Your name

Your address 1

Your address 2

Your email

Date

Prospective Councillor Name

Prospective Councillor Address

Dear XXXXXXXX,

[Optional personal story, e.g. : “Earlier today I jumped on my bike to cycle into town. Halfway there, as I was indicating to turn right across Magdalen road and into Denmark road, I was aggressively overtaken by a car – had I turned across the road a split second earlier the car would have driven straight into me. Unfortunately, as a cyclist in Exeter, it is a daily experience to have near misses like the one I had earlier today and I dream of an Exeter where it is safe and fun to cycle for everybody.”]

With the Devon County Council elections approaching, I am writing to ask if you will commit to supporting high quality cycling provision in Exeter.

Cycling has the potential to make Exeter better in so many ways – more prosperous, healthier, less polluted and less congested. The UK Government estimates that for every £1 invested in cycling, £5.50 is returned in social benefit, and people who cycle regularly have the fitness of someone 10 years younger. With the population living and working in Exeter continuing to increase, cycling is the transport sector with the most potential for growth.

Cycle Devon and other initiatives do a great job of encouraging people to cycle. However, survey after survey has shown that people’s number one concern about cycling is safety: to get more people cycling more often we need a well-connected network of dedicated routes that make people confident to cycle. We need to **enable** cycling as well as **encouraging** it.

There is wide support for high quality cycling provision in Exeter. The Exeter Cycling Charter has been signed by over 180 businesses, including many of Exeter’s largest employers. They share my vision of a city where our roads and public spaces prioritise people and where cycling is the natural choice for a large proportion of everyday journeys. Exeter Cycling Campaign is asking our leaders to **plan, invest and build** a dense network of convenient and connected cycle paths. You can read about what this could mean in practice in Cycling UK’s [Guide for Decision Makers](http://www.cyclinguk.org/sites/default/files/space_for_cycling_guide_for_decision_makers.pdf)1.

A good cycling network in Exeter would benefit everyone who travels here – not just residents but also commuters, shoppers and other visitors from elsewhere in Devon. It would connect Exeter to Devon’s excellent leisure routes, encouraging Exeter residents to take car-free days out and tourists to visit the city.

If elected as my councillor, will you push for cycling in Exeter to be given the attention and investment it deserves?

I look forward to hearing from you, and I would be very happy to meet and discuss these ideas.

Kind regards