

14.55 Over 1700 people cycle into the Urban Core each day and this Plan seeks to increase the number of trips by creating a network of cycling routes across the Urban Core. This is reflected by the policies and targets of both Council's cycling strategies and recent investment. Improvements will support existing coverage, such as Hadrian's Cycleway which forms part of the National Cycle Network, creating safe, clearly signed routes that are supported by accessible cycle parking and facilities.

Policy UC6 Cycling

Sustainable modes of travel will be promoted giving priority wherever appropriate to cycling. Cycle infrastructure will be developed by promoting cycle improvements and links to the surrounding area. This will be achieved by:

1. Completion of the Great North Cycle Route,
2. Improving links to the Newcastle Strategic Network,
3. The improvement of cycle routes and cycling priority on the Urban Core Distributor Roads (UCDR), and
4. Development at Science Central; East Pilgrim Street; Forth Yards and The Quays connecting to the surrounding cycle network.

14.56 There have been many cycle routes developed and improved in Gateshead over the past few years and in Newcastle there continues to be schemes to enhance cycling infrastructure. There are further proposals for route improvements and the policy promotes cycling in accordance with both Council's Cycling Strategies. Figure 14.5 illustrates potential cycle improvements.

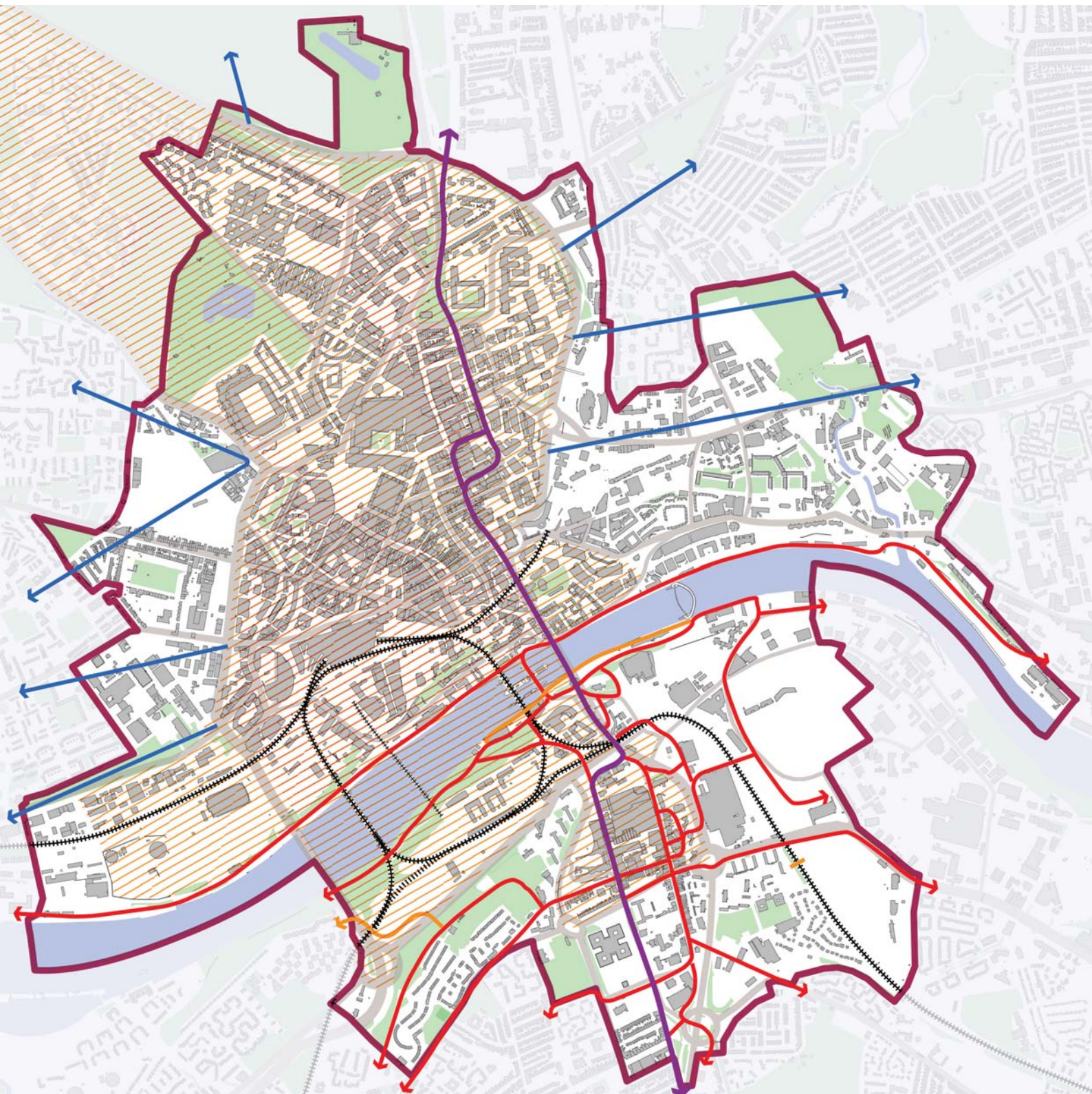
14.57 The Councils will improve conditions for cyclists through alterations to general traffic movement as outlined in Policy UC6. Vehicle speeds will be reduced and the volume of traffic minimised within the area bounded by the Urban Core Distributor Roads (UCDR). This will encourage cycling as there will be greater priority and a more attractive environment for cyclists.

14.58 The Great North Cycleway (GNC) is a nationally designated cycle route which will eventually run from Darlington to Blyth through Durham, Gateshead and Newcastle via the Tyne Bridge, Pilgrim Street and John Dobson Street to the Civic Centre and then further north. The route will bring visitors into Gateshead and Newcastle and also be a link for students from new student residence development in Gateshead to the Universities in Newcastle. Improvements will be carried out in conjunction with wider schemes including a cycle lane on John Dobson Street, crossings at the bottom end of Pilgrim Street and at the junction of St Mary's Place and John Dobson Street

14.59 The Newcastle Cycling Strategy contains a Strategic Cycle Network that proposes seven routes to connect the surrounding areas to the Urban Core. They will be direct links to the Urban Core providing greater cycling priority. Although the majority of the Strategic Cycle Route network is outside the Urban Core all of the routes lead there. It is expected that there will be a considerable increase in cycling over the next few years and the Strategic Cycle Routes are planned to be in place

Figure 14.5

Cycling



- ← Great North Cycle Route
- ← Existing Cycle Network
- ← Potential Links to the Strategic Network
- ← Gateshead Cycle Route Improvements
- ≡ Cycle Route Improvement Area

over the next ten years. Cycle interchanges will be provided at Metro Stations and a central cycle hub is proposed to support network the development.

- 14.60 In Newcastle improvements within the UCDR will be made to a number of routes that link to main attractors such as the Universities and leisure facilities or to transport interchanges such as Central Station. New investment in Newcastle particularly within the UCDR will be considered to improve cycling conditions including junction improvements and potentially contraflow arrangements - allowing cyclists to use one-way streets in both directions. In Gateshead a small number of route improvements are identified and the policy focuses on key infrastructure improvements to complement the existing network.
- 14.61 Major development will be expected to provide links to the Strategic Cycle Network where the site is close to the strategic network. Science Central and East Pilgrim Street will form part of the strategic network, while sites such as Stephenson Quarter and Forth Yards will provide connections to the network.