

Leicester Cycle City

Action Plan 2014 – 2024



Contents

- 1 - Aims
- 2 - Cycle City Partnership
- 3 - Recent Progress
- 4 - Case Studies
 - Ride Leicester Festival
 - Curve Schools Ride
 - Southgates & Newarke
 - NCN Routes
- 5 - The Action Plan
 - Infrastructure
 - Main Roads*
 - Network Routes*
 - Training
 - Engagement
 - Promotions
- 6 - References
- 7 - Contacts



Aims

**Primary target is to double the number of everyday cyclists by 2018 & again by 2023
with a cycling modal share of 10% city centre traffic by 2024**

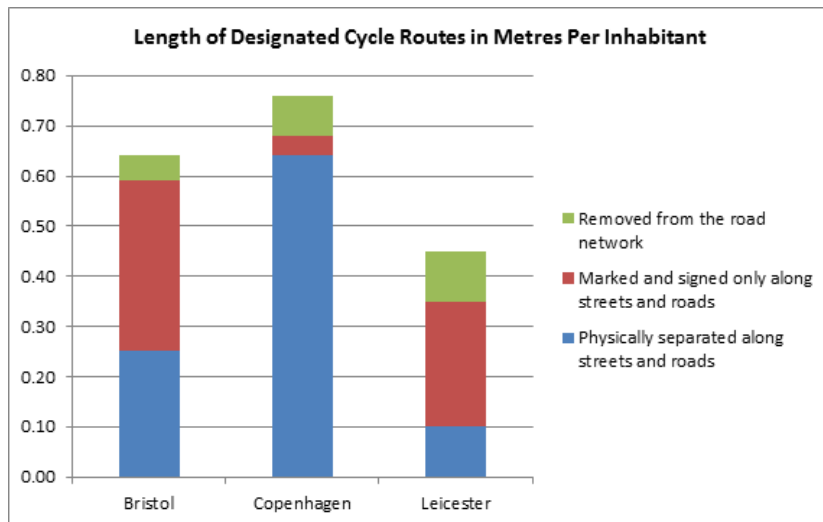
We will deliver an infrastructure network of high capacity, quality cycle tracks along main road corridors

We will create a Neighbourhood 'Pinch Points', 'Missing Links' & 'Safer Cycling' programme

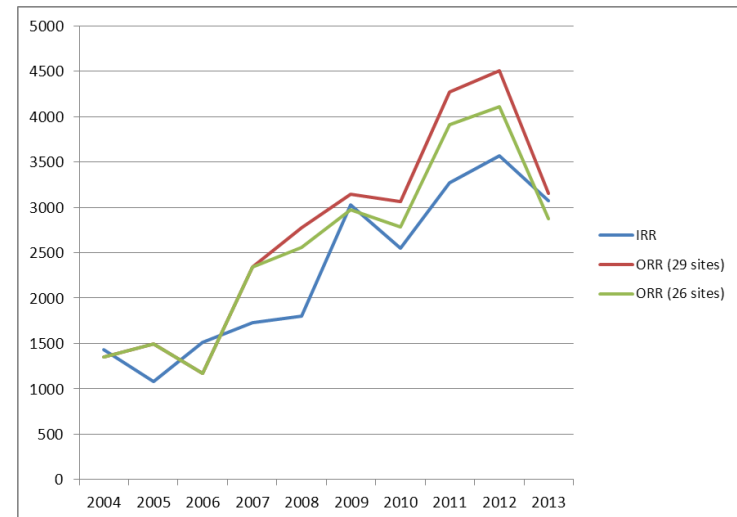
We will extend cycle and mechanic training to enable inclusive cycling for all communities and abilities

We will develop delivery partnerships and stakeholder engagement enabling capacity for growth

We will deliver a mainstream cycling presence that helps to establish Leicester as a leading cycling and people-friendly UK city



*To match best practice examples of Copenhagen and Bristol –
We need to invest in safer cycling along main road corridors*



