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**Press release:**

**Fears for future of cycling investment as Cycling England on leaked axe list**

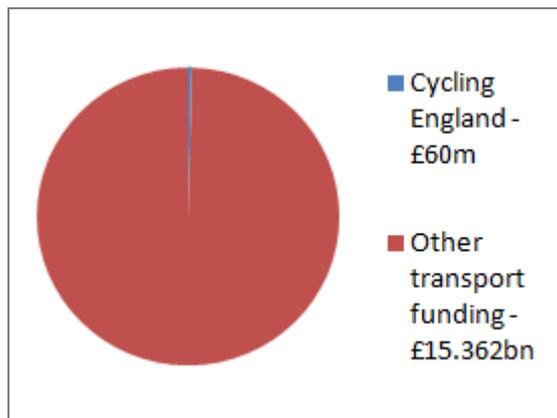
Cambridge Cycling Campaign has stepped up its concerns about the future of investment in the most efficient form of transport: cycling, as Cycling England appeared today on a leaked list of quangos set to be axed by the government.

This leaked list effectively confirms the rumours circulating a few weeks ago which led to the publishing of an Open Letter by Cambridge Cycling Campaign, at [www.SaveCyclingEngland.org](http://www.SaveCyclingEngland.org).

Martin Lucas-Smith, Co-ordinator of Cambridge Cycling Campaign said:

*“Cycling England isn’t a quango in the sense that most people imagine. It’s a body with only three employees, with no office of its own, and a relatively tiny budget of £60m per year which gets pushed out to local councils around England*

*Compared to the overall UK transport budget of over £15 billion, this cycling money is a very small amount that will make virtually no difference to cutting the country’s deficit. Instead, it will result in a less healthy population and more traffic that will increase costs.”*



Campaigner Jim Chisholm added:

*We were glad to read in today’s Cambridge News that Andrew Lansley, South Cambs MP and the Secretary of State for Health, is encouraging walking. But will he listen to his constituents like me and support cycling too, by talking to his transport colleagues Philip Hammond MP and Norman Baker MP, to point out the benefits of cycling and the high returns investment in cycling gives? Health strategy will not be helped by killing off cycle training for children around England.*

Most worrying is the potential axing of the Bikeability cycle training scheme. Around the country this scheme has resulted in a huge increase in children learning safe cycling, run in real street conditions. Safer cycling by children means safer driving when they grow up. This scheme costs only £15m yet provides training for over 300,000 children per year.

Cambridge Cycling Campaign is urging people to take two actions. In both cases, people can go to [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) to write a personal message easily.

Firstly, we encourage people to write to their MP, particularly Mr Lansley's constituents, asking that cycling money – especially for cycle training, continue to be ring-fenced. Our website [www.SaveCyclingEngland.org](http://www.SaveCyclingEngland.org) gives the facts.

Secondly, we encourage people to contact their local Councillors to ask (a) that Cambridgeshire County Council pledges to ensure that child cycle training continues to run (to nationally-approved standards) and (b) that both the County and City Council will ensure that at least one dedicated cycling officer is retained in each Local Authority when the cuts bite locally. It would be unacceptable for no dedicated resources to be invested in the form of transport used every day by a quarter of the Cambridge population.

Other cycling groups are also weighing in. Will Bramhill, Chairman of the Colchester Cycling Campaign, said:

*“The Cycling England money has put some towns in England on a par with the Netherlands on spending on cycling – for the first time. However, the Dutch expenditure has been nationwide and sustained over decades, helping them to maintain high levels of cycling. England is only just beginning to address a situation caused by 50 years of chronic neglect, caused in part by successive governments cow-towing to the motor lobby and spending accordingly.*

*“The team at Cycling England now has massive experience in their roles. Breaking up this group when it is working so well would be a tragedy.”*

## ENDS

For further information please contact:

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## Notes for editors:

1. Cambridge Cycling Campaign was formed in 1995 and now has over 1,100 members. Run by volunteers, it campaigns for “better safer and more cycling in and around Cambridge”. Its website, at [www.camcycle.org.uk](http://www.camcycle.org.uk), contains a wide range of information on its activities. Cambridge Cycling Campaign is registered charity no. 1138098 and has no party-political allegiance.
2. WriteToThem is a site independent of the Campaign, and is run by MySociety. By entering their postcode, people will then get the details of their local MP and Councillors. The site provides a simple way to get in touch with decision-makers who represent them.
3. The leaked list of quangos published by the Telegraph is at <http://bit.ly/dBWFGO> .