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13.3.17

CYCLING AND/OR ACTIVE TRAVEL - PERCENTAGE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

It is fantastic to see other Councils and party election promises following the Edinburgh' example in allocating a % of the transport budget to cycling. However there are points to be careful about, below the headline announcements.

EXISTING POLICIES

- [Edinburgh City Council](#) allocated 5% at the time of the last election and has increased by 1% a year, reaching 10% in the budget for 2017/18 financial year.
- [Dundee City Council](#) “will seek to spend at least 5% of its own transport budget” on measures to encourage cycling and walking.

MANIFESTOS FOR 2017 COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Note that no manifestos are yet published, so there is no final confirmation or exact wording as yet, but the following are expected

- Edinburgh Labour promising to maintain 10% for cycling
- Edinburgh Greens promising “at least 10%” for cycling
- Glasgow SNP promising 10% (by the end of the 5-year council) for cycling and walking

POINTS TO BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT, AND TO RAISE WITH ANY PARTY MAKING % PROMISES. THESE CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.

- **Does the promise include capital and revenue budgets?** [Edinburgh yes] Basically the capital budget is used to build things; revenue is for day-to-day expenditure – so, for example, in Edinburgh it has been used to enable snow clearance on cyclist routes that did not previously get cleared, for mapping and signing projects, and so on.
- **Does the promise exclude funding from non-Council sources?** [Edinburgh yes] For example, every Council in Scotland gets CWSS cash (Cycling, Walking, Safer Streets) from the Scottish Government, many get cycling cash from Sustrans and/or other sources. The % promise should apply only to the Council's own transport cash, so these other sums should be additional to the %.
- **Does the promise cover cycling alone or active travel as a whole?** Obviously covering active travel as a whole makes a big difference as to how much is available for cycling, but there is an even more significant aspect – see next bullet point. Edinburgh is officially cycling only although, obviously, many projects benefit walking too.
- **Does the % include maintenance, and particularly footway maintenance?** Councils already spend very large amounts on footway maintenance – Edinburgh spends over 10% of its transport budget on footway maintenance alone!! Therefore any council allocating a % to “active travel” and wishing to be sneaky could say it is using its active travel % promise is covered by its footway maintenance. **So it is vital to ensure that any % promise excludes footway maintenance.** Edinburgh's % promise is officially cycling only, so the footway maintenance issue does not arise. A small part of Edinburgh's 10% does get allocated to road maintenance, but up to now we have not made a big fuss about this as the % policy itself is so valuable - it has been under threat each year from certain unsympathetic councillors and it was vital for us to praise it firmly in order to maintain support.