*There are currently an estimated 13,000+ daily cyclists and
numbers are growing 10-15% per year*

The Cycle City Partnership

We will build on the existing Cycle City Partnerships to promote Leicester as a cycling and people-friendly city

Current Supporters include;

- Sustrans
- British Cycling
- Future Cycles
- Cyclist Touring Club
- Leicester Forest Cycling Club
- Leicestershire Road Club
- Western Park Free-riders
- Leicester Women's Velo
- De Montfort University
- University of Leicester
- Friends of the Earth
- City Council BUG
- County Council BUG
- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicester Cycle Campaign
- Leicester Spokes
- Ride Leaders
- NCN Rangers



Recent Progress

2013 – 2014 has been a busy, exciting and challenging year for cycling in Leicester. The level of change to the built environment and improvement for cyclists has been unprecedented, stimulated primarily by the implementation of the Connecting Leicester Project focussed on improving access for people on and on foot.

In February 2013, the City Council was invited to give evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Focus Group for Cycling culminating in publication of the 'Get Britain Cycling' report.

In May, the City Council adopted a 'Cycle City Ambition' strategy as part of the Connecting Leicester Vision. Work to reduce road danger and improve access for cyclists and pedestrians along Southgates and The Newarke provided high capacity, paths from The Magazine and De Montfort University campus to Jubilee Square and Welford Place.

In August, the inaugural Castle Classic cycle race brought elite level national road cyclists to the city for the first time in over 20 years. Over 12,000 family riders joined the 5th mass participation Sky Ride and crossed the main stage of Curve Theatre as part of the 8-day Ride Leicester Festival – A celebration of streets open for people.

The City Mayor spoke at a national cycling conference in December highlighting the Connecting Leicester Project improvements for cyclists as part of people-friendly public realm projects. This 'step-change' has been given added momentum within the 'Story of Leicester' with the digging up a car park to find something of more cultural and symbolic value to the city - King Richard III.

The momentum of Connecting Leicester and the Richard III discovery brings the opportunity to transform the city into a people and cycling-friendly 21st Century city for both visitors and citizens. The 'Leicester Cycle City Action Plan' is part of the Connecting Leicester Vision. It will help reduce the dominance of cars and create an attractive, pedestrian and cycling-friendly city.

Four case study projects have been set out to give an in-depth view of ongoing work.

Case Studies

Ride Leicester Festival

This aim of this project is to engage, develop and demonstrate a mass participation audience for cycling through an annual family-friendly celebration. The rationale for choosing this method is that fun, free, safe and diverse showcase events can help to stimulate and sustain repeat behavioural change.

The City Council started the annual Ride Leicester Festival in 2005 with Cycle City Workshop stakeholders to promote and support new and established bike projects. Participant projects have subsequently involved; cycle training, bike recycling, led-rides, bike-art, film & media, cycle clubs, special needs engagement, campaign groups, performers and a diversity of cycling culture's.

In 2009, a new development partnership with Sky & British Cycling launched the 'Sky Ride' as part of a 4-city national pilot project with Glasgow, Manchester and London. 'Sky Ride Leicester' is now established in the national programme and the citywide festival calendar attracting an audience of 12-14,000 riders. Highlights in 2013 included a 'Sky Ride' route across the main stage of CURVE theatre and establishing 'Leicester Castle Classic' cycle race as a component part of the Ride Leicester Festival. The inaugural cycle race attracted elite-level teams to Leicester for the first time in over 20 years.

The 2014 event will include a British Cycling Elite Road Series race and an amateur a sportive, triathlon and workplace challenges for approximately 600 participants.

Funding for the Ride Leicester Festival is primarily supported by the Local Transport Plan, the Sky & British Cycling partnership and Local Sustainable Transport Fund Projects. The Business Plan for the festival is to maintain the 'Free' family mass participation elements and to grow income generation from the commercial, sponsorship and paid participation elements of the Leicester Castle Classic. The 2014 Ride Leicester Festival will include TV coverage of the Castle Classic on Eurosport.

