

Press Release

Sheffield Space for Cycling Big Ride set for another success

The 2018 Big Ride on Saturday 28th April will see hundreds of people get on their bikes and take to the streets to call for Space for Cycling in Sheffield.

Ian Carey, Chair of Cycle Sheffield says “Our Big Ride is a public demonstration of Sheffield people’s desire for a city where riding a bike is safe and enjoyable for everyone. CycleSheffield invite people to attend and make our local politicians sit up and take notice!”

The Big Ride is safe and fun; everyone is welcome. CycleSheffield domestiques (marshals) will ensure the group stays together and that the pace is suitable for even the youngest of riders.

This year the Sheffield City Region will be having its first mayoral election and CycleSheffield have invited the 7 candidates to participate in the ride.

CycleSheffield have also asked the candidates for the following commitment on enabling active travel:

If elected Mayor of Sheffield City Region will you commit to leadership, targets and funding by: Appointing a Cycling and Walking Commissioner to lead delivery of cycling and walking schemes, engage with partners/stakeholders and ensure optimal use of Local Authority walking, cycling and maintenance budgets.

Setting a target of at least two flagship schemes in each Local Authority – Deliver at least two Healthy Streets interventions or high-quality cycleways with each Local Authority in your first term.

Creating a Dedicated Budget – Develop a standalone fund for cycling and walking improvements, and work with partners to lever investment into it, to provide predictable funding streams for active travel

CycleSheffield calls for the new mayor to consider cycling as a key part of transport infrastructure. Ian Carey said “For years our politicians have said good things about getting more people cycling, but have done very little to make it happen. Well designed cycling infrastructure, similar to what is now being developed in London and Manchester, is proving to be a boost to the economy. People cycling to work are more healthy, get there quickly and are more productive. Sheffield needs to take cycling seriously.”

Dexter Johnson, Secretary of CycleSheffield added “We need our politicians to recognise the wider benefits of making Space for Cycling. We can make the City Region a more pleasant place to live, with a healthier population, less congestion and cleaner air”

The Big Ride is on Saturday April 28th, starting and finishing at Devonshire Green. Riders are asked to start gathering from 1030am for a 1100am start. The ride will take about one hour to complete.

- **Space for Cycling: The Big Ride**
- **Saturday 28th April 2018**
- **1030am for 1100am start**
- **Devonshire Green, Sheffield**

Key photo and interview possibilities

- 1030am: riders start to gather and CycleSheffield can arrange for interviews with participants.
- 1100am: riders set off with families and young children at the front. The route heads west towards Hanover way, north towards the University of Sheffield, east along Portobello and Trippet Lane, through the 'legal quarter' to Snig Hill, winds it's way up to Pond Street, turns right by the SHU Union Buildings, crosses Arundel Gate, passes through the Peace Gardens and by the Town Hall, before heading up to Barkers Pool before returning. The route can be seen [here](#).
- 1200: riders are expected back at Devonshire Green.

Ends

Notes for editors

- Contact details:
 - Ian Carey, [redacted], info@cyclesheffield.org.uk
 - Dexter Johnstone, [redacted], info@cyclesheffield.org.uk
- CycleSheffield is a campaign group with over 1,500 supporters. Further details can be found at <http://www.cyclesheffield.org.uk/>
- Further details of the Big Ride can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2106668536230588/>
- Further details about the Space for Cycling campaign can be found at, <http://www.cyclesheffield.org.uk/2017/04/22/what-is-space-for-cycling/>
- Domestique is the French word used to describe a rider who works for the benefit of the team leader in a bicycle race. The Big Ride will use domestiques as marshals to ensure a fun and safe ride for all. Domestiques will be placed at the 'tete de la course' the 'lantern rouge' and at key junctions along the route.
- Photographs from previous Space for Cycling Big Rides.