



Transform Scotland

Parliamentary briefing

Active travel debate, Tuesday 31 October 2017

Key points

- We welcome the increase in the active travel budget to £80 million from 2018/19
- The active travel budget however remains less than 4% of the transport budget
- The active travel budget is also substantially less than the £300 million ADT tax cut proposed for the aviation industry

1. We welcome the increase in the active travel budget. Increasing the budget to £80 million, if used wisely, will help to deliver safe and convenient walking and cycling routes across Scotland. We welcome the news that the additional investment will be used to fund the five Community Links Plus finalist projects.

2. However, the active travel budget remains less than 4% of the transport budget. Given the Scottish Government's target for 10% of journeys to be by bike by 2020, the Government needs to give serious consideration as to what level of investment is needed to meet this target.

3. The active travel budget also remains substantially less than the proposed £300 million ADT tax cut for the aviation industry. The Scottish Government would be far better investing in walking, cycling and public transport to achieve their aims and targets on sustainable transport, climate change and equalities.

4. We make the following recommendations to ensure that walking and cycling are the easiest and safest options in urban areas:

- By 2020, each of Scotland's seven cities should have in place at least one high-quality, segregated route on a key commuter road. By 2030, all main roads should have cycle facilities matching the best in Europe.
- A new default 20mph urban speed limit should be introduced, so that our towns and cities can again become places for people rather than just for cars.
- There needs to be further action taken to make walking and cycling the most attractive options in urban areas. The Government's commitment to Low Emission Zones is welcome, but other demand management measures such as Workplace Parking Levies (WPLs) must be implemented to tackle vehicle numbers in urban areas. WPLs have already been included in the Climate Change Plan; the Government should now legislate for Workplace Parking Levies in the Transport Bill.