

UK Bike Valley – the economic opportunity of cycling

The Government has recognised the role that active travel, particularly cycling, must play in future decarbonised transport. Over the coming decade we will be replacing significant numbers of car and van trips with cycles and cargo cycles, many electrically assisted.

- This is a significant opportunity for business growth and job creation. The UK cycle industry will need to scale up to supply sufficient vehicles, service and maintain them.
- Technical innovation in cycling can also drive jobs and growth. Promising areas include the rapid evolution of electric-assist cycle technology, smart and connected cycles able to communicate with a new breed of smart and automated e-cars, and innovative use of data and online services.

There is also already substantial crossover with the automotive sector, in electric motor systems, batteries, components and new lightweight vehicles like electric cargo cycles.

- This is a powerful coalition of interests, ready to scale up and help deliver the future decarbonised transport that Britain needs. We want the added value and jobs this generates to be in the UK.
- Brexit, COVID and recent international logistics issues have all boosted the case for more UK-based, resilient and ‘close-to-market’ R&D, production and assembly.

Outline proposal

We propose an initiative with the working title “UK Bike Valley”, which may be either a geographical cluster or (perhaps more likely) a UK-wide, network initiative which would

- Equip the industry for growth with facilities currently lacking – such as a start-up incubator and full-service test lab.
- Develop UK production and assembly capability.
- Connect this new sector with the emerging automotive and light electric vehicle industries to benefit from cross-fertilisation and further innovation, especially battery and bike to vehicle (B2V) technologies.
- And to give our UK cycle industry the international profile it deserves to attract export customers and overseas investment to the UK.

The Bicycle Association urges the Government to use the opportunity presented by the *Gear Change* vision to consider this proposal.