

# WHY SPEND MONEY ON CYCLE ROUTES IN ABERDEEN/SHIRE?

A visualisation by Tracey Phin



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Active travel initiatives, wheeling, walking and cycling, are funded by the Scottish Government as part of climate change policy to achieve net zero by 2050. £35 Million was allocated for grants for safer routes alone across Scotland in 2024/2025. (1)

However, plans for cycle routes between Aberdeen and Westhills were cancelled, in part due to complaints from the public due to lack of parking.

So, why spend this money on cycle routes when sections of the public would rather have parking spaces?

**‘An act of self harm’: Plans to wipe out parking spaces for Aberdeen west end bus lanes, cycle paths and ‘puzzling’ roundabout AXED (2)**



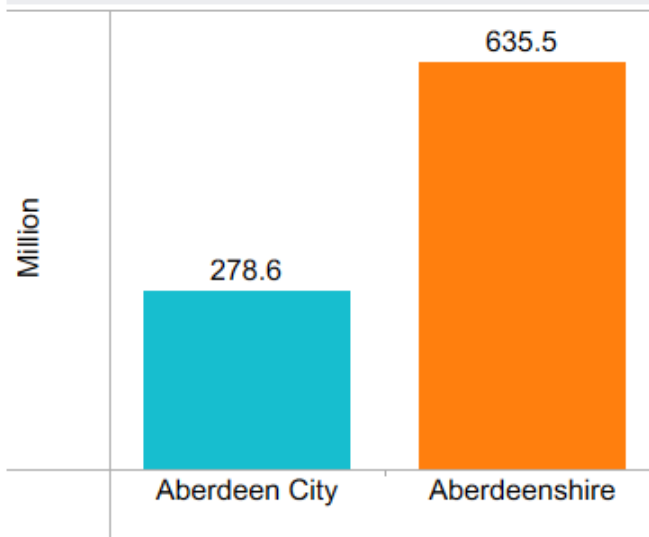


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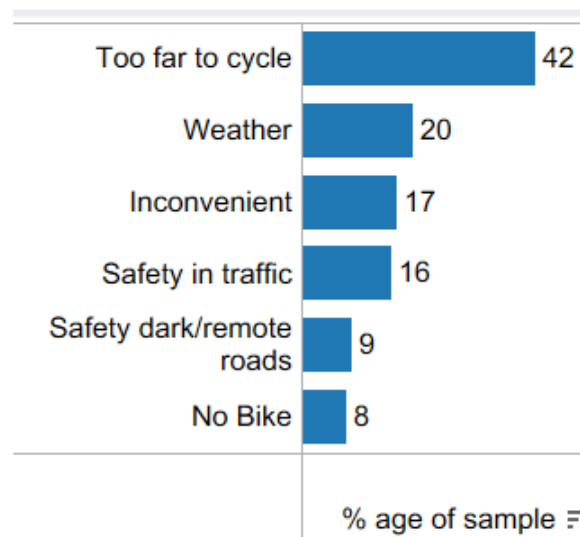
## As an Investment with Monetary Returns

Co-benefit of physical activity by active travel from 2025-2050 (5)



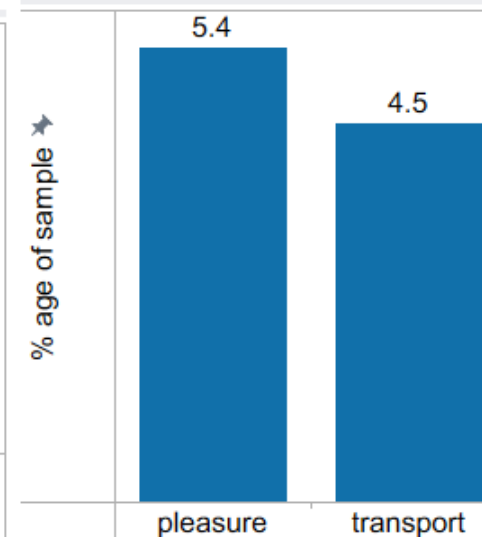
## To Reduce Barriers

Top reasons for not cycling to work across Scotland (4)



