



## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Councillor John Reilly  
Executive Member,  
Environment & Operations

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Our ref:  
Your ref:  
Date: 2 Jul 2014

Dear Councillor Reilly,

### **Commuter Cycling Review : Findings of Scrutiny Topic Group**

On behalf of the Scrutiny Topic Group's Members I would like to thank your officers and your predecessor for the support given to the Group in reviewing Commuter Cycling in Trafford. Members welcomed the input from Transport for Greater Manchester following additional queries, which were answered in a timely manner.

Members recognised and welcomed the ongoing partnership engagement between Transport for Greater Manchester and its links with Trafford Council, and noted the funding that has been secured for ongoing works from:

- Local Sustainable Transport Fund (£1.3m)
- Cycle Safety Fund (£140k)
- Cycle City Ambition Grant (£1.8m)
- Trafford Partnership (£130,000)
- Greater Manchester Casualty Reduction Partnership Reward Grant (£80,000)

In light of this, the Topic Group would be pleased to receive a report to the Scrutiny Committee at a meeting in the new municipal year, outlining details of what the funding is being used for, and where the funding is held.

Concluding its review of Commuter Cycling in Trafford, the Topic Group Members would be pleased to offer the following recommendations to be taken into consideration:

1. The Transpennine Trail is appreciated as a valued location for off road cycling, but sections are currently in a poor state of repair. With this in mind the Topic Group Members recommend that the Council should establish dialogue with all the landowners and organisations with an interest in the trail, to ensure that ongoing maintenance is given a higher priority.

2. Topic Group Members were advised that there had been an increase in cycling, associated with investment which has been made in Trafford, and it is recommended that communication be improved to promote Trafford as a successful Borough for cycling.
3. It is recommended that a leading figurehead such as the Leader of the Council, could be considered to champion cycling in Trafford, and that photograph opportunities should be explored.
4. Members were informed that a Trafford based Cycling Strategy was being compiled, and request that when completed the Strategy should be presented to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting.
5. It is recommended that encouragement be given, through the Cycling Strategy if appropriate, to the affording of priority to the maintenance of sections of highways used particularly by cyclists, such as cycle lanes, or the 2m of carriageway closest to the kerb where no cycle lane is present, wherever this is feasible.
6. It is proposed that closer working be promoted between the Council's Highways and Planning departments and developers, to ensure that high quality facilities for cyclists – routes, parking / storage facilities and shower / change facilities - be included in the highways / transport infrastructure associated with new developments subject to future planning applications. The importance of building in high quality, convenient cycle storage to residential developments is particularly highlighted.
7. The Topic Group would welcome the provision of better cycle parking at large facilities in Trafford to include all sporting arenas, Trafford's parks, and shopping areas including: the Trafford Centre, Stretford Mall, Sale, Altrincham, and Urmston town centres.
8. Topic Group Members recognise that there are events held in the Greater Manchester area promoting the use of bicycles, and recommend that the Council should form better links to tie in with the event organisers to promote cycling in Trafford.
9. The Topic Group would be pleased if the introduction of Member Cycle Champions was to be mainstreamed from each political party, so as to ensure that there will be continuity for the future of promoting cycling in Trafford.
10. The work of Council officers in securing the high level of capital investment in cycling, as outlined above, is welcomed. However, this will provide only the start of what we would like to see achieved for cyclists in Trafford in the long term. It is recommended that officers continue to work with partners, particularly with Sustrans and TfGM, to secure continued investment in cycling; and that they develop a long term programme of cycle investment schemes in partnership with the Trafford Cycle Forum.

Once again, I wish to thank you and your officers for supporting the Topic Group in its review of Cycling in Trafford, and hope that due consideration will be given to these recommendations, and a response made in due course.

Yours sincerely

*R. Chilton*

Councillor R. Chilton  
Chairman of Scrutiny Topic Group

Cc: Aidan Flynn  
Dominic Smith  
Cllr. Cordingley  
Cllr. Bowker  
Cllr. Boyes  
Cllr. Brophy  
Cllr. Duffield  
Cllr. Evans