Other key partners in this scheme are City Council delivery partners (Sustrans, CTC, Future Cycles), bike projects, businesses, social cycling groups and volunteers.

Janet Hudson (BC Rec Manager East Midlands) say's;

'We always look to add innovation and are working with LCFC to provide a route through the football stadium this year'.



Case Studies

Curve Schools Ride

This aim of this project is to promote cycle training with an annual mass participation cycle ride for pupils, schools, cycling instructors and ride leaders.

The rationale for choosing this method is that a fun, free and safe cycle ride to the city centre cultural quarter demonstrates the new riding skills of young riders. It helps to highlight established safer routes from schools to and from the city centre. It rewards participating schools and adults supporting on-going programmes that help people learn to ride, fix bikes and join social and family-friendly bike rides.

The City Council started the annual Phoenix Schools Ride in 2006 with cycle training delivery partners to demonstrate that it is possible for primary school pupils to ride safely to and from the city centre. Initial rides were hosted by the Phoenix Theatre before moving to the new Phoenix Digital Media Centre in 2009. Growing demand prompted a move to Curve in 2013.

The highlight of last year's event was to use of Curve's main auditorium & stage for the first time. The event was hosted by children's comedian Tiernan Douieb and Leicester BMX Champion Keelan Phillips. Curve Schools Ride is led by the City Council with support from County Council, Curve Theatre, Leicestershire Police, British Cycling, Sustrans and other delivery partners and funded by the Local Transport Plan Promotion of Cycling budget.

This year's event will take place on 2nd July to celebrate the start of The Tour de France - in Yorkshire - on 5th July.

The Business Plan for the Schools Ride is to develop and promote an event that showcases city cycling and training. We will continue to grow delivery capacity to fill the 700+ available space to deliver a low cost event increasingly attractive to schools.

Suba Das (Assistant Community Director of Curve Theatre) says;

'We are delighted to open up our wonderful theatre to a new and young audience as part of our community engagement work'.



Case Studies

Safer Cycling - Southgates & The Newarke

This aim of this project is to reduce road dangers and improve access for cyclists and pedestrians between DMU Campus and the city centre as part of the Connecting Leicester Project.

The rationale for choosing this method of infrastructure was stimulated by the 'Understanding Walking & Cycling Research Report' and developed by the 'Roads for People' planning project in 2011. Deputy City Mayor Rory Palmer challenged the Cycle City Workshop stakeholders to come up with ideas that make it possible for new and returning cyclists to ride safely and with comfort between residential suburbs and the city centre.

Preliminary ideas from stakeholders were developed by Transport Strategy Officers into a proposal for two-way cycling and improved road crossings along 1km of the Inner Ring Road. A bid was submitted to the Department for Transport Safer Cycling initiative with the support of Sustrans.

A pilot project was initiated early in 2013 to remove 1 lane of traffic from vehicular use. This was achieved simply and cost effectively by deploying temporary traffic management. This allowed an assessment of traffic congestion enabling a smooth transition to a permanent scheme to be completed in 2014.

Work includes 1km of new cycle track and footway improvements, 2 new shared-use road crossings, 5 re-designed road crossings, street furniture and signing. The scheme work cost approximately £550,000.

This project has set the standard for a new generation of high capacity, quality pedestrian and cycling routes in the city. Additional schemes are already planned for St Nicholas Circle and Belgrave Corridor. New projects are also proposed for Welford Road, St. Margaret's Way, Groby Road, Victoria Road East & Uppingham Road.

John Grimshaw (Former Chief Executive of Sustrans) says;

'The Newarke scheme in Leicester shows that we can build high quality European-style urban bike routes in UK cities'.



Case Studies

National Cycle Network Improvements Project

This aim of this project is to improve and increase the use of existing National Cycle Network routes that cross the city north to south (NCN 6) and east to west (NCN 63).

