



Dear Councillor,

Wheels in Motion

Seven Strategic Cycle Routes to the Heart of Newcastle

We would like to thank you for supporting the 'Cycling Manifesto' at the September City Council meeting.

One of the main points in the manifesto was the creation of a 'Strategic Cycle Network' along key corridors into the city centre, together with comprehensive signage of the cycle routes. We would like to let you know about a great opportunity which has arisen to promote cycling in Newcastle which could help to fund the strategic cycle network in Newcastle.

The Department for Transport has created a Local Sustainable Transport Fund and has asked councils and Integrated Transport Authorities to bid for funding. Tyne & Wear is pulling together a number of proposals that meet the government's criteria:

- Reduce carbon emissions; and
- Support the local economy and facilitate economic development

Tyne & Wear's initial bid was focussed on the following goals:

- Promoting active and healthy travel
- Managing congestion on key corridors; and
- Improving sustainable access to key employment and growth sites

Newcastle Cycling Campaign has submitted a proposal to officers which meets all these criteria. The proposal brings to life our shared vision of creating a strategic cycle network. We know that there is great pressure on council budgets at the moment and this is a great opportunity to pull in external funding from elsewhere.

Our proposal is seeking funds to create 'Seven Strategic Routes to the Heart of Newcastle'. LSTF funding would allow design and planning of the seven strategic cycle routes to begin, and enable:

- Destinations to be confirmed
- Target journey times to be set
- Consultation on possible routes
- Detailed design and modelling for each route
- Consultations to take place on design and signage

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We are also proposing that three of these routes be fully funded to allow:

- Construction
- Testing of provision
- Remediation and sign off
- Publicity for cycling promotion
- Monitoring of the new routes and signage

We have included a copy of our proposal, along with a plan of the seven strategic routes. We have also included a plan of the three demonstration routes - which have been chosen because of their potential to meet the economic benefits criteria set for LSTF funding.

We have not shown the actual roads the routes would take as we would want this to be part of the detailed planning, design and consultation process. In later years, we would hope to build upon the strategic cycle network with the creation of a number of quieter secondary cycling routes.

Many of the benefits for people, their communities and the environment have been set out in the initial bid submitted by Tyne & Wear earlier this year (attached), so we have not set them out here.

We believe that this is a fantastic opportunity to help make Newcastle become one of the best cycling cities in the country. If our bid is successful it can also act as one of the cornerstones in Newcastle's bid to become the Green Capital of Europe in 2014.

We would appreciate any support that you are able to give to our proposal and would welcome any further suggestions. If you would like more details, are unable to open any of the attachments or would like to discuss with us our proposal then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Bill Dodds

On behalf of Newcastle Cycling Campaign

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Fig.1 Seven Strategic Cycle Routes

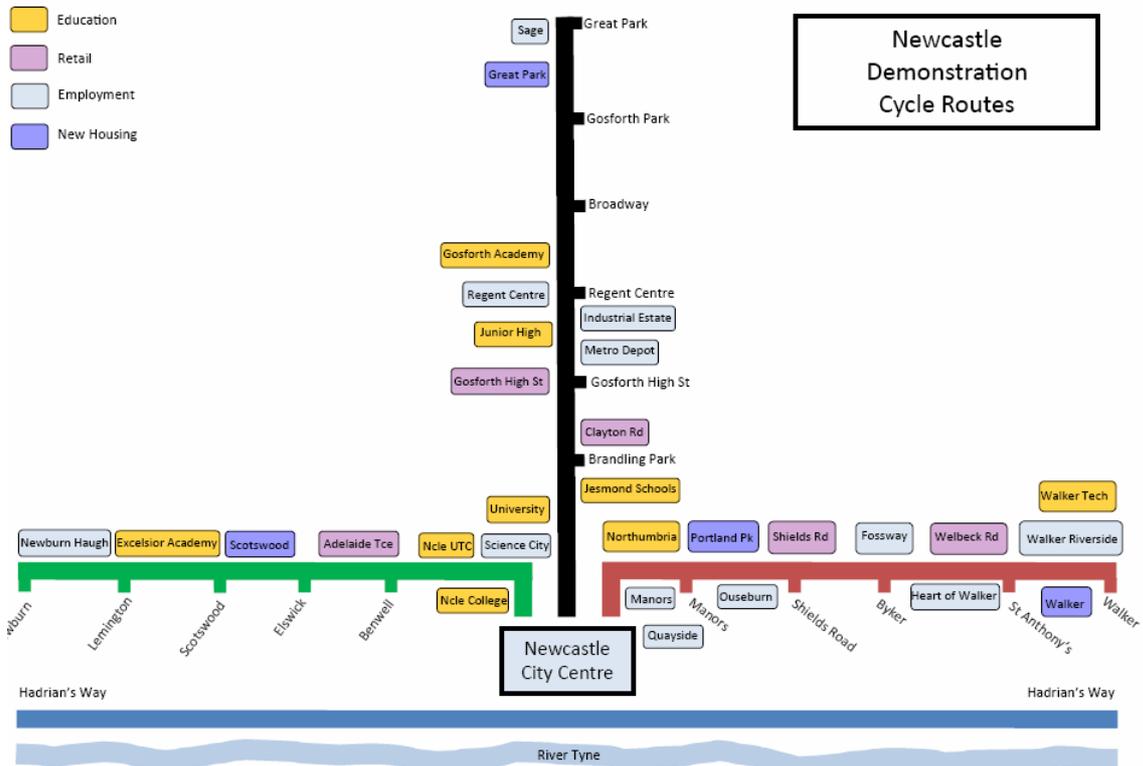


Fig.2 Three Demonstration Cycle Routes