

News release – for immediate release

Inverness commuters to get on their bikes

Commuters to Inverness will have the chance to get on their bikes and cycle to work from later this month.

The Inverness and Nairn Transport Forum is launching an initiative to offer the use of free bicycles to people coming into Inverness by bus, train or car.

Based in the Rose Street multi-storey car park, the Re-Cycle project enables commuters to book a bike by phone in advance, then pick it up and return it after work. Users are given a code when they book which they use to open the lock of their bike.

Jim McCreath, training and development officer at Inverness and Nairn Transport Forum, said: "Re-Cycle is aimed at giving commuters the chance to have a more active journey to work.

"Many people would love to cycle at least part of the way to work but they live outside Inverness and have to rely on some other mode of transport to get into the city. This gives commuters a bit of flexibility in how they travel from the centre of town to their work and will help keep them fit at the same time."

Re-Cycle is set to be launched on 12 September in time for AlternativeNess, the initiative on 19 September which aims to encourage people to leave their car at home for the day.

Inverness Provost, Bob Wynd, said: "I am delighted that Inverness is taking the lead in combating climate change and congestion. The Re-Cycle project providing free bicycles to commuters coming into the city by public transport, is imaginative and innovative, and will make Inverness the first city or town in the UK to offer such a service."

The bicycles for the Re-Cycle project are being supplied by Northern Constabulary and will be maintained by MP33. safeinverness have donated the bicycle locks and the site is provided by Highland Council. Regional transport partnership, HITRANS, have also provided funding for the project.

HITRANS Chairman, Duncan MacIntyre, said: "One of our aims is to offer people as many ways to travel as possible. We're delighted to be supporting an initiative which helps people get around the city and allows them to be more active at the same time."

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