

Cycling plan is going nowhere

MY CITY IN the foreword to Liverpool City Council Cycling Strategy, published in 2014, Joe Anderson declared “Liverpool is in the middle of a cycling revolution.”

The heart of the strategy was a target that 10% of all trips would be made by bike by 2025. The ambition was to make Liverpool the fastest growing cycling city in the country.

In the foreword to the 2019 Bikelife report (later renamed the Cycling and Walking Index) Steve Rotherham said that it was time for a “revolution in the way we travel, and it has already started right here.”

The Cycling and Walking Index 2023 doesn’t make good reading for those cycling revolutionaries.

There has been no increase in the number of people cycling five days a week, and no increase in the number of people who cycle once a week compared to the 2019 report. Zero progress.

According to stats in the council’s Five Year Transport Plan, released in 2023, only 1.2% of trips in Liverpool City Region are by bike. The transport plan pushes back the target for 10% of trips to be made by bike from 2025 to 2027.

Given the total failure to make any progress on any of the stated active travel objectives since 2014 we need to have a thorough investigation so that the city can learn from its mistakes.

We have been left behind. Other cities have made transformational progress in the last decade.

Cyclists now outnumber motorists in Paris. In London the number of trips made by bike has increased by 20% since 2019.

We need to learn from the successful active travel cities.



ED GOMMON
DIRECTOR, ZERO CARBON LIVERPOOL



PRIDE IN PICTURES

Golden hour on the Liverpool waterfront.

Photo by Colin Lane

E-scooter extension to be green lighted in city

NEW DEAL DUE TO SCHEME BEING ‘MORE POPULAR THAN EXPECTED’

By **DAVID HUMPHREYS**

LIVERPOOL Council is expected to sign off on a temporary extension for e-scooters in the city as it searches for a long-term provision.

The electric hire scooters have been a fixture across the city for the past three years as part of a trial scheme commissioned by the Department for Transport (DfT). Liverpool was one of 32 areas nationwide chosen for the pilot programme.

With the city’s existing contract expired and the DfT extending the project by a further two years, the local authority is looking to sign a six month interim contract with a view to a permanent provision in the city.

The distinctive colourful scooters - operated by Swedish firm Voi - adopted areas from Liverpool Council following the closure of its CityBike scheme.

A local authority cabinet report in 2022 said the size of the CityBike

scheme reduced year on year, due to theft and vandalism, coupled with a lack of available funding to invest in new bikes.

As a result, the scheme became what the council described as “unsustainable” due to the annual losses of around £300k each year.

Now, authority officers have used delegated powers to go out to market to refresh their concession contract.

A report issued alongside the decision said: “It was originally procured in 2020 when e-scooter trials were an unknown quantity and was assessed to have a value below procurement thresholds.

“However, e-scooters have proved more popular than expected and the

value of the existing concession contract has exceeded the Concession Contracts Regulations 2016 threshold.

“Therefore, it is recommended that a new contract is procured to ensure compliance with the regulations, as well as ensuring the contract is future proofed and continues to deliver best value for the council.”

The original deadline for the end of the trials was November 2021, before being extended until March 2022 to take into account the slower start as a result of the pandemic. Trials were further extended to the end of May 2024.

Last November, the DfT announced a further extension of the trial up to May 2026.

According to Liverpool Council’s notice of upcoming decisions, cabinet members are expected to approve the award of an interim contract in May to allow e-scooters to operate for six months from June 5 while a permanent contract is procured for the operation of e-scooters and e-bikes.

The scooters have not been without controversy however. In the last week, one couple in Fazakerley expressed their anger at the vehicles being dumped outside their home, while a business in West Derby faced a similar issue with scooters blocking the entrance to a print shop.

In 2023, the Swedish micromobility firm expressed its interest in furthering its reach across the Liverpool City Region. Sam Pooke, Voi senior policy manager for the UK and Ireland, told the city region combined authority’s transport committee in October it would be “very interested” in delivering e-scooters to other councils.



ECHO

If you have a story, contact:

Newsdesk 0151 472 2488/472 2745

Funeral notices 01482 908084

Place an advert 0151 227 3030

Email letters@liverpoolecho.co.uk

Online liverpoolecho.co.uk

Editor Maria Breslin

Home Delivery: If you would like the ECHO delivered direct to your home, please email liverpoolnewspapersales@reachplc.com

Clarifications

If we have published anything that is factually inaccurate, please contact the editor at maria.breslin@reachplc.com or at Liverpool ECHO, PO Box 48, 5, St Paul’s Square, Liverpool, L69 3EB and, once verified, we will correct it as soon as possible.

The Liverpool ECHO newspaper is published by Trinity Mirror North West & North Wales, a subsidiary company of Reach PLC, which is a

member of IPSO, the Independent Press Standards Organisation.

We adhere to the Editors’ Code Of Practice as enforced by IPSO who are contactable for advice at IPSO, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG. Website www.ipso.co.uk/ Telephone: 0300 123 2220 email inquiries@ipso.co.uk

If you have a complaint concerning a potential breach of the Code of Practice, we will deal

with your complaint directly or IPSO can refer your complaint to us.

Please go to www.trinitymirror.com/howtocomplain where you can view our Complaints Policy and Procedure.

A “How To Complain” pack is also available by writing to the Legal and Compliance Dept, Reach plc, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP.



Inside Today

ECHO subscription offer 32

Family announcements..... 25-27

Puzzles18-19

Sport33-44

Television 21-24

Weather /Travel /Petrol /Quiz 8