

Labour announces plan to make England one of the most cycling and walking friendly places in the world

The next Labour government will make England one of the most cycling and walking friendly places in the world.

Labour is announcing ambitious plans for a new 'Healthy Streets Programme' to make our towns and cities cleaner and greener to transform the environment, travel opportunities and quality of life across the country.

Labour's 'Healthy Streets' programme will be modelled on the best towns in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. Like Amsterdam where 67% of trips are by foot or bike. Only 29% of trips are made by foot or bike in the UK.

Labour will deliver the boost to cycling and walking needed to urgently tackle the climate emergency, the local air pollution crisis and the epidemic of ill-health caused by a lack of investment in walking and cycling. Labour's investment in walking and cycling will, for the first time, make active travel a genuine option for the many, not just the brave.

Labour will:

Double cycling journeys by adults and children.

Build 5000km of cycleways.

Create safe cycling and walking routes to 10,000 primary schools.

Deliver universal affordable access to bicycles and grants for e-bike purchase.

Provide cycle training for all primary school children and their parents, plus extend training to secondary schools and make it available for all adults.

According to the Royal College of Physicians, 40,000 deaths a year are attributable to air pollution so reducing car emissions will have a positive public health effect.

Andy McDonald, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary, said:

"Walking and cycling are essential forms of transport, but have been neglected by nine years of Tory Britain.

"Making more of our everyday trips by walking and cycling is crucial to reducing transport emissions and tackling the climate emergency.

"We could cut up to one third of carbon emissions from car journeys if we had the same quality of segregated cycle infrastructure and cycling culture as the Dutch, and simultaneously we would cut the obesity and diabetes crisis that is threatening to overwhelm the NHS.

"Labour's plans will make England one the best countries in the world for walking and cycling."