

**Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Cycling and Walking Champion
Cheshire East Council**

With reference to your request for evidence in relation to CWIS2, please find attached information in relation to:

'Breakdown of Funding'

The criteria to achieve funding for active travel schemes is weighted in favour of cities. We in the shires have a different need and a different criteria to be met. Whereas the funding has been allocated to areas where the schemes created were to replace bus journeys, where there are no bus journeys there was no alternative funding mechanism. It would be better placed to support the shires if the funding criteria was linked to the propensity to cycling toolkit, and not population density or replacing bus journeys. That would mean we as a council who are committed to active travel can successfully apply for funding.

In respect to the breakdown of funding, the highways team are unable to fix the missing links and the cost to make routes accessible is prohibitively expensive. I have attached a few cycle safari's which highlight the issues that need fixing, yet they do not fit in with the funding criteria laid down to achieve funding. The funding is great but it also needs to be significantly increased. In relation to Catherine Beavis in Macclesfield, she needs a lot of barriers removing, at £3 - 5k per barrier removal, we will only be able to remove 1 or 2 per annum. The funding needs to be more flexible and we should not have to jump through hoops to achieve it.

There is little thought given to these schemes, yet if we fixed these minor small problems it would open up routes for people to use which will in turn make them more confident, and which will lead them onto cycling on the road.

The other issue is there is not enough funding to pay for the maintenance of footpaths and to upgrade them. Attached are cycle safaris which demonstrate the need for flexible funding and to allow us to actually fund change. We at Cheshire East council received £588,000 which was enough for 3 schemes. We need a lot more money if we are going to make a better environment for people to walk and cycle and the criteria to obtain this funding needs changing.

'Justice and Inclusion'

Many people choose to use mobility scooters and wheelchairs to travel about, but a recumbent trike is also a mobility aid, but due to the cost of purchase a bike limits who can afford to buy one. If a doctor prescribed exercise to a patient, that patient could purchase a e-assist recumbent bike without having to pay vat. Presently, it is not acceptable for recumbent bikes to be available for purchase on a motorbility scheme. I feel this needs looking at and addressing. It is quite wrong that government provide financial support to purchase a motor car but not a tricycle, which improves the fitness of all using one.



July 2021