The stimulus for choosing this method of intervention and infrastructure development was the 'Active Travel Conference' hosted in Leicester on behalf of Department for Health & Department for Transport in 2012. The Understanding Walking & Cycling Research Report (2011) also highlighted that fear of road dangers and a lack of high quality traffic-free cycle routes being a key barrier to the take up of cycling.

The development of open and accessible cycling and walking paths along the alignment of the derelict former railway lines began in Leicester in the 1980's and was supplemented by traffic calmed streets and quiet road routes to create the basic National Cycle Network in 2000.

Great Central Way (South) was rescued from overgrown vegetation and asbestos-laden scrapyards, anti-social behaviour and landfill from the 1980's. Forest Way (West) follows the former Leicester to Swannington Railway line to the Historic Glenfield Tunnel. The Riverside Route (north) now links Abbey Park, The National Space Centre & Watermead Park, NCN 63 (East) mostly follows quiet road routes as well as designated paths through Victoria Park. Most of the cycle tracks along these routes were unadopted permissive paths and poorly maintained.

Recent work includes 6,500m² of improved shared-use path, formal adopted as Public Highway and 300+ new direction signs over 38km of National Cycle Network route and connecting links. The newly signed and adopted routes are marked on 40,000 new 2014 Leicester Cycling Maps that will be distributed this summer.

The scheme work cost approximately £500,000 and was paid from the Leicester NHS, LSTF and DfT budgets.

The NCN routes provide the backbone of traffic-free, quiet road and recreational routes across the Central Leicestershire.

Stephanie Dunkley (Public Health Principal) says;

'This work helps to address the health inequalities across Leicester. It improves and promotes a physical network directly linking communities with greatest need to enable active everyday travel'



Connecting Leicester

Creating a thriving heart within the city



Connecting
Leicester
Cycle City Ambition Bid



Next Steps

The Action Plan (Updated Annually)

Infrastructure

Includes day to day asset management & major public realm improvement projects

- Main Roads
- Network 'Safer Cycling' & 'Missing Links'

Training

This area of work includes cycle training, led-rides, bike maintenance and development

Engagement

Involves stakeholders, community groups, volunteers, advocates, funding & delivery partnerships enabling strategic delivery

Promotions

A mainstream, inclusive, public-facing programme of festivals, events and media

Progress 2013/14

Infrastructure & Training

<i>Progress 2013/14</i>	
Infrastructure	<p>This infrastructure substantially delivered in the past 12 months;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guildhall Lane refurbished providing traffic calming and two-way access for cyclists - Applegate refurbished providing traffic calming and two-way access for cyclists - Berridge Street refurbished to remove car parking and provide two-way access for cyclists - King Street pedestrianised retaining traffic-free two-way access for cyclists - Southgates refurbished providing a two-way cycle track and two new uncontrolled road crossings - The Newark refurbished providing a two-way cycle track and three new shared use crossings - Railway Station Bike Hub 90% complete with 240 indoor & 150 outdoor parking spaces - DfT, LSTF & NHS funding invested to improve and formally adopt citywide NCN cycle routes including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Central Way overlaid and subsidence removed over 1,100m Riverside Way overlaid and re-graded over 700m Forest Way overlaid and re-graded along 2,200m - LSTF & NHS funding for 130 posts, 300+ direction signs & 29 route map signs along 38km (24 mile); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route 2 (City Centre to Groby) Route 3 (City Centre to Narborough) Route 4 (Westside Circular from A6 Oadby to A6 Red Hill) Bennion Road new shared-use route along 2,250m - New match-funded cycle parking facilities at 10 businesses - Town Hall Bike Park introduced an electronic 'One-card' system to record Bike Park Membership - Bike mechanic workshop equipment purchased for community recycling and bike project development
Training	<p>The following training opportunities were delivered in the past 12 months;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bikeability Cycle Training delivered to 1700 Primary School pupils - Adult Cycle Training delivered to 700 - Certificated Cycle Maintenance Training delivered to 180 adults & young people (14-18) - Ride Leader Training or CPD for Ride Leaders delivered for 12 people - Cycle Instructor Training or CPD for Cycling Instructors delivered for 44 people

