



Final
Ben Butler & Dan Hawes
2023 Report, Published 25/07/2024







In the 2023 period, Living Streets has supported 87 Birmingham Schools to participate in WOW – the walk to school challenge. This represents pupils logging journeys and almost 1.5 million journeys logged.



Living Streets partnered with the West Midlands Combined Authority, to deliver [Little Feet \(LF\)](#). The LF project aims to work with early years settings to encourage more children to walk from a young age and complements the Walk to School Outreach programme.







A team of ladies from the Breeze Programme embarked on a monumental cycling challenge



After a long gap in employment, Afsana began her career as a part-time Community Development Officer, utilising this role to enhance her interpersonal and communication skills while actively contributing to community engagement and social well-being.

Afsana was presented with the opportunity to learn how to ride a bike and decided to take the challenge on. She dedicated her time to participating in cycling sessions for beginners organised by New Hope Global and Cycling UK despite it being something very daunting for her.

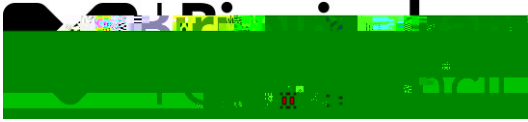
“While engaging in cycling sessions with New Hope, an organisation known for providing training and empowerment programs I successfully transitioned into a qualified Cycling ride leader with the support of Cycling UK and achieved a qualification to become a Cycle Lead, becoming an inspiration for personal and community development.

Through these sessions, I not only honed my cycling skills but also established connections with like-minded individuals who formed a supportive network”.

Afsana's consistent participation and motivation contributed to her growth both as a cyclist and as a passionate Cycle Lead for her community and delivering social rides to women from Aston, Erdington, Perry Barr, Lozells, Handsworth, Hamstead, Great Barr and surrounding areas.

The training encompassed cycling techniques, safety protocols, and effective instructional methodologies, first aid, risk assessment providing her with the proficiency needed to lead cycling sessions with confidence.

Afsana's influence extended beyond her personal journey. She took the role of Ride Leader and started delivering cycling sessions catering to individuals within the community. These sessions not only prom-3(o)-9.65 362.69 Tm02l1c-5(cial G[avfe4,6a2-2(l)7ETQ EMC 4)-3(td)-3()-

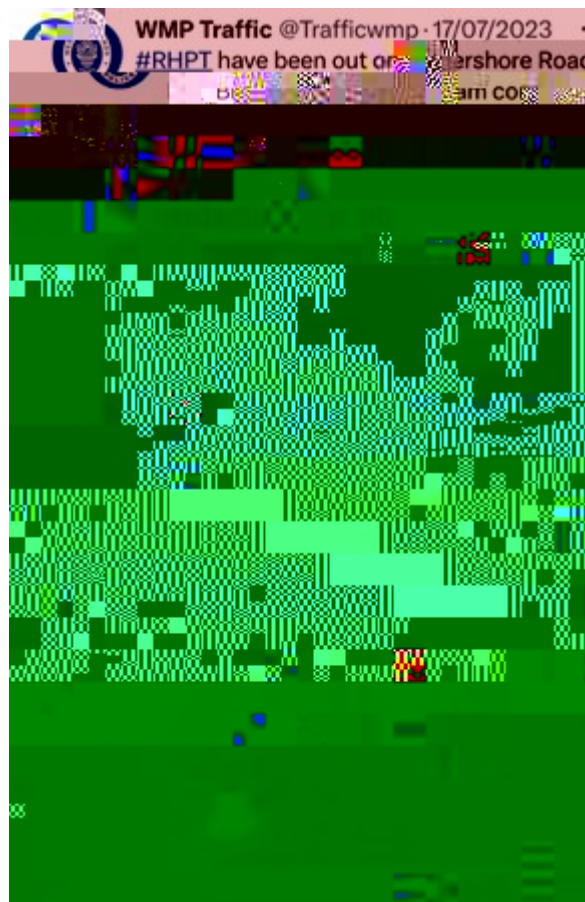




Birmingham City Council's Travel Demand Management team encourages workplaces to participate in a range of activities to get people walking and cycling more.

Partner organisations coordinate activities including led walks, led bike rides, Dr Bike sessions, and cycle training sessions. Financial incentives (e.g., special offers on West Midlands Cycle Hire) and travel challenge apps (e.g., Active Travel Challenge Birmingham) have also been used to motivate people to walk or cycle for their commute or other work-related travel.

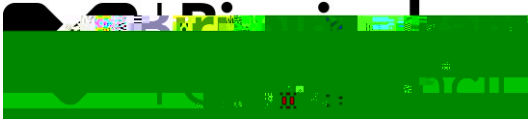
Workplaces participating in these activities are encouraged to register with the Modeshift STARS



West Midlands Police Road Harm Prevention Team has worked closely with the Travel Demand Management Team at Birmingham Council to deliver [Car Free School Streets \(CFSS\)](#) interventions. Schools that have been visited by Road Harm Prevention Team officers are Colmore Junior & Infant School, Drayton Catholic Primary School, Court Farm Junior & Infant Schools and Brownmead Academy.

The majority of interactions resulted in education and in addition to this a number of additional offences were identified which were dealt with by way of fixed penalty notices. Due to the expansion of Car Free School Streets to other Local Authority areas, training will be provided to schools in relation to the Operation Snap online submissions portal. This portal empowers the community to report incidents where vehicles are illegally driving within the restricted zone. Further training will be provided to local Police neighbourhood teams, this will enable them to provide further support with Car Free School Streets.







by a parent or guardian and be able to safely ride an adult bike. More details are available on [Short Term \(Day\) Bike Hire](#).

There has been no update in 2023.

The West Midlands [e-scooter hire trial](#) continued throughout 2023 in Birmingham.

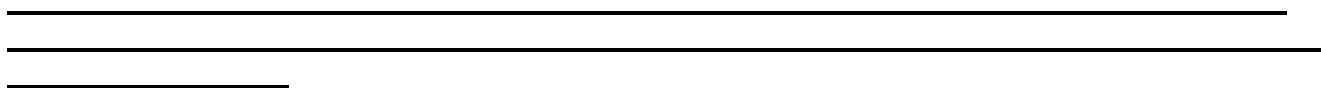
3. Personal safety: We will create a safe and welcoming environment for walking and cycling

[Community Speedwatch](#) continues to grow in the West Midlands, with activity being coordinated between neighbourhood policing teams and active citizens within the community.

During 2023, 141 officers were trained to deliver



5. Walking and Cycling Infrastructure: We will design, develop, and promote places to walk and cycle that are safe, convenient, comfortable, direct and coherent



Sustrans have continued to conduct audits of the National Cycle Network (NCN) across Birmingham



Since September 2019, roads outside selected schools in Birmingham have been closed to traffic at the start and end of the school day as part of BCC's [CFSS initiative](#). This has been delivered at 17 schools to date, with 12 of the schemes made permanent.

Schemes that have been implemented so far have been highly successful, particularly when measures have involved a form of temporary barrier (e.g. traffic cones) and personnel restricting vehicular access along the street. BCC are now looking to further develop and expand the CFSS programme across the city looking at all of the city's 445 schools.

The Travel Demand Management Team are continuing to provide schools with wider support to encourage people to leave the car at home and walk, cycle, or take public transport to schools where they can through the national Modeshift STARS scheme.

A detailed audit process has assessed the suitability and feasibility for CFSS at all schools across the city and will help to guide where future funding sources for CFSS delivery should be prioritised to help transform road safety, air quality and congestion outside schools in Birmingham. Go







The Active Travel Fund enabled sections of proposed regional cycle routes (or missing links in the network) to be brought forward during 2020 and 2021 as pop-up cycle lanes. Some of these were made permanent in 2022, after reviewing feedback from a public consultation.

ATF pop-up cycle lanes:

City Centre and Small Heath –









can assist with this; through providing mechanisms for [reporting concerns about speeding](#) and taking part in Community Speed Watch activities.

For each road logged as a speeding concern BCC officers review the collision data. Certain roads are then prioritised for installation of a Speed Indication Device (SID



Winter maintenance is prioritised in accordance with the Winter Maintenance Service Operational Plan





and shrub species to enhance species diversity and provide habitat resources for butterflies, moths, and other pollinators.

Manor Farm Park – thinning/coppicing in the Millennium Wood plantation and the lakeside woodland; grassland enhancement – hay strewing in areas of meadow and species-poor grassland with green hay from a local, species-



G671 G] TJ q 0.000008866 0 5D 1/Lang (en-GB)>> B1DC q 0.000008866 0 594.4./F2 38 0 7 520.92 g 0



- 81 D-locks were given out to participants.

In December 2023 Sustrans ran a Winter Walking Challenge across the WMCA to encourage winter walking for everyday journeys.

Schools have continued to take part in the Living Streets walk to school challenge: WOW.

12. Campaigns and communication: We will engage with local people about walking and cycling

Engagement with local communities throughout 2023 was a mix of face-to-face contact but also continuing to make use of online platforms, in addition to direct contact via email and telephone.

Throughout 2023 the Council engaged in several consultations for projects aiming to increase the appeal of active travel

Sustrans captures public feedback from volunteers on the performance and condition of the network. They want to see how they can use this to influence and resolve challenges on the network. They have joined the Birmingham Cycle Stakeholders group and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Group (BPAC) to ensure the best quality infrastructure is designed. They regularly have discussions with Wheels for All, Wheels for Wellbeing and National Express West Midlands around accessibility for disabled people. Sustrans also, keep in touch with local cycling organisations such as Push Bikes, and Friends of Groups e.g. Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir.

TfWM have been relaying their cycling offer more robustly when providing communications as part of their public transport offer.

During any network issues such as strikes there has been messaging of how to make use of the wider public transport network including cycling, West Midlands Cycle Hire, walking and others.

The Cycling for Everyone programme involved TfWM and suppliers doing outreach and engagement in the identified wards. During which schools, organisations, and community groups were consulted on cycling activities. Delivery was tailored around the group's needs.

Key campaigns and awareness days/ weeks in 2023 have included:

National

Big Bike Revival (see 1.5 and 2.6) – Cycling UK

National Walking Month – May – Living Streets

Cycle to School Week – 25th September – 29th September 2023 - Sustrans and the Bikeability Trust



Stay Kind, Slow Down – Canal and River Trust

Walk To School Week – 16 – 20th May 2023 - Living Streets.

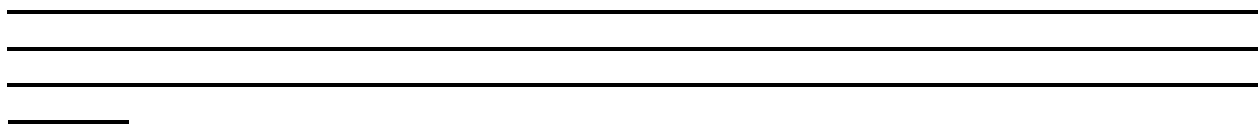
Clean Air Day – 16 June 2023.

Road Safety Week- 14 – 20 November 2023 –



13 Events: We will support events that inspire more people to walk and cycle





Every year, Birmingham City Council and partners collect a huge amount of data (including counts, surveys, and feedback) and 2023 has been no exception.

The TfWM [Data Insight Team](#) is the regional lead on data collection and analysis. Every two years, a full cordon count takes place of journeys to and from Birmingham City Centre. Unfortunately, pedestrian data is not available, but users of all other modes are counted, including pedal cyclists and bus passengers. This enables transport mode proportions to be calculated based on people rather than vehicles. The most recent cordon count for Birmingham took place in November 2023.

The Government regularly

