

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/035(13106)

1 Do you have a sustainable transport strategy for your local council and if so does it include the following?

- **Cycling as a main sustainable transport option**
- **The Cycling Action plan for Scotland**
- **The Abellio ScotRail Innovaton plan?**
- **The National Tourism Strategy?**

Please put the website link to where this plan is available on your council internet.

At this time East Lothian Council (ELC) does not have a Sustainable Transport Strategy. There is, however, a Draft Local Transport Strategy (DLTS) currently being progressed that does contain a sustainable transport strategy that will include references to the above questions. The DLTS, when approved by the council's Cabinet members, will be available for public consultation via East Lothian Council's website in February 2018. It will be accessible for public access in the Members Library.

http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/102/members_library_service

2 What cycling facilities do you have in your local council area to promote cycling? Please tick that all that apply.

- **Cycling Hubs** x
- **Cycling routes** ✓
- **Cycle tracks** x
- **Cycles to hire** ✓
- **Cycle Events** ✓
- **Cycle projects** ✓
- **Cycle racks** ✓
- **Pilot Projects for "Quiet Roads"** ✓

Please give details for each of these available or all that apply in your local council area

Cycling routes

There are two Sustrans National Cycle Routes in East Lothian – NCN76 & NCN196. These can be viewed on Sustrans website:

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map>

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/035(13106)

A section of the long distance John Muir Way Cycle Route from Dunbar to Helensburgh starts at Dunbar and finishes at the county boundary with Edinburgh City.

<http://johnmuirway.org/doing-route/cycling-route>

There are identified local 'family friendly' cycle routes that can be viewed on ELC's website:

http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/1504/walking_cycling_and_horse_riding/824/cycling_in_east_lothian

There are also a large number of Core Paths that can be cycled:

http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/379/countryside_and_wildlife/1264/core_paths-background_information

There are a number of local shared use cycle paths signed for walking and cycling. These include North Berwick and Aberlady, Tranent to Ormiston, Haddington to Dunbar, The River Esk cycle path at Musselburgh connecting to Musselburgh Links, to name some of the main ones.

Cycles to hire

East Lothian has 5 businesses that currently provide this service at the following locations:

Ace Bikes - Musselburgh

Belhaven Bikes - Dunbar

Law Cycles - North Berwick

Mikes Bikes - Haddington

Leith Bikes (Archerfield) Dirleton

East Lothian Council also provides free hire bikes for ELC employees for health and recreational purposes and staff returning to cycling.

Local charity, Beyond Boundaries East Lothian also hires specially adapted bikes for persons with disabilities

Cycle Events

Cycle clubs from Edinburgh and Musselburgh have regular organized events on roads in East Lothian throughout the year.

There is an annual cycle event organized by the charity 'Poppy Scotland' that has a range of distances and routes on roads, to cater for different abilities. The Tour of Britain in recent years has selected East Lothian for one of the race stages that commences in Edinburgh and finishes in the Scottish Borders.

Cyclocross events take place throughout the year at Foxlake, near Dunbar.

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/035(13106)

Cycle projects

'Recharge', a local community project located in Tranent recycles old bikes and returns them to road worthy condition via engagement with local youths.

'Beyond Boundaries East Lothian' (BBEL) is a local project that has a wide range of specially adapted bikes that cater for persons who have range of disability/mobility conditions.

Cycle racks

East Lothian Council has an ongoing policy of installing cycle racks in their primary and secondary schools to cater for demand and promoting sustainable and active travel to schools. New built schools and extensions to schools are provided with cycle storage to further support and promote cycling to school.

Cycle racks/storage is present in High Street locations throughout East Lothian main towns and public places, including the seven rail stations.

Pilot Projects for "Quiet Roads"

East Lothian does not have any "Quiet Roads" at this time. However, East Lothian Council is in the process to have a "Quiet Roads" pilot project in the Gullane area in 2018.

3 What other types of Cycling facilities do you promote in your council area for Cyclists

- ***that travel for getting to work, education or school.***

East Lothian Council is a member of and supports the Cycle to Work Scheme that promotes cycling to work and for leisure to staff through a health-promoting group 'Healthy Working Lives'.

All East Lothian schools promote active travel and cycling through their, Health Promoting Schools and Eco Schools agenda supported with their School Travel Plans. Primary and Nursery schools also engage throughout the year in Walk to School Weeks and the Bikeability cycle training scheme.

East Lothian Council support the national Safer Routes to School, and Cycling Walking Safer Streets agenda making it safer for walking and cycling to school

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/035(13106)

- ***Cycle for leisure purposes***

East Lothian Council tourism officers promotes cycling for tourism and recreational purposes, details of which can be found on Visit East Lothian website <http://www.visiteastlothian.org/home>.

They also support the local business community in encouraging cycle tourism and bike hire businesses in encouraging visitors to cycle as a sustainable travel choice when visiting East Lothian, as well using cycling as a recreational activity to visit the range of attractions and events.

- ***cycle for health and exercise purposes***

See above

- ***cycle for sport***

East Lothian Council provides support and officer expertise in the organizing of cycle events throughout the calendar year. A number of these events are organized by local cycle road sports clubs using East Lothian and recently this included the Tour of Britain for a section of a stage. Cycle 'bump' tracks and off road cycle circuits including a BMX track have also been created to encourage off road cycling in particular for young people.

4 What factors have you included in your Council transport strategy and plan that are important when considering the needs of cyclists?

- ***What are you doing as a Local Authority to promote cycle tourism or increase cycling numbers in your area?***
- ***What are the top three strategic action you will be taking to promote cycling tourism or the facilities of cyclists in your council in the next five years?***
- ***What are you doing as a council to promote cycling as a healthy sustainable transport to the generation aged from 5 to 25 years of age?***
- ***What media or communication channels are you using to promote this strategy?***

East Lothian Council is currently in the process of drafting a Local Transport Strategy that contains a sustainable transport strategy that will include amongst other items references to the above. Once approved by the council's Cabinet members it will be available for public consultation via East Lothian Council's website in February 2018. http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/committee/102/members_library_service

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/035(13106)

Finally, it may help to explain that Freedom of Information legislation only applies to information which is held or recorded by a public authority. It does not apply to views, opinions, intentions or questions which simply require a yes/no answer. In view of this, some of the questions asked are not technically valid for the purposes of this legislation as they are not requests for specific recorded information that ELC may or may not hold.

In order to assist you, however, colleagues have addressed the questions posed to the best of their knowledge. For future reference, a link to the "Tips for Requesters" page of the Scottish Information Commissioner's website has been provided which you may find useful:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>