



CATHERINE WEST MP

Member of Parliament for Hornsey and Wood Green

Ms Zina Etheridge
Chief Executive
Haringey Council Chief Executive
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London
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18 May 2020
Our Ref: ZA8186

Dear Zina,

Emergency Transport Action Plan

Thank you for our helpful catch up on Friday. As discussed, I am keen to see Haringey implement an Emergency Transport Action Plan to ensure that our constituents are able to travel to work safely.

Without rapid action, we risk Haringey residents, most of whom do not have access to a car, having to choose to make their journeys by a potentially crowded public transport system running at a fraction of its usual capacity, turning to car use which will lead to gridlocked, polluted streets, or having to brave those newly-gridlocked streets on foot or bike. This situation is particularly acute in Haringey, where 65% of the people who normally travel to work do so by public transport, the 3rd highest of all local authorities in the country.

Transport for London (TfL) has said its modelling suggests there could be a tenfold increase in distances cycled, and up to five times the amount of walking compared with pre-coronavirus levels, if travel demand returned. The Mayor and TfL said they would work with boroughs to focus on three areas:

- The “rapid construction” of a strategic cycling network, using temporary materials, with new routes, aimed at reducing crowding on public transport.
- A “complete transformation” of local town centres so that people can walk and cycle where possible, including widening footways on high streets so that people can safely queue outside shops.
- Reducing traffic on residential streets and creating “low-traffic neighbourhoods”.

I understand officers are preparing bids to TfL for funding to deliver projects meeting the criteria above, which is welcome. I also note the following in new statutory guidance issued by the Department for Transport on 9 May: *“Local authorities in areas with high levels of public transport use should take measures to reallocate road space to people walking and cycling... Measures should be taken as swiftly as possible, and in any event within weeks, given the urgent need to change travel habits before the restart takes full effect.”* I would support officers looking to implement a suite of

low-cost measures to enable walking and cycling immediately. I am aware that pavement widening has occurred in key locations, but in order to safeguard walking and cycling journeys and give residents a real alternative to public transport we need to see an unprecedented level of action on our streets without delay.

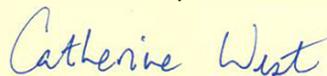
I also urge officers to work closely with stakeholders including Haringey Cycling Campaign and Living Streets who can draw on their membership to help with identifying and planning these provisions. We believe that the support of stakeholders is crucial to the success of these initiatives. Similarly, Haringey's support for projects that repair and sell second hand low-cost bicycles. I'm pleased to see Rockstone Cycling Hub in Lordship Rec can help constituents to gain clean, cheap independent transport at a time when they have probably never needed it more.

We have seen during this crisis that fewer cars on our roads can make active travel a real option for many more people. We urgently need to safeguard these conditions on our roads, with rapid action from Haringey to reduce traffic in residential areas and provide safe space to walk and cycle on main roads. The arguments for active travel infrastructure are strong, enabling people to exercise as part of their daily routine is an effective way to reduce rates of various chronic diseases including obesity and reduce strain on the NHS, as well as obvious benefits for air quality and carbon emissions. Emerging links between higher levels of air pollution and deaths from Covid-19 in England make the need for more walking and cycling and less driving a genuine matter of life and death for our constituents.

Sadiq Khan has just launched his very ambitious Streetscape Plan with plans to substantially increase cycling levels, and said: "London's road to recovery cannot be clogged with cars".

Please could Haringey send me a list of schemes for quick implementation in Hornsey and Wood Green as soon as it's available as constituents are very keen to see walking and cycling facilitated as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine West
Member of Parliament for Hornsey & Wood Green