

Suburbs encouraged to join cycling revolution

OUTER boroughs are being invited to 'go Dutch' thanks to £100million of new funding for cycling from the Mayor of London Boris Johnson and Transport for London (TfL).

Up to four outer boroughs will be chosen for investment. It is hoped they will become every bit as cycle-friendly as their Dutch equivalents. Spending will be concentrated on relatively small areas in order to have the greatest impact.



The programme's main aim will be to replace the thousands of short local car

journeys that could easily be cycled instead, resulting in dramatic reductions in traffic, air pollution and pressure on parking.

Most of London's cycling growth in recent years has taken place in inner London, but TfL research found that more than half of all trips that could be cycled are in the suburbs.

The Mayor said: 'This will go beyond anything seen in the UK before. It could amount to a complete transport makeover of the successful boroughs – benefiting everybody in them, not just cyclists – and we expect councils all over London will see the huge potential to make significant improvements using this funding.'

City Hall and TfL have written to all 20 outer London boroughs inviting them to apply for the scheme. The schemes in each successful borough will include:

- A substantial redesign of the main town centre to make it as bike-friendly as possible
- Redesigns of some of the secondary town centres
- New cycle and pedestrian bridges across major roads, railway lines or waterways
- A network of cycle routes radiating out from the main town centre, and secondary centres, to other parts of the borough
- Redesigns of problem junctions
- Commuter routes from the borough to central London
- High-volume, secure cycle parking at stations
- Work with major retailers to promote cycling

Boroughs are also encouraged to put forward any other ideas they may have to improve cycling.

Transport at a glance



Getting away from it all

PLANNING your weekend? Head to London Transport Museum in Covent Garden to see the exhibition 'Poster art 150'. It's the first major retrospective since the 1960s looking at the capital's rich history of poster design. The exhibition is divided into six themes including 'away from it all' – featuring artworks commissioned to encourage people to escape to the country and enjoy leisure pursuits. (Pictured above: Summer's Joy, by Laura Knight, 1921)

Find out more at www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Sitting pretty: Barclays Cycle Hire bikes have been transformed today to celebrate the 20th birthday of the company Cath Kidston. Around 6,000 bikes in the capital will be decorated with an 'antique rose' print seat cover – a gift for London's cycling commuters.



Pictures: Zoe Barling

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