



Sustrans Manifesto for Northern Ireland

I Assembly Elections 2022

Increase investment in safe, healthy, sustainable travel

Ask 1: Make Northern Ireland the equal of Scotland and the Republic of Ireland, by dedicating at least **10% of total Transport budget** to walking, wheeling and cycling.

- This would include a **revenue funding** stream for behaviour change work to support programmes across communities, workplaces and schools.
- Establish strategically-placed **Active Travel Hubs** to enable people to overcome barriers to walking, wheeling and cycling.

Ask 2: Make walking and cycling a realistic and safe alternative to the car. Create a capital fund for development and improvement of **urban and rural greenways/ National Cycle Network** across Northern Ireland to ensure it is accessible for everyone and fulfil the Department for Infrastructure's Strategic Plan for Greenways [published in 2016].

Ask 3: Transform travel in the Belfast area by fully funding a Project Team with a timetable to deliver the **Belfast Cycling Network**, similar to the Glider project. Develop plans for cycling networks across all urban areas of Northern Ireland, including Derry~Londonderry.

Enable our children to travel by foot or cycle safely

Ask 4: Ensure every child who can and wants to is able to safely walk and cycle to school.

- by maintaining and expanding the Active School Travel Programme.
- developing an infrastructure programme 'Safe Routes to School' to make the road safety improvements needed around schools.
- offering on-road cycle training to all Primary 6 pupils (9 & 10 year olds) to give them the skills to cycle safely and
- provide secure cycle and scooter parking at schools.

Ask 5: Create a programme for **School Streets** embedded within neighbourhoods that provide safe, car-free zones around Primary Schools.

Create more liveable neighbourhoods

Ask 6: Help local authorities transform towns and cities to put people first by making **20-Minute Neighbourhoods** a central principle in local planning, transport, health and economic policy. Ensure all new developments and town regeneration schemes prioritise the most vulnerable road users and reduce car dependency to create more vibrant places for people.

Ask 7: Legislate for an **Active Travel Act**, similar to Wales, to ensure active travel is embedded in the statutory planning process, that urban and rural greenway development is a statutory duty of local authorities and fund the Act (as outlined Ask 2).

Ask 8: **Implement 20mph speed limits** as the default in all built-up areas to improve road safety and encourage active travel in neighbourhoods.

Ask 9: Ensure there are adequate powers and enforcement to **tackle inconsiderate and irresponsible pavement and cycle lane parking** so that people are enabled to walk, wheel and cycle safely.

Tackling climate change and air pollution

Ask 10: Implement a **Climate Change Act** like the rest of the UK regions and ensure we are on track to reach Net Zero emissions by 2050 if not sooner.

Ask 11: Legislate for a **Clean Air Act** to mitigate against the harmful pollutants we are all breathing – transport being the second largest source of air pollution in Northern Ireland.

Note: 'wheeling' relates to people using wheelchairs and mobility scooters.