



28 April 2020

Dear Councillor

I hope this letter finds you well at this difficult time. My condolences and thoughts are with you if you are one of the many people directly impacted by Covid-19.

The effect of Covid-19 on society has turned our daily lives and routines upside down. Many are taking the opportunity to (re) discover simple pleasures, from family time, home cooking, or community spirit, to the joys of walking, running & cycling. Data is beginning to show how nature is recovering and air quality is improving.

Reflecting on how we can shape our mobility choices in a post-Covid19 society, I believe that this time can act as a catalyst for both improving where we live and our quality of life. Importantly, we are also afforded the opportunity for ensuring that there is a positive and enduring legacy to this crisis.

In common with many other towns and cities in the UK, I recommend that across Moray, Aberdeenshire & Aberdeen City that space for physical distancing is urgently put in place including:

- Creating temporary segregated walking, running & cycle lanes to allow people to safely move about where they live
- Implementing 20mph speed limits in towns across all parts of Grampian before the return of normal traffic levels
- Enhancing safety around schools through implementing “no drop off “and “parking free” zones around our schools to enable the maintenance of regular physical activity that has become a feature of so many families’ lives during this period.
- Exploring opportunities for banning parking on pavements and in cycle lanes
- Encouraging those making an essential journey to choose an active travel method through appropriate public information channels

At Grampian Cycle Partnership, we wish to be part of the solution and have a positive impact on the quality of life of all people who live in Grampian. We have committed partners who want to help in the delivery of these initiatives and I would encourage anybody who wishes to be involved to sign up

as a partner, get involved on social media, and send us examples of where you would want segregated space for social distancing in your part of Grampian.

We can all play our part in making Grampian a better place to live. I invite Local Authorities to engage with us and allow us to help ensure that the positive changes many have made in their daily levels of physical activity are not lost and to help shape a society where we place individuals at the centre in all that we do.

On the back of the announcement by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity earlier today, it is only right that the people of the North East receive a fair share of those funds. All at Grampian Cycle Partnership look forward to helping you deliver what is collectively determined as the best infrastructure we can deliver in the places where it is most needed.

Stay safe.

Tom Collier
Chair
Grampian Cycle Partnership