



ACTIVE TRAVEL POLICY AMBITIONS VERSUS DELIVERY REALITIES

Public Health information Network for Scotland 11 September
2015

LIVING STREETS SCOTLAND

Part of the UK charity for everyday walking



VISION

A walking nation where all generations walk on streets that are fit for walking by:

- Tackling the decline in walking;
- Making walking the natural choice;
- Helping people enjoy and benefit from the simple act of walking;
- Creating changes, big and small, to make streets fit for walking.



WALKING INITIATIVES

Delivering results

- Our Walk to School project instills good habits that can last a lifetime.
- Our community street audits identify changes that are often easy to put right and will get people walking.
- Our expertise helps put walking at the heart of public policy from a national to a local level



INTRODUCTION

Delivery vs Reality

- The case for active travel is well understood and unanswerable - but this isn't enough!
- There is a robust national policy framework that acknowledges and reflects this reality
- We aren't consistently delivering changes at a local level which reflect our policy ambitions
- **What needs to change?**



DELIVERING CHANGE



Radical
riparian
policy
intervention
400 years
in the
making



REVERSING 50 YEARS INACTIVITY ON WALKING

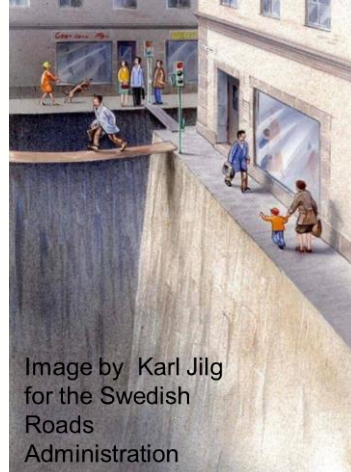


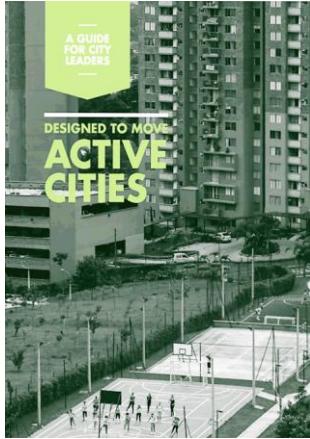
Image by Karl Jilg
for the Swedish
Roads
Administration

ACTIVE TRAVEL

The case for action



MOVEMENT 4 HEALTHY CITIES



ACTIVE TRAVEL POLICY & STRATEGY



IS SCOTLAND BRAVE OR IS ENGLAND A BIT SILLY?



BETTER BY DESIGN

Designing Streets



PLANNING & PLACE MAKING



Place Standard Tool



A tool to assist communities and professionals to assess the quality of places



SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY

“The planning system should support patterns of development which provide:

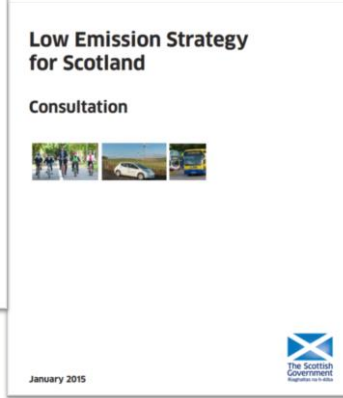
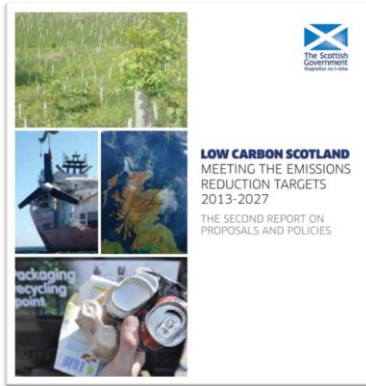
- *Safe and convenient opportunities for walking and cycling for both active travel and*
- *For recreation, and facilitate travel by public transport”*



REGENERATING TOWN CENTRES



AIR QUALITY & CLIMATE CHANGE



BEHAVIOUR CHANGE



DOING EVERYTHING FAIRLY

“Scottish public authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.”

