

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 9 MARCH 2023

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following question was submitted to the Council from Councillor L Goff:

“The Brompton Bike Hire service in Newark, delivered as part of the Towns Fund initiatives, is the first in the East Midlands and will have been operational for a year in April. There is a docking station at Castle House, close to Newark Castle Station which holds eight folding Brompton bicycles.

I ask if the scheme has been a success, and request an update on the number of users, including if any Councillors or Council staff have made use of the facility? Such schemes need to be successful to make Newark a cycling town again. Are other cycling hubs being considered for strategic locations across the District, and have any employers shown an interest in such docking stations?”

Reply from Councillor Rhona Holloway – Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Visitors

“As part of the 20 Minute Cycle Town Project, three Brompton Bike Hire docks have been installed at key transport nodes around the town: Newark Bus Station, Castle Station also serving Castle House and Middlebeck. The fourth dock is due to be installed at Northgate Station in early March 2023. A launch event for the Brompton scheme is planned on 16th March 2023 and will include a representative from Brompton present to kick start the Spring promotional campaign and offer some free-hire codes to encourage new users.

The second half of the Cycle Town project is underway and will comprise of accessible workshops and classes in basic bike maintenance, cycling proficiency and road confidence, and cycling-based tours of the town. We have been in conversation with Urban and Civic, Inspire and Newark College who all share our ambition for delivering cycling based training to improve the accessibility of cycling for transport and leisure for the people of Newark. As part of this, Officers are in discussion with Newark based businesses and employers, several of which have already expressed interest in either a Brompton cycling solution or general cycling benefits for their employees.

Officers will continue to work with Nottinghamshire County Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership, D2N2, on expanding cycling and walking provision, with a consultation on the Local Cycle & Walking Infrastructure Plan closing on the 8th March 2023 after being open since December 2022. This consultation has allow partners and stakeholders to shape and influence how we deliver improved infrastructure and facilities for cycling across Nottinghamshire.

To date the Brompton bike hubs in Newark have been used over 1,300 times since the first dock was installed in April 2022. The investment in cycling in Newark was only possible due to securing the Town Fund, if resources can be found there is an intent to encourage cycling in other parts of the District.”