

I've just read the draft cycling strategy and am sending in a few comments...

1. Background

This section feels a bit dense and might read more easily if in two subsections - government background, and council background. The government background should probably include reference to the government Cycle Action Plan, CAPS, although that is of course in draft at present. Also perhaps to the government target that 10% of journeys should be by bike in 2020 - although it is of course a completely unrealistic target without a parallel substantial funding initiative - and the current Scottish government policies have in fact resulted in reduced cycling investment during its period in office so far.

2. Objectives

There is a question whether the objectives should include targets of any sort - this needs discussed if it has not already been discussed. On the other hand the actual commitments in the policies section below are more important than an abstract target without the means to achieve it (like the government one).

3. Policies

This section is excellent.

The proposed figure of 2% in the first bullet point may sound rather low, but it is an excellent precedent to fix any figure, and an example to other local authorities. In order to allow flexibility I would suggest saying "a minimum of 2%" even if 2% is the norm. Also, the qualification that this is additional to any external funding sources is extremely important and for the avoidance of doubt I think it would be better to say "Any funding from external sources eg. Sustrans, the CWSS fund, or other Scottish Government funds, will be additional to this base budget figure."

There should probably be an additional policy point about consultation with cyclist groups, and reference to the Cycle Forum.

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