

Press Release

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£15 million government investment to transform community cycling facilities one year out from UK's biggest sporting event of the year

- Yorkshire 2019 UCI Road World Championships to create lasting legacy for cycling in the UK

A £15 million funding injection to be channelled directly in to local community cycling facilities has been confirmed by UK Government, delivered through Sport England, as part of the staging of the 2019 UCI Road World Championships in Yorkshire.

With one year to go until the nine-day event, the investment will provide a lasting legacy for the Championships by providing local, traffic-free facilities across the country where people can cycle confidently and safely.

The government investment delivered through Sport England is forming a large-scale funding programme set to build new, multi-use facilities built around the country, to engage with a broad spectrum of cyclists – including those learning to ride and young people. There will also be a small grants fund.

The right to host the competition followed a successful bid by British Cycling, UK Sport and Welcome to Yorkshire which pledged to use this once in a generation opportunity to help transform Britain into a great cycling nation.

Sport England and British Cycling will work in partnership to deliver the legacy programme which will be open to applications from late November.

To mark the occasion, 2014 Commonwealth Games road race bronze medallist, Scott Thwaites, 28, visited Leeds Urban Bike Park to meet children from the local community and to witness the benefits of a similar facility to that which will be built with the legacy funding.



The Dimension Data rider said: "I'm a proud Yorkshireman, so having venues such as Leeds Urban Bike Park open up in the region and do so well is fantastic.

"People of all ages and backgrounds up and down the country are making the most of facilities like this, and I imagine that will continue for many years to come – with races like the UCI Road World Championships on home soil, it will be hard not to be inspired to get on your bike."

Tracey Crouch, Minister for Sport and Civil Society, said: "Next year Yorkshire will welcome the best cyclists in the world for the UCI Road World Championships. Yorkshire has a proud cycling pedigree and hosting this prestigious event will be fantastic for the county and the whole of the UK.

"I want these championships to leave a lasting legacy for cycling in this country. Our £15 million investment in cycling facilities across the UK will further boost the sport at the grassroots and encourage more people to take part and get active.

"As a nation we have a great history in staging some of the biggest events in sport. I know Yorkshire will put on a brilliant Championships that raises the profile of road cycling and showcases the best of the county to the world."

Martin Merryweather, Strategy Director of British Cycling, said: "It's crucial that next year's UCI Road World Championships capture the hearts and minds of people across the country and have a lasting impact on people, no matter where they live.

"Transforming Britain into a great cycling nation is at the absolute core of our mission and funding for facilities like this is paramount to ensuring we fulfil this aim.

"With just a year to go until we welcome some of the biggest names in our sport to the Yorkshire roads we are incredibly excited to witness the transformational effect this race and these facilities will have on communities across Britain."

Charles Johnston, Sport England Director of Property said: "Cycling is one of the most popular activities for people in England, but what stops many from getting on bikes is a lack of access to traffic-free or easy-terrain routes.



“Sport England is proud to be delivering, in partnership with British Cycling, the single biggest government investment into community cycling facilities the country has seen in recent years. The investment will provide more facilities such as tracks and bike centres, where people can ride confidently and safely as well as access to essential equipment they need to have a go.

He continued: “The investment will ensure that anyone inspired to cycle after watching the 2019 UCI Road World Championships will have safe and accessible opportunities to do so in their local area.”

Leader of Leeds City Council Councillor Judith Blake said: “We are thrilled to be again welcoming the world’s best cyclists to Leeds next year as a host city for the 2019 UCI Road World Championships, which promises to be another amazing event evoking memories of the unforgettable scenes we experienced with the Tour de France Grand Départ in 2014.

“Hosting that event was incredibly important for Leeds and Yorkshire, with the legacy of interest, investment and participation in cycling helping us create facilities like the amazing Leeds Urban Bike Park in Middleton Park, which has now been nominated for Best Trail Centre in the UK by Singletrack Magazine. The additional legacy funding from hosting the world championships next year promises to take this on to another level, encouraging even more people to get out on their bikes.”

The international event will run from 22-29th September 2019 with Harrogate named as the main competition town to host the finish of every race. Seven town and cities across Yorkshire including Bradford, Leeds and Doncaster have already been selected as host locations. The full route announcement was revealed yesterday evening (26 September) during a handover ceremony at the 2018 UCI Road World Championships in Innsbruck, Austria.

For more information about the legacy of the championships and how to get into cycling, please visit www.britishcycling.org.uk

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About British Cycling

British Cycling is the national governing body for cycling as recognised by the UCI – the international federation for the sport. Based in Manchester at the National Cycling Centre, British Cycling works across all levels and six disciplines of the sport (BMX, Mountain Bike, Cyclo-cross, Road, Track and Cycle Speedway), from providing the support and encouragement people need to get riding their bikes for the first time, to being home to the hugely successful Great Britain Cycling Team. Continued success at the highest level is inspiring a boom in participation across the nation. There have never been more opportunities to ride a bike, be it for fun or sport, and British Cycling is at the heart of this growth. British Cycling also works hard to represent cyclists' interests at all levels, including campaigning on important issues including road safety. As a membership organisation, British Cycling provides a suite of benefits and support to its members who currently number over 137,000. All membership revenue is invested back into cycling.

For more information, visit www.britishcycling.org.uk

About Sport England

Sport England is a public body and invests up to £300 million National Lottery and government money each year in projects and programmes that help people get active and play sport.

It wants everyone in England, regardless of age, background, or level of ability, to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. That's why a lot of its work is specifically focused on helping people who do



no, or very little, physical activity and groups who are typically less active - like women, disabled people and people on lower incomes.