

Newcastle Cycling Campaign



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Dear Gary

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RE : Cycle City Ambition fund bid "Newcastle Fit for Cycling"

The *Newcastle Cycling Campaign* was founded in 2010 by Katja Leyendecker and award-winning campaigner Claire Prospert in response to an 800-strong petition urging *Newcastle City Council* to improve conditions for people on bikes for everyday journeys.

We believe that, with the bid detail available to us, the proposal would really kick-start Newcastle's ambitious 10-year Cycle Plan with its target of 1 in 5 short journeys to be made by bicycle by 2022, a tenfold increase on today's numbers. As Cllr Nigel Todd puts it in the plan's foreword a rebalancing of road use is urgently needed. We think reprioritisation and repurposing of road space, and therefore fundamentally rethinking and redoing our transport system, is key for making Newcastle a better and fairer place. The bid - as we understand it - will help towards putting people first and

- install **Strategic Cycle Routes** taking road space (roadspace reallocation) and making it into safe space for cycling, using tested and proven best design principles
- create **livable neighbourhoods** *by design* such as road repurposing by reducing rat-runs, installing contraflows on one-way streets and speed reductions
- revitalise the **City Centre** by implementing the 1Plan, reorganising car parking and creating people spaces, and provide a long-awaited North-South route through the urban core

The *Newcastle Cycling Campaign* is a constituted community group entirely made up of volunteers. As such we are happy to offer volunteer time to assist in worthwhile tasks that have the above outcome in mind. The *Newcastle Cycling Campaign* is also an active member of the *Cycle Forum* which we have helped to develop and shape its content and focus. Therefore we suggest using the forum as it is well-placed to oversee delivery of the above vision and act as a project and sounding board. As a political lobby group influencing city policy and plans, we will continue to involve and engage with the city chiefs, the decision-makers, Councillors and Directors alike.

Therefore, we are in **FULL SUPPORT** of the *Newcastle Fit for Cycling* bid and believe it is deliverable, particularly with the continued political leadership and upskilling of officials that is taking place. If you should require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

KATJA LEYENDECKER
Chair, Newcastle Cycling Campaign