

# SPOKES

*The Lothian Cycle Campaign*

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To: Scottish Party Leaders

3 January 2011

Dear Party Leader

## HOLYROOD ELECTIONS - TRANSPORT/CYCLING

*To be sure that your response is in time for our publication, please reply no later than Friday 21 January. It would be helpful if you could also acknowledge this letter in the next 7 days, so we know to expect a reply.*

### 1. SPOKES SPRING BULLETIN

The final Spokes Bulletin before the Holyrood Elections is expected to be published in late February (unless we decide later to produce a special election issue). We are therefore likely to give some prominence to the elections in this issue. Clearly our primary interest is in transport policy and, specifically, improving performance on cycling as a form of transport.

As you may know, 12,000 copies of the Bulletin are printed, distribution including some 1000 decision-makers, transport consultants, local authority officers, etc, as well as 10,000+ copies to our main market of people who use bikes as a form of transport. The Bulletin also appears on our website at [www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/bulletin](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/bulletin).

Unfortunately we go to print before party election manifestos are published. [Once manifestos are published we will do a separate news item on our website, but we may not do anything further in print at that point].

Therefore the article in our late-February Spring Bulletin has to be based on existing party documents. Some parties have already published pre-manifestos - I list below the documents of which we are currently aware.

*Please can you advise us as follows...*

Check the notes below about your party (we obtained these web links from SCCS). If you have any (other) relevant public pre-manifesto or policy documents *which will feed into your manifesto*, please let me know.

**Conservative** ?

**Green** ?

**Labour** <http://www.scottishlabour.org.uk/policyconsultation>  
[transport and cycling on p23]

**LibDem** <http://www.scotlibdems.org.uk/files/Dunf2010-PreManifesto.pdf>  
[nothing on cycling; only transport reference is on p5]

**SNP** <http://bepartofbetter.net/>  
[transport and cycling in final 2 paras]

## 2. PARTY MANIFESTOS

*Your party will currently be finalising its manifesto. If you have not yet finalised your proposals on transport and cycling investment, we hope you will consider our top two priorities, namely (a) and (b) below...*

**a. A substantial increase in the proportion of the transport budget going to investment in cycling (and/or more generally active travel, i.e. walking/cycling).**

In the current climate we do not suggest a rise in total transport spending. However, a re-jig of priorities within transport is essential.

Currently something around 1% of Scottish transport spending goes to cycling investment. That compares to 2% of trips to work already made by bike, and the government's target that 10% of all trips are by bike in 2020. So what % of transport spending should be invested in cycling projects? Here are 3 options put forward by various bodies, some for cycling only, some for active travel (walking/cycling) as a whole....

- ◆ Spokes calculations\* suggest that to have any hope of achieving the above government cycle-use target, an absolute minimum investment level in **cycling** is £50m p.a., or **2.5% of the transport budget**.

[\*For background on the level of funding required to meet the government cycle-use target, plus an overview of cycling investment during the current Parliament, and our proposals on how increased cycling investment could be implemented, see the Spokes submission on the Scottish Government draft budget 2011-12...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/1011-budget-submission.pdf>].

- ◆ The government's own *Report on Policies and Proposals* document accompanying the draft budget 2011-12 suggests [Table 10] that, to achieve government carbon targets, investment in **active travel (walking/cycling)** over the next 12 years should total £1203m; i.e. roughly £100m per year, or **5% of the transport budget**.

- ◆ The Association of Directors of Public Health, in their report *Action on Active Travel* call for investment in **active travel** to comprise **10% of transport budgets**. This report [originally April 2008, and updated March 2009, is at [http://adph.org.uk/policies\\_and\\_publications.php#publications](http://adph.org.uk/policies_and_publications.php#publications). It has been endorsed by over 70 organisations, including Royal Institute of British Architects; Royal Institute of Public Health; Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers; British Heart Foundation; Strathclyde Partnership for Transport; Sustainable Development Commission; National Federation of Women's Institutes; etc.]

**b. The Scottish Government has an ambitious target for 10% of all trips to be by bike in 2020. We hope parties will commit to retaining this target.**

However, as the Parliament's *Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee* pointed out in the report on its Inquiry into Active Travel, "**this target will be meaningless if the Scottish Government fails to match its ambition with a realistic level of funding.**"

Therefore a commitment to maintain the target must be accompanied by a commitment on investment levels if it is to be taken seriously.

Presumably you cannot tell us at this stage if your manifesto will include the above points, but if you can usefully provide any comment at this stage, please do.

I look forward to hearing from you **by 21 January**.

Yours Sincerely

Dave du Feu