

SPOKES

The Lothian Cycle Campaign

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Chris Brace
City of Edinburgh Council

Dear Chris

ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN – SPOKES COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION DRAFT

Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the draft Active Travel Action Plan. The Project Team are to be congratulated in preparing such a substantial report in such a short period of time.

As requested, our comments are shown in tracked changes on the attached version of the draft report. We have also used comment boxes also shown on the draft to explain or elaborate on certain points where we thought this might be helpful.

Please note that the addition of a large number of suggested drafting amendments and comments to the original draft has changed the spacing in certain cases. The page numbering also disappeared at one stage and we have tried to add this back in, but it may not correspond exactly to the original.

SPOKES welcomes the cycling proposals in the draft action plan. We consider that the cycling chapter is ambitious and forward looking and, if implemented, should lead to significant improvements for cyclists in Edinburgh. We particularly welcome the distinction between the proposed family network and the complementary changes suggested to make Edinburgh a cycle friendly city and consider that this is a very helpful way to classify the infrastructure improvements required to meet the Charter of Brussels targets to which Edinburgh Council is committed.

We have made a large number of suggested changes, as a hopefully constructive contribution to strengthening the Plan and increasing the benefits which should result for cyclists. Some of these suggested changes are intended to clarify points in the draft report, but others are more significant additions to the proposals which we hope you will consider carefully. For ease of reference, we have summarised these most significant points in the attached table, but you will need to look at the amended version of the report to see the context in which the proposals are being made and their rationale. You will see that the table invites the Council to respond by indicating whether the proposal is acceptable in whole or part and to give a brief summary of the Council's position on each of the proposals. It would be very helpful for our future discussions with the Council and for communicating with SPOKES members if, in due course, you could complete this table with your response.

We also have a number of drafting suggestions, as below. Some of these, but not all, are recorded on the draft itself. You may also be intending to make drafting improvements, in any event, before the report is finalised but we do think the following drafting changes would improve the readability of the report for those who have not been involved in its preparation:

- The addition of a contents page.
- A clear explanation of the rationale for the distinction between joint actions, walking and cycling actions.
- A shift of the ordering so that joint actions come after the walking and cycling actions. (Many of the suggested “joint actions” are about processes and means rather than ends. In general, the actions are less specific than in the other 2 chapters. The net result is that this material is less immediately compelling than the other 2 chapters and may also benefit from some further editing, simplification and re-ordering).
- Some improvements to the layout in the cycling chapter which are detailed on the attached draft.
- Clearer identification of the tables and maps.
- An explanation of the various boxed inserts that appear at the end of each chapter
- Improvements to the maps with a key to improve their readability. Given the detail on the maps it may also be helpful to print them as A3 fold out maps in the final version of the report.

As requested, we have sought to incorporate comments from individual members. We will be publishing this letter and our suggested amendments on the SPOKES website so that members can see how we have taken their comments into account in responding to the consultation draft.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any points arising from our response.

Yours sincerely

Richard Grant