

CYCLING IN NORTHAMPTON

Cycling is a win, win, win.

- It's a good way to travel. Cyclists can avoid traffic congestion at peak times.
- It's good for our health – provided the cycle routes are safe and well maintained.
- It's good for the environment. Cyclists have an 84% lower daily CO2 lifecycle travel emissions than non cyclists.

With all our green spaces and linear parks, there's massive potential to increase cycle use in Northampton. This policy document sets out the Labour Group's support for the 10 cycle routes proposed by West Northants Council. We also propose more green cycle routes, and the essential extras needed for cycling: affordable bikes, accessible training and good information.

The Labour Group welcomes the improvements to the cycling infrastructure in the ten routes in Northampton outlined in the council's strategy document, and the routes to other areas.

However, there's a need for::

- Details of routes to be finalised – especially through Abington, where the proposed route ends in Abington Vale. Cycle routes and lanes must not end abruptly, at roundabouts or junctions.
- Priority to be given to repairing potholes on cycle routes for cyclist safety.
- Work on the proposed routes to be costed and timetable. We need clarity about when the network will be delivered.



Below are some proposed additions for the network.

- An orbital route so people can cycle around Northampton as well as into it.
- Routes for areas that are presently cycle route deserts – including Duston, Parklands, Hunsbury and Rectory Farm.
- Cycle routes to employment centres such as Moulton Park, Grange Park, Brackmills, Swan Valley.
- Cycle routes to schools, to be developed with school communities.

Northampton has a wealth of green open space, some hilly, most of it very flat and great for leisure cycling, especially for families. Brampton Valley Way is already well known.

Cycle routes could be developed, with community consultation, through some of our parks and open spaces, such as Bradlaugh Fields, Eastfield Park and the many green routes through the Eastern District. The Nene riverside is a gem, especially from the town centre, out to Upton Mill.

Some essentials are needed.

- Affordable bikes. Delapre Bike Doctor and the Umbrella Fair are excellent sources of refurbished bikes at affordable prices.
- Training especially for children.
- Information. Good signage on the roads, and an interactive mapping tool, such as the one developed by Brighton and Hove.