

Councillor Robert Taylor – Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy

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Cllr Robert Taylor

24th January 2025

Cllr Taiba Yasseen

Elected Member

Via email: taiba.yasseen@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Yasseen,

Question to Council – Wednesday 15th January 2025

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 15th January 2025. I have set out the question and my response below.

Who decided the new and existing cycling routes?

Our priorities for improving routes for cycling are set out in the Rotherham Cycling Strategy approved by Cabinet in January 2022. Individual schemes are then subsequently entered in the Capital Programme when funding becomes available, usually following a successful bidding process for external grant funding, which of course also comes through the MCA's formal decision-making processes.

However, it is important to remember that, unless there are specific local restrictions, all public highways are considered as cycle routes in the same way they are routes for car drivers, pedestrians, and others, as cyclists have a right of way over them.

To reinforce that message, the Department for Transport has recently indicated that funding for all transport projects will require sufficient consideration of cyclists in the proposed design.

We as elected members are part of the decision making process we make personal and political choices, such as the one we both supported in the Labour Group's 2021 manifesto, which gave the specific commitment to build a route from Meadowhall to Broom. That manifesto also said that we would consult on a new cycling strategy for the borough.

Both the consultation draft and the resulting strategy approved in January 2022 included a route between Rotherham to Eastwood & East Dene. The online consultation for the Fitzwilliam Road / Eastwood scheme closed in November and we are presently analysing the responses and understanding how the scheme can respond to the feedback received – we intend to provide an update in the spring and we are continuing to engage with the community in the meantime.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Robert Taylor
Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy