

PRESS RELEASE

Monday 9 June 2025

## **Cyclox welcomes Oxfordshire County Council's congestion relief proposals**

On Monday 9 June Oxfordshire County Council published proposals for tackling congestion in Oxford in order to improve the city's bus services. Cyclox welcomes OCC's plans to bring forward relief measures to tackle Oxford's long-standing congestion problem.

The May local elections delivered a Council with a clear mandate to tackle decades of car-dependency in the city and expand the transport options available to the city's residents.

Oxford's congestion has reached crisis point. It's not uncommon for primary school teachers to have a drawer full of inhalers - that's how traffic fumes are affecting our children. Remember Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah? she was just 9 and lived near London's South Circular. In 2019 she died of an asthma attack and became the first person to have air pollution listed as a cause of death. We don't want to see that repeated in Oxford.

It is also a daily problem for any resident trying to get around the city - bus passengers, cyclists, pedestrians, and those whose lives and livelihoods depend upon driving.

We can't leave things as they are; if nothing is done the city will grind to a halt under the weight of car traffic. We cannot build more roads to magic congestion away. The problem cannot wait until the traffic filters go in in late 2026. We need to find ways to encourage greater use of buses and active travel now.

Measures are urgently needed to improve bus services in Oxford and Cyclox will support congestion relief proposals that do this. Many cyclists also travel by bus, and everyone on a bus is one less person driving a car. If we reduce levels of road traffic in the city, we can also create conditions to safe and inclusive cycling by redesigning dangerous junctions and reallocating space for dedicated cycle lanes.

Cyclox Chair, Ian Loader said: "The Council must be bold and make the city safe for cyclists, bus users and pedestrians, and that means reducing levels of road traffic."

"Cyclox will study the proposals put forward by the Council and work closely with them to ensure that a congestion relief scheme not only improves bus services but also encourages active and sustainable travel. It is vital that any funds raised by the scheme are used wholly to support improved public transport and better cycling infrastructure."

ENDS

**Notes for editors:**

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Ian Loader, chair of Cyclox, is available for interview on 07793 755415