



Sustrans Scotland manifesto for 2022 local elections

Good walking, wheeling and cycling and public transport makes a massive difference to people's quality of life and the places where they live, work and spend time. This is the time for local government to act – to create better places, improve our health, and protect the planet.

Our places should put people first

Ask 1: Councils should use the principles of “20-minute neighbourhoods” to maintain localised public services. Everyone should live within a 20-minute return walk and wheel of schools, shops, community centres, and quality green space.

Ask 2: All footways should be easy to navigate, particularly for vulnerable users. In particular, councils should deliver the pavement parking ban.

Ask 3: All major developments and council projects should implement planning policy that designs streets for people, not just for vehicles. New developments should also link to established urban spaces, be permeable, and be close to key services. This will require political leadership from elected councillors, and resources for planning officers.

Ask 4: Councils should work with communities to transform their streets. This should include support for community-led projects, and high quality engagement at every stage.

Everyone should have the choice to confidently and safely leave their home on foot, by wheeling, and by bike

Ask 5: All towns and cities in Scotland should have a high quality, protected cycle network that allows safe everyday journeys.

Ask 6: Councils should introduce measures to reduce vehicle speeds on residential streets and rural B and C roads, making them safer to cross and comfortable to walk, wheel, and cycle on.

Children and young people should feel safe when they walk, wheel, or cycle to school

Ask 7: All key routes to schools should give priority to pupils who are walking, wheeling, and cycling. This includes safe, convenient crossing points, and dedicated space for cycling.

Ask 8: Many schools face issues of road safety, congestion, and poor air quality at the school gates. Councils should roll out “School Streets” to restrict car access at the start and end of the school day.

People in rural communities should have the option to access services without needing a car

Ask 9: Local path networks should connect all rural communities to key local services. This includes schools, post offices, pharmacies, and bus stops.

Ask 10: Rural communities should be easy to walk, wheel, and cycle through, and well-served by public transport to towns and transport hubs. This would help transform the economies, health, and sustainability of Scotland's rural areas.

A fair share of funding for walking, wheeling, and cycling

Ask 11: Councils must prepare for increased Holyrood funding for active travel. Planning, transport, and roads teams need to be equipped to commission, design, deliver, and maintain great places, streets and roads for people.

Ask 12: At least 10% of council transport budgets should be spent on walking, wheeling, and cycling, and on public spaces that prioritise people. This should include revenue spending on maintenance.

Ask 13: Councils should use Workplace Parking Levies and other measures to encourage people out of their cars, and to increase funding for sustainable transport. Reducing our car use is essential to meeting our net zero goals and reducing air pollution.