



4 June 2020

Dear Marvin & Kye

Covid 19 – Provision for cycling and walking

We last wrote to you on 26 April.

Matters have moved on with the Government's announcement of funding and guidance on 9 May and your proposals, announced on 13 May, which we welcomed and supported. No doubt the City Council received a letter from the Department for Transport last week concerning funding bids for the first tranche, the deadline for submission of which is tomorrow, Friday 5 June. Indicative funding for the first two tranches for WECA is £3.7m and we have called on them to reallocate additional money; eg from the Transforming Cities Fund.

A high quality bid is essential to secure, not just the first tranche, but also the second, and to position the City to get our share of the £2bn funding available nationally in the next 5 years. The DfT letter says BCC/WECA "will need to satisfy the Department that there are swift and meaningful plans in place to reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians, including on strategic corridors."

You will be aware that the Prime Minister's Special Advisor on Transport is Andrew Gilligan, who was his Cycling Commissioner when he was London Mayor. In London Mr Gilligan concentrated funds in relatively few Boroughs and on a few schemes. Boroughs which produced AAA (all ages and abilities) cycling schemes were rewarded with further funding, sometimes reallocated at the expense of other Boroughs. The Government is now doing something very similar, nationally.

We urge you to be bold and to take this opportunity for the sake of all Bristolians. Cycling and walking reduce congestion, help reduce obesity and improve air quality.

The poorest and most vulnerable people, who suffer disproportionately from these problems, and drive least, benefit the most from active travel, which is inexpensive, inclusive and egalitarian.

So please be ambitious and submit top quality bids for AAA schemes, including crucially strategic corridors. This will ensure Bristol receives its share of funding, and most likely more, as some Local Authorities will fail to submit acceptable bids. This is a rare opportunity to secure significant funding for our City which will enable lasting change for the better; please do not miss out.

Yours Sincerely,

Nick
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To; Mayor Marvin Rees
Councillor Kye Dudd