

**An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

**Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport**



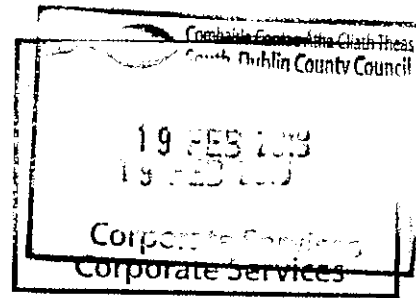
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Mr Colm Murphy
Corporate Performance and Change Management
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Our Ref: SR/18/20725

Date: 16/02/2018

Dear Mr Murphy,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. I would like to commend the Council on passing the motion to provide resources in order *'To improve the cycling infrastructure and overall safety'* in your county. I am acutely aware of the importance of safety for our cyclists and I am very conscious of the increase in cycling fatalities in 2017. My Department continues to work with and fund key stakeholders, including the Road Safety Authority, to address how road users behave on our roads in order to promote a safe and respectful approach from all users sharing the public road space.

Alongside education and awareness, infrastructural investment is a key element in facilitating safe cycling. I was delighted as part of Budget 2018 to have secured a significant increase in the level of Exchequer capital funding available for investment in cycling infrastructure over the period 2018-2021. Capital investment of over €110m will develop cycling and walking infrastructure in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) and Regional Cities over the next four years (2018-2021). This programme will provide safe and direct active travel routes to help alleviate congestion by providing viable alternatives and connectivity with existing public transport infrastructure. I would encourage your officials to continue to engage with the National Transport Authority in this regard. It is essential that sufficient staff and organisational resources are allocated to cycle project delivery in order to ensure that schemes in South Dublin are developed and brought through the planning and design process in a sufficiently timely manner, such that they are in a position to draw down the programme funding within the specified timeframes.

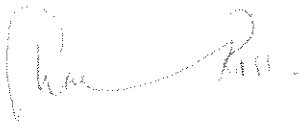
My Department is also currently preparing a National Greenways Strategy, building on the success of facilities such as the Great Western Greenway and the Waterford Greenway. Again, I was happy to secure a significant increase in greenway funding as part of Budget 2018, with an increase of some €30 million bringing the total allocation for the development of Greenways for the period 2018-2021 to over €55 million.

In addition to these cycling-specific investments, other infrastructure investments over the next four years will also provide enhancements that will benefit cyclists. The considerable investment of about three-quarters of a billion euro for re-configuring the bus network and infrastructure as part of BusConnects will also entail construction of significant new cycling facilities alongside bus routes on key bus routes and provide safe cycling arrangements, largely segregated from other traffic along those corridors. In addition, some of the €135m funding that will be provided to local authorities in the GDA and the Regional Cities for Sustainable Urban Transport will support better traffic management, bus priority measures and pedestrian infrastructure, measure that will facilitate safe and effective movement for all.

My Department continues to be very active in promoting behavioural change to encourage more people to take up cycling and to cycle safely. We provide funding to the National Transport Authority on an annual basis for the delivery of behavioural change programmes such as Workplace and Campus travel programmes and the Green Schools Programmes. Furthermore, my Department engaged Cycling Ireland to develop a new national cycle training standard – “Cycle Right” – which was rolled out in 2017 to approximately 15,000 primary school students. In addition my Department provides funding to local authorities throughout the country to assist in organising events and activities during Bike Week.

As you can see, my Department is fully committed to ensuring safer cycling and improved cycling infrastructure for all. I look forward to seeing the results of these significant investments being realised in South Dublin, and across the country, over the coming years.

Yours sincerely,



Minister Shane Ross
Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport

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