

Starting up

- Do many people cycle in the area where you live?
- Are there special lanes or paths just for bicycles?
- What are the benefits of cycling? What are the disadvantages?

Vocabulary 1 – planning cities for cycling

Match the terms (1-10) with the explanations (a-j). Use your dictionary if necessary.

Pedestrian and cycling infrastructure

- 1 cycling and walking routes
- 2 segregated paths
- 3 cycle and walking corridors

Problems connected with cars

- 4 air pollution
- 5 obesity
- 6 congestion

Roads and markings

- 7 zebra crossing
- 8 zigzag markings
- 9 Belisha Beacon
- 10 junction

- a cycling and walking routes through the city where cyclists and pedestrians don't meet much traffic – sometimes built on old railway lines
- b roads or paths that are designed to include bikes and pedestrians
- c bad air quality
- d cycle roads that are completely separate from car roads
- e too much traffic
- f people being too fat
- g lines at the side of the road to warn drivers of a crossing
- h lines on the road that show where people can cross safely
- i a place where two roads meet, or a path crosses a road
- j a bright yellow light that marks a road crossing

Reading 1

Now read the article. Which two statements are true, according to the writer?

- Manchester plans to close several roads in the city centre to car traffic.
- The construction of the project will be complete by the end of this year.
- One goal of the project is to make Manchester a better city to live in.
- The plan also includes making some vehicles pay for the pollution they produce.

Vocabulary 2 – vocabulary in context

Choose the correct definition below for each of the numbered words and phrases in bold in the article.

- 1 increase / decrease by three times
- 2 governments / areas
- 3 plan for money / time
- 4 moved / improved
- 5 cancelled / happening
- 6 government / police
- 7 in a lot of ways / causing a lot of problems
- 8 changed / presented

Reading 2

Choose the best answer to each question.

- 1 Compared to London, how much will Manchester spend on cycling and pedestrian infrastructure?
 - a) more
 - b) a bit less
 - c) about a third
- 2 Which country spends the most on cyclists?
 - a) The Netherlands
 - b) Denmark
 - c) The UK
- 3 What will happen in 2022?
 - a) public consultations
 - b) planning permission meetings
 - c) the beginning of the actual work

- 4 What construction is planned for Stockport?
- a) a bus station
 - b) a railway station
 - c) a segregated cycle path
- 5 What do the people of Manchester want to reduce?
- a) the cost of public transport
 - b) car journeys
 - c) bicycle accidents
- 6 What does Chris Boardman believe may be unnecessary at road crossings?
- a) zigzag markings
 - b) zebra crossings
 - c) Belisha Beacons
- 7 What does Andy Burnham was to charge vehicles for?
- a) causing pollution
 - b) not stopping at crossings
 - c) dangerous driving

Manchester triples spending on cycling to tackle air pollution

Greater Manchester is to ¹**triple** spending on cycling and pedestrian infrastructure to £205m, including building 14 miles of Dutch-style cycle lanes that are protected from motor traffic.

The Bee Network will see the northern city almost match London levels of spending on cycling and walking as it seeks to cut air pollution and obesity levels.

The plans, drawn up by Olympic medallist Chris Boardman, Greater Manchester's cycling commissioner, are expected to be approved by the leaders of the area's 10 ²**boroughs** next week.

The ³**budget** is an increase of £137m from the £68m already allocated from existing government and council spending. It represents about £18 per head per year. London spends £17 per head on cycling alone, as does Denmark, while the Netherlands commits £24 a head.

The network includes 70 miles of new cycling and walking routes across the city, with 14 miles of the Dutch-style lanes. There are 42 separate projects; 319 new and ⁴**upgraded** crossings and junctions will make safer for cyclists and pedestrians to cross.

Work will begin after planning permission has been obtained and public consultations conducted. Officials said they hoped all the construction will be ⁵**under way** by 2022.

The most popular route is likely to be a £11.6m segregated path between Manchester Piccadilly and Victoria stations in the city centre. There will also be a 100 metre high cycling and walking bridge linking Stockport railway station with a proposed new bus station. Some £10.7m will go on a cycle and walking corridor in Rochdale and £14.6m to make streets around Leigh more cycle friendly.

Some £115m of the money will come from the government's Transforming Cities Fund for local transport improvements. Greater Manchester was awarded £160m of the £1.7bn.

The rest will come from local ⁶**authority** contributions.

Andy Burnham, mayor of Greater Manchester, said: "We're just at the start of a process that will see us eventually compete with some of the world's best and most liveable cities like Vancouver, Copenhagen and New York City.

"Greater Manchester's people, along with the 10 districts, have made it pretty clear that enabling more local journeys to happen without cars as part of a wider public transport offer is what is required to support the city-region ⁷**on so many fronts** — congestion, air quality, creating healthier and more connected communities."

Mr Boardman said the city also wanted the government to consult on a law change. In the UK zebra crossing-style markings are only permitted if Belisha Beacon lights and zigzag markings are also incorporated and can cost about £30,000. This high cost means they are rarely used on side roads, unlike on the continent.

He said: "The majority of European cities use zebra crossings at side roads to give a clear and simple message to drivers that they must give way to people travelling on foot." They would cost about £500.

The UK spends about £6.50 per head on cycling. The Labour party has promised to increase it to £10 if elected.

Mr Burnham has already ⁸**unveiled** plans to charge the most polluting taxis, buses, lorries and other commercial vehicles to cut air pollution, which is at illegal levels.



Grammar – will, going to

Complete the sentences with *will* or *going to* and the verbs in brackets.

- 1 We are (build) a new system of bike paths.
- 2 The project (involve) a lot of organisation and planning.
- 3 I (send) you an email straight after the meeting.
- 4 The mayor has arrived. He (inspect) the new bridge.
- 5 I (help) you with the design if you like.
- 6 The council (discuss) the plans tomorrow.
- 7 The construction (start) next month.
- 8 The team (need) to meet with local residents.

Further discussion

Andy Burnham, mayor of Greater Manchester, said that he wants his city to be “liveable” like Vancouver, Copenhagen and New York City.

What do you think he means? What makes a city liveable?

Group work

Work together to answer these questions.

- 1 Manchester is encouraging cycling and walking, and charging vehicles that pollute.
What other things can a city do to improve the environment?
- 2 How liveable do you think your own town or city is? Explain your answer.
- 3 What would you add to or take away from your own city to make it more liveable?

ANSWER KEY

Starting up

Possible answers:

Advantages: reduces pollution and traffic, increases health

Disadvantages: unpleasant in bad weather, can be dangerous

Vocabulary 1

1 b	6 e
2 d	7 h
3 a	8 g
4 c	9 j
5 f	10 i

Reading 1

One goal of the project is to make Manchester a better city to live in.

The plan also includes making some vehicles pay for the pollution they produce.

Vocabulary 2

1 increase	5 happening
2 areas	6 government
3 plan for money	7 in a lot of ways
4 improved	8 presented

Reading 2

1 b	5 b
2 a	6 c
3 c	7 a
4 a	

Grammar

1 going to build	5 will help
2 will involve	6 is going to discuss
3 will send	7 is going to start
4 is going to inspect	8 will need

Further discussion (possible answers)

Quiet spaces such as parks, streets that aren't too noisy or crowded with traffic, good places to do sport or recreation, lots of options to enjoy the arts

Group work (possible answers)

- 1 Plant trees, create green spaces, limit or completely stop traffic on some roads, improve local tram systems and make public transport cheap or free, and easy to use.
- 2 Students' own answers
- 3 Students' own answers

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