

Extract from Mr Harvie's Ministerial Briefing for the Active Travel Parliamentary Debate 3 March 2022

Q - Do you support the wearing of helmets?

A – There are no requirements on cyclists to wear helmets, and the decision to do so is a matter of personal choice. The evidence on safety is mixed, but evidence does suggest reduced take-up of cycling in places where helmet mandates have been introduced. Reduced cycling means reduced health benefits.

Given this, the SG does not support calls to make helmets compulsory. Any proposal to do so would be strongly challenged by active travel organisations and stakeholders, including the Scottish Government's Active Nation Commissioner.

Extract from Mr Harvie's Ministerial Briefing for the Aberdeen I Bike Event 2 August 2022

I Bike Aberdeen City

20/21 academic year – Key Highlights

Increased access to bikes in schools in areas of need

- I Bike purchased equipment (bikes, scooters, helmets, tools) for 8 schools.
- 7 out of 8 teachers said equipment provision was important in promoting and improving active travel at schools.

Extract from Mr Harvie's Ministerial Briefing for the Access to Bikes- Free Bikes
Project Board 10 August 2022

- **FEL Bike Buddies Update**

• Progress this period	• RAG Status	•
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eight schools have now engaged – delivery complete.• Ansons Consultancy expected to deliver their final evaluation report in July.• Participants have all taken part in Bikeability Level 2 training and led rides• 1 bike has been given to a 13 year old (S2 pupil at Lornshill Academy) who has been identified as a vulnerable pupil. The pupil is now cycling every day to school.• No adaptive bikes required.• 1 bike repaired• 4 bikes remaining (which will be used in the pilot extension).• Opted out – 5• 1 has stated due to not being interested in cycling. Active Clacks still identifying reasons for remaining 4.• Every pupil has received a bike, helmet, lock and lights. Each pupil has been given training on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• M-check• puncture repair• how to lock up your bike• Led ride to Lornshill Academy• One bike returned as their parents have bought the pupil a new bike.• 30 bike covers to be purchased and offered to pupils (to be followed up in August).		

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Extract from Mr Harvie's Ministerial Briefing Pack for the Free Bikes Project Board
Introductory Meeting 15 September 2021

ReCycles - Angus Cycle Hub

Aims to pilot a central bike distribution centre for the Angus and Dundee areas with regional support being provided by dedicated development workers and bicycle mechanics. The pilot aims to support up to 1000 children aged 4-16 years.

Angus Cycle Hub will provide free refurbished bicycles, **helmets** and accessories to young people aged 4-16 via partner agency referrals. The pilot will provide specialist support for young people and marginalised families in Angus and Dundee to engage with cycling, training, active travel, recycling and health and wellbeing opportunities.

Adaptive bikes and safety equipment (**helmets**, light, bell, etc.) are included within this pilot.

The pilot will use and tie into existing services and infrastructure already being provided by Angus Cycle Hub to develop a full-scale model that could be rolled out in other local authority areas.

Children will be able to swap bikes as they outgrow current one.

Clackmannanshire Council Bike Buddies – Forth Environment Link

Forth Environment Link (FEL) will work with Clackmannanshire Council to provide access to bikes through their out of school holiday programme of support to up to 50 disadvantaged children aged 10-12 years. Families will be referred or will self-refer into the activity programmes with access to bikes targeted at transition age children (P7). Safety equipment (**helmets**, light, bell, etc.) are included within this pilot.

The pilot will commence with a holiday wellbeing programme and will combine a range of engagement activities, in parallel with food provision, and the access to bikes element will dovetail with the focus on physical activity and wellbeing.

FEL, through the Active Travel Hub at Lornshill Academy will provide bikes plus wrap around support including:

- essential skills training (in line with Cycling Scotland's Bikeability programme);
- cycle safety lessons;
- led rides;
- safe route planning to allow young people to access school safely; and
- maintenance/skills workshops.

Participating children will be given bike following completion of course, with ongoing support continued through the pilot period such as maintenance and servicing.

Equality Cycles - St Paul's Youth Forum in North Glasgow

St Paul's Youth Forum will collaborate with Rosemount Development Trust to offer a pilot aiming to transform pupils' journeys to and from school. They will work with five

schools, and up to 300 children aged 8-16 years, in one of Scotland's most deprived area and with one of the worst health profiles in the country. Adaptive bikes and safety equipment (helmets, light, bell, etc.) are included within this pilot.

Young people will be empowered by owning bikes, which will aid them to tackle the climate emergency, access services and improve their physical and mental health. This transformative pilot will aid to unlock the skills and potential of an area which is currently held back by widespread transport, food, technology and health poverty.

Key features include:

- Existing Active Travel Hub in low SIMD area – 5 schools in the vicinity;
- Children will be offered free bikes using a procurement model (4 options, including a local shop as a dedicated supplier, are currently being considered); and
- Will scale up delivering 25 bikes per month to mitigate supply chain issues.

Cycling Friendly Network - Cycling Scotland

The criteria for Cycling Friendly secondary schools development grant funding will be extended to prioritise providing bikes for young people aged 12-16 years, who do not have access to one due to affordability. This pilot plans to deliver through 20 schools nationally, with an average 20 bikes per school. Adaptive bikes and safety equipment (helmets, light, bell, etc.) are included within this pilot.

Bikes would be for personal use to enable independent travel to/from and outside school. Access to support, training and maintenance would also be provided with tailored support accessed through Cycling Friendly network of delivery partners and community organisations.

In summary, the pilot will:

- Test how to safely deliver, or give access to, free bikes to school aged children, between 11-17yrs who cannot afford them;
- Test using teachers as intermediaries for delivery, obtaining parental consent and signpost to wider opportunities;
- Incorporate an offer of adapted bikes;
- Increase opportunities for local procurement and the circular economy; and
- Build on school and teacher's experience of avoiding stigma of a free bike.

Sustrans - iBike with West Lothian, Dumfries and Galloway and/or Aberdeenshire Councils

Building on the existing i Bike schools programme, Sustrans aim to make access to bikes more equitable by providing bikes to children without them and prioritising those who potentially cannot afford them. This pilot aims to support approximately 700 children aged 9-14 years. Adaptive bikes and safety equipment (helmets, light, bell, etc.) are included within this pilot. This will be trialled in three ways:

- A fleet of bikes for each school: this will enable all participants in cycling activities to have the same bike, removing barriers and stigma for those who do not have access to a bike;

- Bike libraries for long term bike loans; a pool of bikes will be loaned out to pupils who don't have access to one. This will extend the access to bikes beyond the sessions at school and enable pupils to use them at home and for journeys to/from school. The libraries will also enable children to change up to larger bikes as they grow; and
- Ownership: explore options for pupils to be given ownership of a bike – either through provision of their loan bike after a given period or using a voucher to buy a new bike (from a [Bikeability Scotland Approved Retailer](#) or other local bike shops).

Extract from This Mornings News email circulated on 23 March 2022

Cycle star can't get head round no-helmet Harvie Round-the-world cyclist Josh Quigley yesterday criticised Scottish Greens leader Patrick Harvie for refusing to wear a helmet. Josh, 29, said the helmet he wore was the only reason he survived a horror smash where he was hit by a car travelling at 70mph. DExp23