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## News release

Issued Friday 15 May 2009

# York is a safe city for cyclists

Cycling City York has welcomed the news that a national survey has rated York as one of the safest places to cycle in the UK.

The findings are reassuring for those who regularly cycle in York and it is hoped that they will also help to encourage those who have not cycled for some time to get back in the saddle.

Research carried out by the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC), the UK's national cyclists' organisation, found a direct correlation between higher levels of cycling and lower accident rates. This suggests that, the more bike-friendly the town or city, the safer it is for cyclists.

As a city where one in eight people cycle to work - the highest level in the UK - York has the lowest number of cyclists badly injured in accidents each year, at just 0.1 per cent. At the other end of the scale, in Calderdale in West Yorkshire fewer than one in 120 people commute to work by bicycle and those who do are 15 times more likely to be injured than those cycling in York.

Accident statistics from other European countries with high cycling rates support the theory that there is safety in numbers for cyclists.

Cycling City York's programme manager, Graham Titchener, said: "We know from research that we have conducted here in York that a perception that cycling is dangerous is a barrier that deters people from getting on their bikes. The news that York has been independently recognised as a safe and friendly city for cyclists is a real boost to our efforts to increase the number of people cycling.

"It's interesting to note that the cities with the highest levels of cycling had the lowest number of cyclists injured each year. The findings show that, the more people cycle, the more aware of cyclists other road users become, but it's also due to the fact that we have much better infrastructure and facilities for cyclists than many other cities. This is something that we're keen to develop further and more than 9,000 residents responded to a recent survey telling us what improvements they would like to see in the future. We are currently investing in an extensive programme of work aimed at filling in missing links in the cycle route network and ensuring that cyclists in York are generally well catered for."

"The main message from this research is extremely reassuring for those who want to give cycling a try, and there is plenty of training available locally to boost people's confidence if they haven't cycled for a while or are nervous about cycling in traffic."

To see the findings of the CTC survey in full visit -

[www.ctc.org.uk/resources/Campaigns/CTC\\_Safety\\_in\\_Numbers.pdf](http://www.ctc.org.uk/resources/Campaigns/CTC_Safety_in_Numbers.pdf)

For more information on Cycling City York, visit [www.york.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.york.gov.uk/cycling)

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**Notes to editors:**

- Cycling City York is a community-led partnership project that will see £3.68 million in government funding used to improve and develop facilities for cyclists, and get more people cycling, over the next two and a half years. Partners include City of York Council, North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust, major employers, education establishments, cycle campaign groups and cycle retailer
- York is one of 12 locations in the UK to have been awarded Cycling Town or City status in 2008 and fought off competition from 74 other local authorities to win government funding. York joins the existing six Cycling 'demonstration towns', which also include Darlington and Derby.
- Collision figures released by the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions however show that a cycling death in Britain occurs less than once every 18 million cycling miles. A serious injury occurs less than once every 900,000 cycling miles. Doctors and government health experts have concluded that the benefits of cycling outweigh the risk of injury.