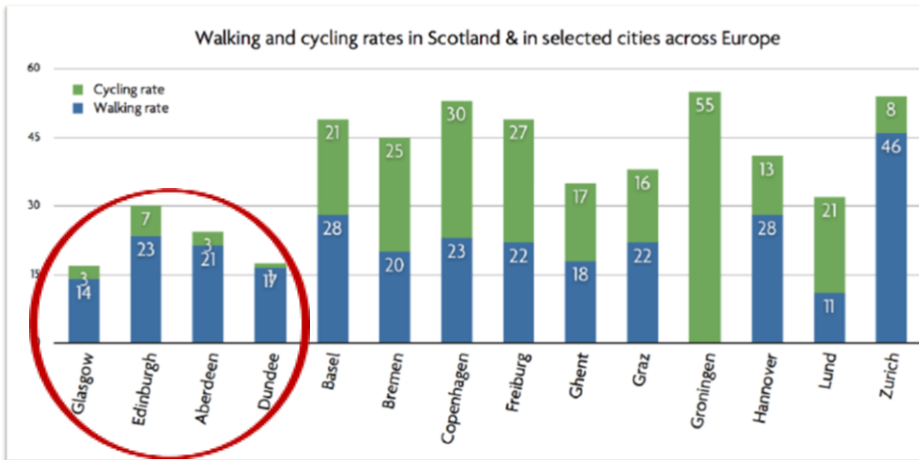


THE REALITIES

Are our policies working on the ground?



ARE WE THERE YET?



INVESTING FOR SUCCESS?

66% OF THE PUBLIC WOULD WALK MORE IF STREETS WERE BETTER MAINTAINED

LIVING STREETS & PATHS FOR ALL, WALKING AND PUBLIC SPACE OPINION SURVEY 2009

20% FALL IN LA MAINTENANCE BUDGETS 2009-13 (£19.5M TO £15M)

LIVING STREETS SCOTLAND FOI SURVEY 2014



COSTS AND BENEFITS

Share of highway maintenance budgets for walking

EDINBURGH: 31.9%

(HIGH WALKING LEVELS)

ABERDEEN: 19.1%

GLASGOW: 9.2%

(LOW WALKING LEVELS)

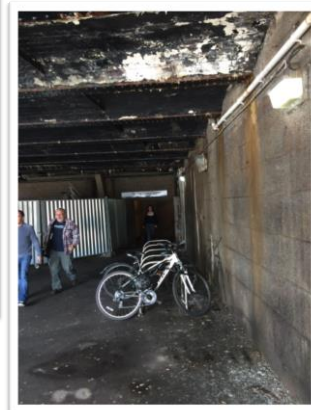
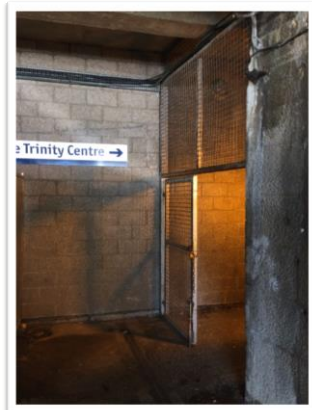
COINCIDENCE??



LIVING
STREETS

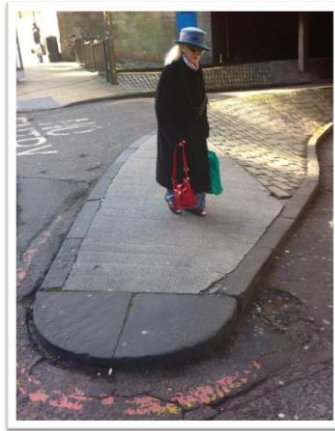
WALKING FEELS SAFE?

Welcome to Aberdeen



LIVING
STREETS

WAITING FOR A BIG CHANGE



SAFER SPEEDS- SLOW PROGRESS?



SOME LOCAL DIFFICULTIES



WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE



Individual, Social and Material Issues



INDIVIDUAL

Influencing beliefs and values

People need to value the freedom and practicality that walking brings for them and their families

Myths about the freedom and practicality of the car need to be challenged

Professionals believe in vibrant places and footfall - not traffic flow



SOCIAL

Walking is normal again

Walking to school is perceived as safe and parents can build it into routines

Levels of walking are seen as the measure of whether our towns and cities are healthy

Communities are working together to drive change at a neighbourhood level owning and using policy to promote change



MATERIAL

Our environment encourages & supports walking

We need some big changes in our city centres to make room for active travel through bolder interpretation of policy

But more importantly we need lots of small improvements to basic infrastructure at a neighbourhood level

Resources should match ambitions and priorities recognising active travel delivers multiple benefits



CONCLUSIONS

Beyond policy

1. We have all the evidence and policies we need at a national level
2. We know what success looks like but we need to be brave enough to let communities implement solutions at a local level
3. **Implementation will be a messy, disruptive but transformative process**



NOT SCOTLAND

But Could Be



Thank you for listening
Stuart Hay, Director Living Streets Scotland



Stuart.hay@livingstreets.org.uk
Tel. 0131 243 2646
[@LStreetsScot](https://twitter.com/LStreetsScot)

