

to: union.canal@edinburgh.gov.uk
cc: PG <spokes-lothian-planning@googlegroups.com>
date: 17 Jul 2023, 22:04
subject: **Edinburgh Union Canal Strategy Refresh**

I am responding by email, on behalf of Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign, to the above [Council consultation](#), which ends today, 17.7.23

Unfortunately Spokes has not had the capacity to prepare a full response.

However, the consultation is asking for "views to help inform" an update to the [2011 canal strategy](#)." In 2014 Spokes (via Urban Pioneers) prepared [this discussion document](#) on the 2011 strategy, much of which remains valid today. We would be grateful if you would accept this as suggestions to consider in revising the 2011 strategy. Some points in the document are now superseded, but in general the issues and suggestions remain valid.

The main theme of the document is the need for, and suggestions for, improved accesses, alternative routes and improved surfacing. Of these, alternative routes are perhaps now the most important issue, given increasing use of the towpath by walkers and cyclists.

Whilst it is essential to retain access to the canal for cyclists, as many as are confident to do so, particularly commuters or other time-critical travellers, should be encouraged to use alternative routes. To encourage the maximum such transfer requires safe routes to be provided on parallel roads. The discussion document suggests either segregated or mandatory cycle lanes on such roads - we now strongly favour the segregated option, in line with the Council's draft new Active Travel Action Plan.

Finally, we would be happy to have a meeting to discuss the canal strategy if that would be useful. Please include David French, above, our Planning Group convener, in any reply.

Dave du Feu
for Spokes Planning Group