



**Councillor Gill Mitchell
Leader of the Labour Opposition**

41 Bennett Road
Kemp Town
Brighton BN2 5JL

Councillor Geoffrey Theobald
Cabinet Member for Environment
Brighton & Hove City Council

5th October 2009

Dear Geoffrey,

Cycle to Work Guarantee

I understand that the Secretary of State for Transport, Andrew Adonis, has recently written to all Cycling Demonstration Towns and Cities inviting them to sign up to the government's Cycle to Work Guarantee.

I believe this to be an excellent initiative that is aimed at encouraging large employers to promote cycling to work within their workforce by providing good facilities for staff to store bikes and change from cycling clothes to work clothes and promoting the various tax exemptions available through the Government's 'Cycle to Work' scheme. The very best employers also provide on site bike maintenance and cycle training at no extra cost to employees.

The Guarantee commits supporting employers to provide the following:

1. *Secure, safe and accessible bike parking facilities for all staff who want them;*
2. *Good quality changing and locker facilities for all staff who want them;*
3. *Offset the cost of cycling equipment through the big tax savings of the 'Cycle to Work Scheme';*
4. *Free bike repair available for cyclists on or near site;*
5. *An implementation plan including targets for take-up, training and incentives to cycle.*

It is obviously important that local councils lead by example, particularly those who are Cycle Demonstration Towns and Cities. I am also sure that Brighton and Hove City Council is already providing, or hopefully aiming to provide, the facilities outlined in the points above.

I would like to ask whether Brighton and Hove City Council will be signing up to the guarantee and what steps it will take to promote this initiative to the other large employers in the city with a view to them also working with the council to promote more sustainable commuting for all our workforces.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gill Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a short horizontal line.

Councillor Gill Mitchell
Labour Lead for Environment
Leader of the Labour Group