

SPOKES

Leaflet 79 Summer 2001

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http://www.spokes.org.uk/ [This is a mail address and answerphone - SPOKES is a voluntary organisation with no staff]

MORE MONEY FOR CYCLING

The Scottish Executive has reserved **£11.85m over two years from the Public Transport Fund [PTF], for councils to spend on cycling, walking and safer streets projects** [SE 12.3.01]. Announcing this at our Spring public meeting, Transport Minister **Sarah Boyack** also praised Spokes for putting cycling on the Scottish transport agenda, by consistent long-term campaigning, and for our local impact in Edinburgh [and the Lothians - ed!].

While **£11.85m over two years is dwarfed by big government trunk road spending, it is still more than twice the present rate of Scottish council spending on cycling and Safe Routes to School [SRS] from their own capital funds** [Spokes 77].



The table below shows the importance of this *extra* money in relation to council 2000/01 capital budgets for cycling and SRS [note - the new money covers rather more than just cycling/SRS, so the columns are not wholly comparable].

As an example to explain the table, Midlothian budgeted £35k of its own 2000/01 capital funds for cycling/SRS, and obtained an outside £50k grant [from Sustrans]. By 2003, it will have £134k *extra* from the new allocation. [We must of course ensure that councils don't use this as an excuse to reduce their spending from present sources!].

Councils can still *also* apply to the PTF for big one-off projects [over £500k], like Midlothian's £850k Sherriffhall bridge, or schemes integrating cycling & public transport.

Council	2000/01 budget £k#		new <i>extra</i> money £k	
	own cash	outside*	2002/03	2003/04
Edinburgh	310	683	356	739
E Lothian	5	64	71	148
Midlothian	35	50**	64	134
W Lothian	393	40	122	253
Lothian tot	743	837**	613	1274

Figures taken from our survey in Spokes 77

* Excludes government one-off 2000/01 SRS allocation

** Excludes one-off £850k Sherriffhall bridge PTF allocation

The £11.85m scheme answers most of our criticisms of earlier PTF rules and of initiatives such as the 2000/01 £5.2m SRS allocation [Spokes 77]. It gives councils time to prepare; it covers more than one year; it can be used for small schemes; and it will encourage backward councils to start spending on cycling, walking and safer streets as it must be spent on its stated purpose.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SPOKES

Some comments from Spokes membership renewals...

- ☼ "Keep up the excellent work. We greatly admire all you do to promote cycling and sustainable transport."
- ☼ "I really appreciate the fruits of Spokes's work in the form of advance stop lines, signs, etc. It's great that motorists have more warnings about cyclists."
- ☼ "Spokes is invaluable and an inspiration to those of us in the northern latitudes. Thank you!" [from Inverness]

At our public meeting, the Minister described a range of government cycle-related initiatives: methods of funding, SRS support, the National Cycle Network, cycle-related research, training, Velo-City, Home Zones, and a Physical Activity Task Force. She restated the **National Cycle Strategy target**, to double cycle use 1996-2002 and again by 2012. [also in *Working Together for Scotland - Government Programme*, www.scotland.gov.uk, publications, Feb 2001].

Her overall message was that the government is working on many fronts and supporting much action at local level. Responding to questions, she said cycling had advanced greatly, but had still not achieved full political acceptance. It needed bottom-up activity, not just top-down. **It was vital for individual Spokes members to help change the culture, by influencing colleagues, employers, schools, developers, etc, as well as by lobbying of politicians.**

Note: Sarah Boyack's speech is in Spokesworker 25.03.01 [on Spokes web site, or send SAE for a free copy]. This also includes notes on the second talk, by transport consultant Derek Halden - cycle policy lessons from national research.

☼ **BIKE WEEK 16-24 June** - see page 2 diary

☼ **VELO-CITY 17-21 Sept** - see centre page*



Glasgow City Council has won this year's Integrated Transport 'Oscar' for its bus/cycle/walk priority scheme around Central Station. Glasgow is a joint sponsor of **Velo-City 2001** International Cycle Conference, along with Edinburgh City Council. Around 1000 delegates from across the world will attend the world's largest ever cycle conference.

photo: Et Wilkie

Help SPOKES, other cyclists, and yourself by writing to your MSP, MP, councillor or the press now and every few months. Ask your MSP / MP to raise your questions with the relevant minister. Remember to send us the results!! For MSP details phone 0845 278 1999. For MPs/councillors phone the Citizens' Advice Bureau (see phonebook).