

STRATEGIC AIM More people cycling in Surrey, more safely

To achieve this we will :

OBJECTIVES

1. Work together to deliver improvements for cycling
2. Surrey Local Committees will oversee development of Local Cycling Plans
3. Develop a comprehensive training offer and ensure cost is not a barrier to learning to ride
4. Work with partners to ensure that Surrey's economy benefits from more people cycling
5. Seek funding to improve infrastructure
6. Support cycling as healthy, inclusive and affordable
7. We will work with Surrey Police and other partners to make cycling safer
8. Promote cycling for health and leisure
9. Encourage off road cycling and manage impact on Surrey's countryside
10. Take action to minimise impact of high levels of sports cycling in some areas of Surrey
11. Lobby central government to ensure the regulations governing events on the highway are fit for purpose
12. Support major cycling events where they bring economic benefit and minimise impact on local communities
13. Use an evidence and data led approach to inform future development of the strategy

Rationale

The Surrey Cycling Strategy was published in 2014 to support cycling as an integral element of solutions to support economic growth, tackle congestion, improve personal mobility and address health problems associated with obesity and lack of physical activity:

- Obesity and a lack of physical activity is a growing problem in Surrey. With around 20% of adults and 16% of children being obese. Increasing the amount of cycling as a recreational activity and mode of transport can help to address these public health issues.
- Congestion in Surrey's transport system currently places a constraint on growth. By encouraging people to cycle to work, the strategy can help reduce levels of car travel and therefore congestion, carbon emissions and poor air quality.

Cyclist casualties in Surrey continue to rise year on year, with 139 cyclists killed or seriously injured in 2015, compared with 98 in 2010. It is vitally important that the County Council and partners work towards addressing this. Furthermore, some rural communities in Surrey have been adversely affected by high levels of sports cycling and mountain biking. The strategy seeks to help manage these issues and improve behaviours between all road users and those accessing the countryside.

Progress to date

Developing Local Cycling Plans – 10 local cycling plans are now underway or completed, with considerable partnership working contributing to their success. The plans outline infrastructure requirements for future funding bids, consider opportunities to increase the take up of training and address rider behaviour, plus identify ways to promote cycling as a healthy activity. Data requirements for effective monitoring and evaluation are identified.

Investing in new cycling infrastructure – The County Council has completed the following schemes : Leatherhead – Ashted, Ewhurst-Cranleigh, and the new Walton cycle scheme. Further schemes in the Blackwater Valley are underway. The County Council is also working with Local Enterprise Partnerships and other partners to deliver new major infrastructure identified in the local cycling plans.

Expanding our cycle training offer – using Government grants we have been able to offer customised cycle training to 15,628 residents in 2014/15. We have reduced fees for those least able pay while only increasing costs for others by £1 in 6 years. During this time we have increased the ratios of instructors to trainees, improving training outcomes.

Managing the impact of sports cycling – We continue to lobby central government for changes to regulations on the highway. We have also worked with the police on advice and interventions guidance for use by the police and we continue to implement our framework for closed roads events.

Making Surrey safer for cyclists – the Drive SMART partnership ran a Cycle SMART communications campaign in summer 2015 which focused on stimulating behaviour change in cyclists and drivers to make the roads safer for all who use them.

Building our evidence base – in 2015 we ran a survey of a representative sample of Surrey residents to enable us to improve our understanding of the pattern of cycling participation in the county. This has informed our priorities for 2016/17.

Surrey Cycling Monitor (1651 respondents)



35% regular cyclists, cycling at least once a month
Compared to 15% nationally (DfT Local Walking & Cyclist Stats 2013-14)

Future Priorities

Delivering infrastructure

- Develop and complete a local cycling plan for every district and borough by April 2017
- Develop standards for cycle infrastructure developed and integration into mainstream highway development.
- Continue to deliver new, high quality infrastructure – including new infrastructure in the Blackwater Valley and Guildford – and new bids for cycling infrastructure to be submitted

Improving safety and changing behaviour

- The current level of cycle training to be maintained in a scenario of reducing grants and opportunities for service improvements to be explored
- Promote greater harmony between all road users to improve cyclist safety, including through the work of the Drive SMART Partnership
- Encourage people to cycle more for commuting and utility trips

Managing the impact of sports cycling

- Develop and disseminate a code of conduct for event organisers
- Develop a public event calendar
- Deliver a social media behaviour campaign to target non club affiliated sports cyclists

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