Progress 2013/14

Engagement & Promotions

Engagement

The following engagement opportunities delivered for stakeholders in the past 12 months;

- Monthly Cycle-city Workshops hosted on 11 occasions
- Public Health Active Travel Inequalities partnership meetings held on 4 occasions
- British Cycling development partnership meetings held on 4 occasions
- Sustrans Bike It Project partnership meetings held on 4 occasions
- Future Cycles Bike Park and Cycle Works delivery partnership meetings held on 12 occasions
- CTC Cycling Champions partnership held on 2 occasions
- Community Bike Recycling delivery partnership meetings held on 3 occasions
- Park Strategy meetings held on 2 occasions
- Theft Prevention Strategy meetings held on 1 occasion
- City Centre Access Strategy meetings held on 2 occasions

Promotions

The Ride Leicester programme delivered a mainstream cycling presence for the following in the last 12 months;

- Curve Schools Ride was attended by 400+ school users from 12 City & County schools
- The Led-rides programme accommodated 850 over 90 rides
- £300 Bike Challenge grants facilitated events for 20 organisations
- Festival Bike Parks attended 12 events over 20 days
- Ride Leicester Festival engaged approximately 15,000 people over 8 days of events (Including 'Castle Classic', Sky Ride', & 'Bling Your Bike' Workshops)
- Neighbourhood Cycling Festivals engaged 500 people in 8 communities

2016-2024 Infrastructure & Training

Programme to 2016	Forward Planning to 2024
<p>Main Road 'Corridor' routes including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Nicholas Circle - A6 Abbey Lane (City Centre to Birstall) - A50 Groby Road (City Centre to Glenfield) - Connecting Leicester Wave 2 City Centre Projects - River Soar / Grand Union Canal Corridor Improvement - North City Centre (Belgrave Gate, Abbey Park Road, Charter Street) <p>'Pinch Point', 'Missing Link' & 'Safer Cycling' including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement, signing & adoption of all NCN Routes - Missing Links (On & Off-road) Feasibility Study - Bike/Rail Integration Feasibility Study - R1111 Bike Route Feasibility Study - Public Bike Share Feasibility Study - Forest Way Cycle Route will be improved over 400m - 20 mph Zones 	<p>'Strategic Developments' potentially including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radial Corridor Improvements (Including London Road, St Augustine's & Saffron Lane) - A6 / A50 Stage 2 - North City Centre Access Improvements (Stage 2) - A5199 Welford Road - NCN6 (Bede to Abbey Park) - Hamilton Way Link - Public Bike Share - Rail Electrification Improvement Projects <p>Potential 'Pinch Point', 'Missing Link' & 'Safer Cycling';</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neighbourhood Railway Crossings Severance Project - Cycle hubs at all transport interchanges - 20mph Zones - R1111 Bike Route (Leicester to Bosworth) - Cycle Streets on all strategic neighbourhood routes - Advanced Stop Lines on traffic signal junctions
<p>Training opportunities by 2016;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scootability Training offer for 50% of Early Years pupils - Bikeability Cycle Training for 80% of Primary School pupils - Cycle training for 850 adults p.a - Mechanic training for 200+ young people & adults p.a - Social enterprise support for bike project partners - Open Ellesmere & New College 'Special Needs' Tracks 	<p>Training opportunities by 2024;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scootability Training offer for 100% Early Years pupils - Level III Bikeability Cycle Training on request - Cycle training for all adults on request - Mechanic training for 500+ young people & adults p.a - Social enterprise development programme - Ellesmere & New College 'Special Needs' Programmes

2016-2024 Engagement & Promotions

<p>Engagement initiatives to 2016;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly Cycling Forum (Chaired by the City Mayor) - Monthly Cycle-city Workshops - Public Health Active Travel Inequalities quarterly meetings - Delivery Project quarterly meetings - Establish a Community Bike Recycling Centre - Establish a Park & Opens Spaces Strategy Group - Establish a Bike Theft Prevention Strategy Group 	<p>Engagement initiatives to 2024;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An Annual 'Leicester Cycling Account' Action Plan - Regular Cycle-city Workshops/Seminar Programme - Citywide Public Health Active Travel Outreach Project - Delivery Project development plan - Community Bike Recycling Delivery Programme - Facilitate a Parks & Opens Spaces Development Plan - Deliver a Bike Theft Prevention Strategic Plan
<p>The Ride Leicester initiatives to 2016;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CURVE Schools Ride for 500+ pupils - Led-rides for 1,000+ participants p.a - £300 Bike Challenges for 20 projects p.a - Mobile Bike Parks for 20+ days p.a - Ride Leicester Festival for 25,000 participants including Leicester Castle Classic established as a national event for 80+ Elite level riders attracting a media audience of 500,000+ - Go-ride Youth races of 500+ - Sportive athletes of 500+ - Triathlon athletes of 500+ - Amateur Challenge riders of 500+ - Sky Ride 'Open Streets' family event for 15,000+ people - Neighbourhood Cycling Events in 8+ areas p.a - National Best Practice Seminars & Events - 	<p>The Ride Leicester Initiatives to 2024;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CURVE Schools Ride for 750+ pupils - Led-rides for 2,000+ participants p.a - £300 Bike Challenges for 40 projects p.a & grant project - Mobile Bike Parks for 20+ days p.a - Ride Leicester Festival for 25,000 participants including Leicester Castle Classic established as an international event for 80+ elite level riders attracting an international media audience - Go-ride Youth races & regional development programme - Sportive athletes of 1,000+ - Triathlon athletes of 1,000+ - Amateur Challenge riders of 1,000+ - Sky Ride 'Open Streets' family event for 20,000+ people - Neighbourhood Cycling Events in 16+ areas p.a - International Best Practice Seminars & Events

CITY MAYOR'S DELIVERY PLAN

Leicester City Council 2013-14



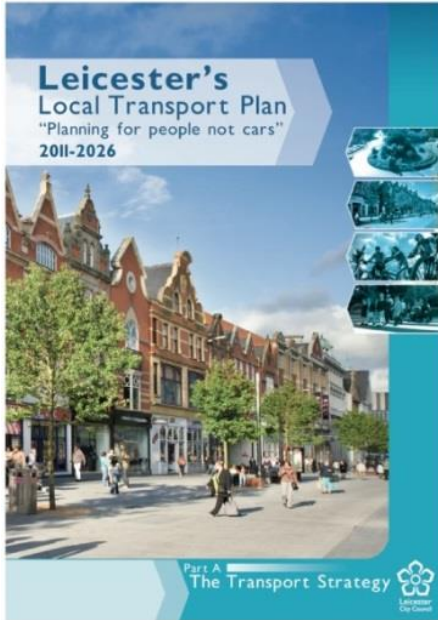
 City Mayor

Get Britain Cycling

Summary & Recommendations



Context



Leicester and Leicestershire



Strategic Economic Plan

2014 to 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Understanding Walking and Cycling

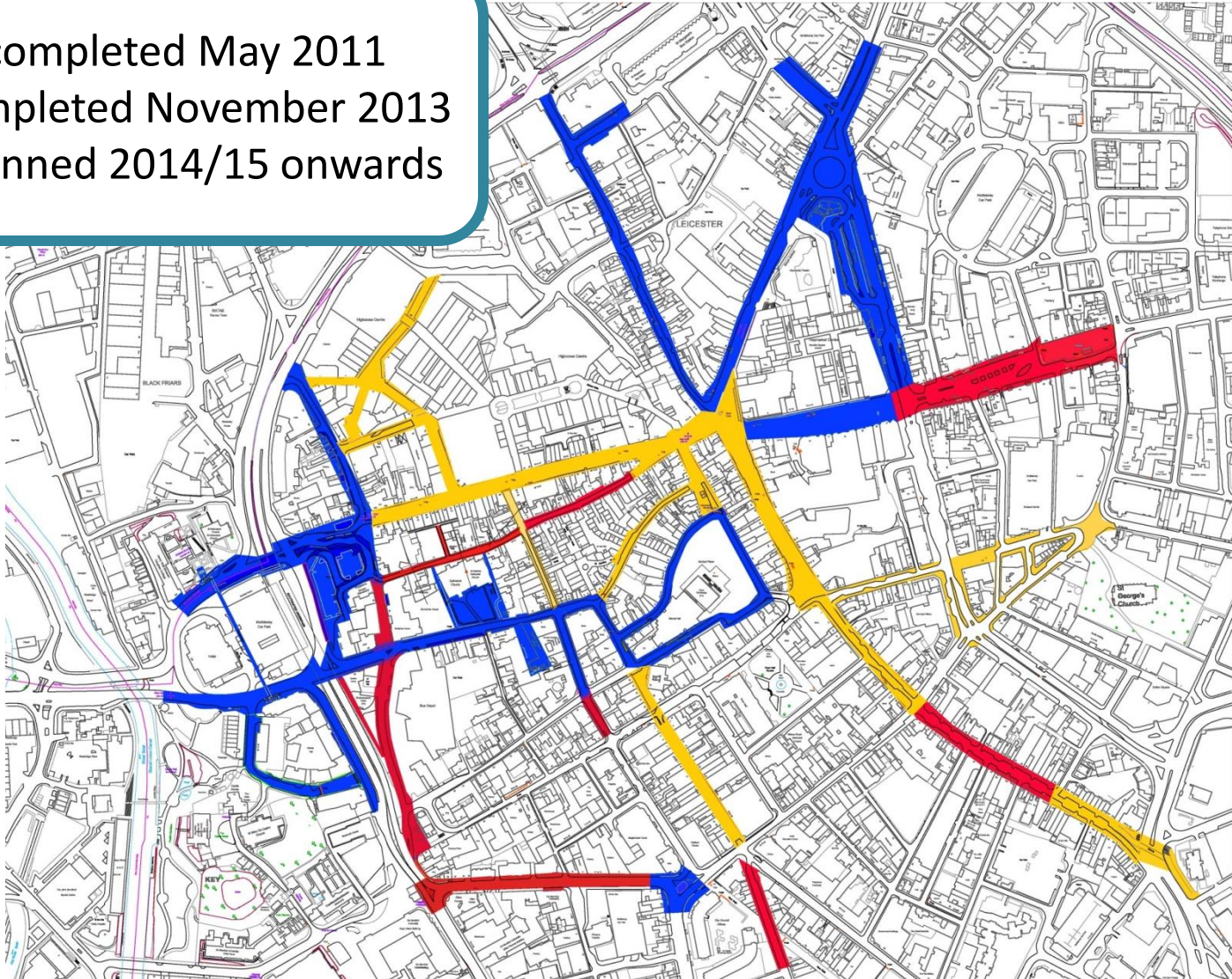


Summary of Key Findings and Recommendations



City Centre Projects

Yellow – completed May 2011
Red – completed November 2013
Blue – planned 2014/15 onwards



Cycling Map



Yellow – Existing Quiet Streets & Traffic Calmed Routes

Review to create a signed & lined Neighbourhoods Network

Contacts



**Leicester
Cycle City
Action Plan**

Contact :

Transport Strategy Section
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Schedule

- Stakeholder Engagement
- City Mayor's Briefing (28th May)
- Cycling Forum Launch (11th June)
- **Public Consultation (August to September)**
- Final Draft (October Forum)
- Adoption (November)
- Implementation (May 2015)