

NORTH AREA COMMITTEE CALL FOR PROJECTS

Applications for Bike Hire Scheme

Project Name

Organisation

The Roker Cycle Hub Sunderland Young Peoples Bike Project

Project Name	Organisation	Funding Requested
The Roker Cycle Hub	Sunderland Young Peoples Bike Project (SYPBP)	£50,000 Match £10,924 Total Cost of Project £60,924

The application proposes to develop a cycle Hub on the sea front in Roker. The Hub will provide cyclists in Sunderland a place to meet access information relating to cycling activities, offer guided routes and cycle training.

SIB funding will support the programme over two years from August 2015 to July 2017 which will be open 9.30am to 3.00pm 2 days per week total 150 days over the life of the project. This will ensure the project has sufficient time to become sustainable and self-sufficient for future development. The project will employ two qualified members of staff; their main responsibilities will be to ensure the smooth running of the cycle scheme service and maintain all cycles and equipment to a high standard, promote cycling activities and liaise with potential participants. They will also be responsible for providing Dr. Bike workshops and a general repair service.

The funding provided by SIB will be used to purchase electronic bikes and in addition SYPBP will provide a range of unisex cycles, trikes and Hase Pino Recumbants which are specialised bikes to ensure people of all abilities including those with special needs are able to participate in the scheme. The project will work in partnership with Headway Wearside who will provide cycling helmets to ensure the safety of young people participating in the programme. Marine Activities Centre have identified the old Angling Club as an ideal location in which to develop this scheme.

Cyclists will have the opportunity to hire a bike at a cost of £12 to £20 for a 4 hour period. Cost of hire will depend on the type of bike hired. Bikes will suit participant ability who can follow designated cycle routes along the coast leading to various locations. A programme will be developed which will also include a range of local bike rides to suit people of all abilities to develop or increase cycling activities, whether it's to learn a new skill, cycle with family, commute, save money or get fit. Cycling activities will encourage residents to try new experiences by developing and sustain an interest in a sporting leisure activity to improve health and fitness, develop an interest in the local environment and make new friends. Routes may encompass places of interest, local heritage sites or places to shop or access refreshments. To promote social inclusion to ensure all ages and abilities have access to the programme a range of bicycles will be provided including electric bikes which are easy to use and pedal, helping to build stamina gradually for those who need extra assistance as they work towards getting fitter. Existing cycle routes will be used as an alternative to congested busy roads and offer 1-1 lessons to teach people to ride a bike and work with adults/young people of all ages and abilities who are reluctant or feel unable to participate in cycling i.e. women/ethnic minorities/adults and young people with disabilities to increase confidence and skills to cycle safely.

The Hub will provide a valuable and empowering service for under privileged and marginalised groups of people whose lives will greatly improve by having access to affordable and sustainable transport by offering a bicycle recycling service. This will become an integral part of the Hub as residents can donate their old bikes for recycling and the Hub will sell them on as reconditioned bikes at a heavily discounted price. For those who do not have their own bicycle they will be given the opportunity to hire bikes on a

more long term basis, again at a reasonable affordable cost. This will help sustain the programme beyond the lifetime of SIB funding.

The project aims to make cycling accessible for all of the local community, offering bicycle repairs and servicing facilities and cycle based maintenance training programmes to encourage residents to repair their own bikes and cycle independently. This will provide an inclusive non-judgemental vibrant and supportive environment for volunteers and project users enabling residents to come together to build stronger bonds and develop a supporting network, preventing isolation by participating and contributing to community life.

Young people will be empowered to become involved in the planning, preparation and evaluation of all activities

Recommendation:

Approve subject to the following conditions:

- **The applicant is requested to revisit the bikes to be provided and include an element of family bikes**
- **Provide details on shorter hire periods, costs associated with this.**
- **Provide details of how will encourage those who would not cycle engage with this project**
- **The applicant becomes a member of the Cycle Development Group**
- **The applicant provides a revised programme of delivery which includes school summer holiday/summer season provision over a seven day a week period**
- **The applicant provides details on engagement with local businesses on Marine Walk and develops the opportunity for partnership delivery**
- **The applicant ensures partnership delivery with proposals for University Bike Scheme**