expect to publish the final Strategy, this summer along with a Government response to the consultation.

I hope that the above measures demonstrate the Government's long-term commitment to increasing cycling and walking. Of course, there is much more that needs to be done, but I am confident that the ambition and resources are in place to achieve meaningful change.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodwill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ROBERT GOODWILL

¹ Draft Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and Consultation
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy>