

Guidance for applicants 2023/24

Overview – About Cycling Scotland

Cycling Scotland is the nation's cycling organisation. Working with others, we help create and deliver opportunities and an environment so anyone anywhere in Scotland can cycle easily and safely. Our vision is a sustainable, inclusive and healthy Scotland where anyone, anywhere can enjoy all the benefits of cycling.

As individuals we will lead by example and as an organisation, our values are to be:

- Collaborative
- Inclusive
- Professional & evidence-driven
- Ambitious
- Sustainable

Cycling Friendly programme

Cycling Scotland offers a programme of support, including funding from [Transport Scotland](#), to help workplaces, schools, campuses and communities across Scotland be cycling friendly and attain nationally accredited awards.

The Cycling Friendly development funds provide grants for projects that improve cycling facilities and encourage travel by bike in their respective settings.

Organisations can register for the Cycling Friendly award at www.cyclingfriendly.scot and are assessed and awarded on a site-by-site basis by Cycling Friendly assessors across Scotland. More information on the individual programmes is provided below:

- [Cycling Friendly Employer](#) support and funding for employers and workplaces to encourage travel by bike for commuting and as part of the working day.
- [Cycling Friendly Community](#) support and funding for community projects, including health groups, charities and organisations to encourage and support communities to increase the number of people who cycle locally.
- [Cycling Friendly Campus](#) support and funding for colleges and universities to make cycling an easy, accessible and affordable option to students and staff.
- [Cycling Friendly School](#) support and funding for primary and secondary schools to encourage travel by bike or scooter. Schools are expected to be delivering [Bikeability](#) on-road cycle training or equivalent or have a clear intent of doing so.
- [Social Housing Partnership Fund](#) support and funding to registered social landlords to improve walking & cycling facilities, for the benefit of residents.

For more information:

cycling.scot

Cycling
Scotland

Programme



Funded

Fund criteria

Cycling Friendly development funds support the development or improvement of facilities and initiatives that will enable more people to cycle. Where demand for funding exceeds available monies, special consideration will be given to projects that seek to help tackle poverty, reduce inequality and are consistent with [climate change delivery plans](#) for a just transition to net zero as well as local, regional and national policies and strategies, such as the [Active Travel Framework](#), [Active Scotland Delivery Plan](#), [Scottish Government National Outcomes](#) and [Fairer Scotland Action Plan](#).

Project proposals will be assessed on their ability to:

- Deliver an increase in cycling and cycling modal share
- Evidence and respond to clear potential and need

Successful proposals should also demonstrate:

- Effective stakeholder engagement to identify and address barriers
- Potential for effective collaboration and partnership work
- Strategic efforts to support active travel and everyday cycling ¹
- Efforts to address inequalities and promote inclusiveness

The assessment will also consider if:

- The proposed project represents value for money
- The applicant is likely to attain necessary approvals to deliver the project
- The proposed project is deliverable within 12 months
- Project deliverables are fully compliant with applicable regulations
- The applicant is making a financial or in-kind contribution
- The proposal is of sufficient detail, accuracy and quality

Eligible expenditure

Cycling Friendly development funds are focused on capital improvements that seek to support the development or improvement of facilities that will enable more people to cycle. Capital costs are generally assets, such as bikes, equipment, tools etc., while revenue costs could include sessional staff time, events and engagement work.

Whilst successful proposals are likely to be focused on capital costs, proposals for complementary activities to support behaviour change may be considered where there is a direct link to capital elements, e.g. bike maintenance training in conjunction with procurement of maintenance equipment.

Applications are welcome from organisations seeking to provide destination facilities adjacent to, or as part of promotion of, new cycling infrastructure in the vicinity.

¹ School funding bids should clearly evidence intent to deliver Bikeability Scotland or equivalent training.



Examples of eligible expenditure include:

- **Cycle parking/storage**
 - Repurposing hard standing areas for installation of new open cycle parking, sheltered cycle parking and/or secure cycle storage².
 - Enhancements to existing cycle parking/storage to increasing capacity and/or security.
 - Parking/storage should be located by either reclaiming existing road space used for car parking or in a nearby location with suitable hard standing.
 - Advice on procurement is available in the Cycling Friendly [guidance document for procuring cycle parking](#).
- **Destination facilities**
 - Installation or refurbishment of changing and showering facilities.
 - Lockers, storage and drying facilities for clothes or cycling accessories.
- **Pool bikes and pool bike accessories**
 - Additional support and questionnaires can be provided to inform requirements and plans.
 - [Recommended Specifications for Cycle Fleets and Pool Bikes](#)

² Eligible costs include product, delivery, installation labour and required warrants or permissions. Individual bike lockers in a workplace setting are unlikely to be funded due to priority for communal parking facilities.

- **Procurement of bicycles for communities / schools / campus** to improve local community and student access to bikes, tackling inequality. Additional support and questionnaires are provided to inform requirements and plans.
- **Bikes for staff (health and social care organisations only)**. Bike ownership may be transferred to staff excluded from the Cycle to Work scheme due to affordability or contractual considerations. Applications must be agreed in advance with Cycling Scotland.
- **Bike maintenance equipment**
 - Pumps, work stands and tools (but not consumables such as inner tubes)
 - Public repair stands
- **Signage and other minor upgrades to cycle access routes**
- **Cycling information boards**

Examples of eligible expenditure for applications for Communities and Schools funding also include:

- **Monitoring & evaluation** – including baseline data collection, audits, travel surveys/workshops, impact assessment
- **Cycle training** – including Cycle Ride Leader training and Adult Cycle Training
- **Bike maintenance training**
- **Sessional work/support**
- **Promotional and engagement activities** such as targeted campaigns, led rides, Dr. Bike and bike breakfasts.

Ineligible expenditure

Applicants are strongly advised to discuss ideas and proposals ahead of making a final application to avoid ineligible expenditure. Projects must support functional journeys by bike, in line with the [Active Travel Framework](#).

For VAT registered organisations, Cycling Scotland will not include any reclaimable VAT in the grant payment, as identified in your grant application and in accordance with [HMRC guidelines](#). Please contact Cycling Scotland if you have any queries or require further clarity.

Cycling Scotland will typically not fund

- **Retrospective costs**
- **Improvements or works which are already scheduled under a separate commitment** i.e. as condition of planning approval
- **Maintenance and running costs of existing projects or services**
- **Staff costs / salaries**
- **Political campaigning or activities**
- **Activities promoting specific religious/other beliefs**
- **Loan repayments**
- **Projects that are solely designed to further the business interests of the organisation**

Please consult Cycling Scotland's full [Terms & Conditions](#) applicable to development grants or contact the Cycling Friendly team for further advice.

Guidance on principles for cycle parking and trip end facilities is available in the [Cycling By Design update](#) from Transport Scotland.

Information on low carbon legislative changes and [Climate emergency training](#) is available from Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Funding cap

Dependent on the level of demand, it is expected that Cycling Scotland will award individual grants between £2,500 and £25,000 in value as outlined below:

- **Cycling Friendly Employer:** Workplace grants per site³.
- **Cycling Friendly Community:** Community grants per organisation
- **Cycling Friendly Campus:** Colleges and Universities grants per institution.
- **Cycling Friendly School:** School grants per school Local authorities
- **Social Housing Partnership Fund:** Social housing provider per site.

Project proposals that benefit multiple sites or joint applications will be considered, subject to prior discussion with your Cycling Friendly development officer.

Match funding

Cycling Scotland propose to contribute up to 100% of the capital element of selected projects, such as facilities development, materials and equipment. Match funding or a financial contribution from the applicant party is not a strict condition for applications. However, proposals which feature financial contributions or value-in-kind carry additional merit during assessment. School funding bids should clearly evidence commitment or intent to deliver Bikeability Scotland or equivalent training.

In-kind contributions are non-cash contribution to the project made by the applicant organisation (e.g. staff time to deliver and manage the project, use of facilities, other goods or services relevant to the project paid for by the applicant). Match funding is any cash funding from other sources used to support the project.

Please contact cyclingfriendly@cyclingscot if you are unsure on what contributes match funding or an in-kind contribution.

³ Applications for lower amounts may be considered if it can be evidenced that the project is likely to have a sufficient impact on cycling rates.

Application and assessment process

- **Pre-application support** - Cycling Scotland can provide advice on proposed projects in advance of an application being submitted. Available funds are limited and allocated on a competitive basis and applicants are encouraged to make an expression of interest online and start developing their bid at the very earliest opportunity to avoid disappointment.
- **Application** - When a Cycling Friendly development fund is open, the link to the online application form and the closing date will be listed on www.cycling.scot. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- **Assessment and shortlisting** - Cycling Scotland will assess proposals on eligibility, quality and alignment to the fund criteria. Follow-up contact may be made with applicants to clarify any aspect of the proposals before applications are shortlisted for a panel review.
- **Panel review** - An expert panel will undertake a review of shortlisted proposals and assess them against the fund criteria. The panel may consist of representatives from Cycling Scotland, NHS Scotland, or active travel delivery partners⁴.
- **Grant offers and feedback** - Cycling Scotland will conduct a final administrative review and issue grant offers to successful applicants, fulfilling eligibility checks. Only proposals which have been shortlisted for panel review will be subject to feedback.

Appeals

Cycling Friendly development fund applications are submitted on a competitive basis and Cycling Scotland's decision is final. Cycling Scotland will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants on request, however there is no right of appeal or arbitration.

Grant expenditure and project reporting

Where a grant offer has been made and accepted, grant expenditure should occur within 12 months of grant acceptance. Successful applicants are required to complete and return an interim and a 12-month project report. The reporting schedule will be issued with the grant offer. Further follow-up surveys may be requested.

Further advice

⁴Active Travel Delivery Partner organisations are Cycling Scotland, Sustrans Scotland, Energy Saving Trust, Paths for All, Cycling UK Scotland, Living Streets Scotland, Forth Environment Link and CoMoUk

For further advice please contact [cyclingfriendly@cyclingscot](mailto:cyclingfriendly@cyclingscot.org.uk)

Cycling Scotland is a Scottish Charity, SC029760, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).