CROSS PARTY GROUP ON CYCLING

7 January 2014

Dear Minister for Local Government and Planning,

At a recent meeting of the Cross Party Group on Cycling, the group discussed the Town Centre Action Plan, which you published in November, and I am now writing to you on behalf of the group.

The group expressed their disappointment that measures to improve active travel in our town centres have little prominence in the plan and are referred to as a ‘long term’ action. In the context of the Government’s aim to have 10% of journeys made by bike in 2020, just six years away, this does not suggest joined-up thinking.

You will have received a similar letter from Spokes, the Lothian cycle campaign. The CPG shares the concerns expressed by Spokes. Would you look at whether any short and medium term action points could be added to the plan, even at this stage?

I notice that the Scottish Government has made available £2.75m towards the housing elements of the action plan and I imagine other funding will be matched to other initiatives in the plan. Will there be any opportunities for cycling and walking to benefit from this funding?

We would also like to invite you along to a future meeting of the Cross Party Group to discuss this and other topics such as NPF3 and SPP. Would you consider coming along to discuss how we can integrate cycling improvement into the planning system?

Best regards,

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Co-convenor, Cross Party Group on Cycling

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