

# Government needs to “get serious about reducing traffic levels” following latest Active Travel funding announcement



# Green Party

4 January 2023

The Green Party has said the latest government announcement of £32.9 million to create a national network of walking and cycling experts [1] doesn't come close to delivering the active travel revolution we need.

The funding announced this week aims to support local authorities to enhance their technical skills so that high-quality schemes can be delivered which make it easier and safer for hundreds of thousands more people to walk and cycle.

Green Party transport spokesperson and Leader of the Green Party Group on Bradford Council, Matt Edwards, said:

“It is always welcome to see new funding to help develop world class active travel networks across England. Active Travel England wants 50% of trips in England's urban areas to be walked, cycled or made by other active travel means by 2030 [2].

“However, this goal is being undermined whilst our local Councils continue to treat active travel as an afterthought. Retraining staff is a good place to start but the government needs to be much more ambitious.

“£33 million is a drop in the ocean when you consider the billions in the Department of Transport budget – £16 billion alone is allocated to just five road building schemes [3].

“Training new teams of experts is pointless without the funding to deliver the programme of schemes we need. The government needs to follow through and get serious about reducing traffic levels and boosting active travel by switching the billions earmarked for building new roads into investing in healthy walking, cycling and other forms of active travel.”

Notes

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/329-million-to-create-a-national-network-of-walking-and-cycling-experts>
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/active-travel-england/about>
3. <https://transportactionnetwork.org.uk/campaign/scrap-road-schemes-to-grow-economy/>

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## **Share our roads responsibly – Annual road safety appeal from the Department for Infrastructure and PSNI**

We all share the road and we all have the power to make a difference when it comes to reducing the number of tragedies which claim lives and cause serious injury.

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## **Road improvement scheme for Sourhill Road, Ballymena**

A £320,000 carriageway resurfacing scheme on Sourhill Road, Ballymena will commence on Monday 9 January 2023.

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## **Coronavirus (Covid-19) Infection Survey, Northern Ireland: weekly report**

The Department of Health today published the next in the series of weekly results from its COVID-19 Infection Survey (CIS). The findings set out in

this report relate to modelled positivity estimates for NI for the week up to the 7 December 2022. The aims of the CIS are to estimate how many people have the infection and the number of new cases that occur over a given time as well as estimating how many people have developed antibodies to COVID-19.

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## **DAERA publishes Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report 2021 – 2022**

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has today published the fifth Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report.