## To Increase Participation

Frequency of cycling reported across Scotland (4)



## Survey of Aberdeen population in 2023 revealed (3)

**47%**  
would like to cycle more

**44%**  
would like more funding for cycling

**27%**  
do not cycle but would like to



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Physical activity is one of 11 socio-economic factors whose monetary value has been estimated by UK co-benefits atlas. (5)

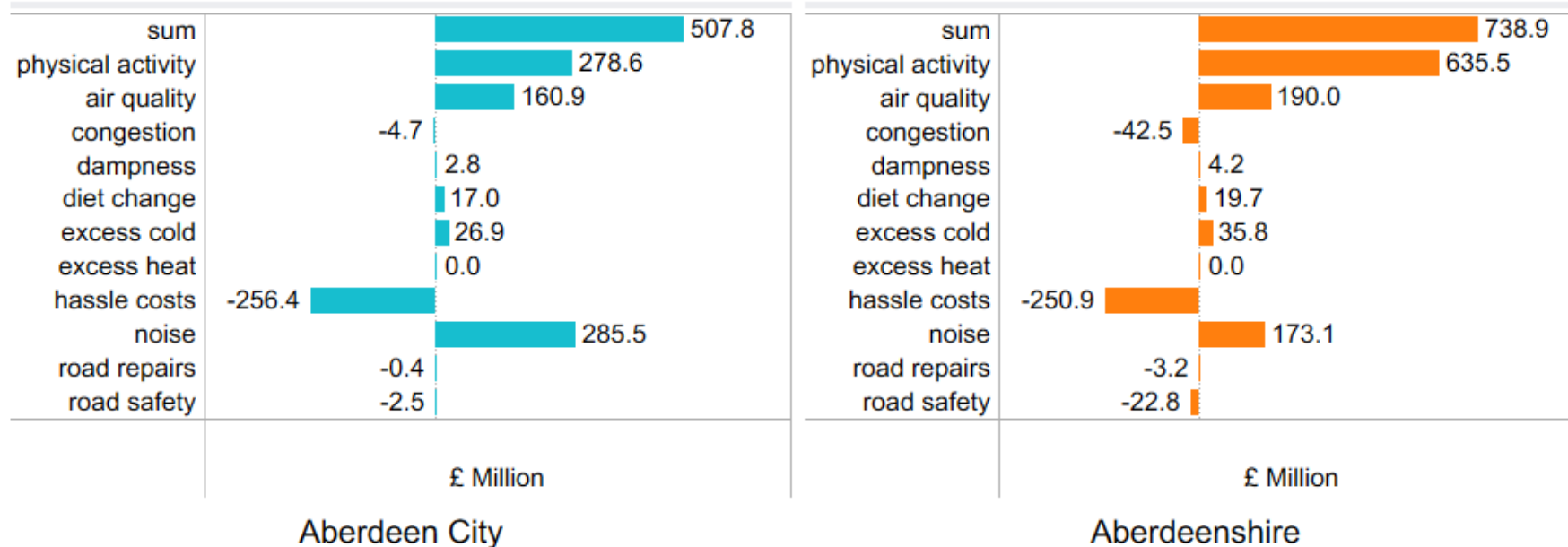
This is assuming implementation of the recommendations of Climate Change Committee in its 7th budget. (6)

## Sum of all co-benefits

Aberdeen City - **£507.8 million**

Aberdeenshire - **£738.9 million**

Predicted value of co-benefits, over 25 years from 2025 - 2050



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## References/sources

- 1 <https://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/publication/transport-scotland-section-70-return-2024-25/cycling-walking-and-safer-routes/>
- 2 <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/6572110/aberdeen-westhill-cycling-plans-axed/>
- 3 <https://www.walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk/media/13313/walking-and-cycling-index-2023-aberdeen.pdf>
4. <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.transport.gov.scot%2Fmedia%2Fsttfin2t%2Fsocial-survey-tables-transport-and-travel-in-scotland-2024.xlsx&wdOrigin=browselink>
- 5 <https://ukcobenefitsatlas.net>
- 6 <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/the-seventh-carbon-budget/>