



**I H I E** | INSTITUTE OF HIGHWAY  
INCORPORATED ENGINEERS

## NEWS

### **Bristol City Council 'Jam Busting June' Campaign ignores contribution of Motorcycling**

The Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers (IHIE) has today called upon Bristol City Council to review its 'Jam Busting June' campaign and the exclusion of Motorcycles from a list of 'Green' alternatives aimed at reducing single occupancy cars on an already congested network.

Bristol City Council, along with a number of neighbouring local authorities, is promoting 'Jam Busting June' with prizes offered for those choosing less congesting methods of transport. Running over a month it aims to get people in the habit of using a new method of transport or they can even try different methods of transport until they find the one that suits them.

Whilst 2 person car sharing count towards such prizes the use of motorcycles does not (unless they are ridden by a rider and pillion)!

The IHIE recently published Guidelines for Motorcycling ~ Improving Safety through engineering and integration. The Guidelines build upon the Government's National Motorcycling Strategy which identified the need to 'Mainstream' motorcycling with the key theme of the national motorcycling strategy being to *Facilitate motorcycling as a choice of travel with in a safe and sustainable transport framework.*

The Government's strategy identified Local authorities as having a key part to play and the IHIE Guidelines seek to equip local authorities with the necessary knowledge to meet the significant increase in the numbers of registered motorcycles. The IHIE Guidelines specifically includes sections on Transport Policy and Travel Plans in the belief that motorcycling whilst currently playing a significant part in reducing congestion must be recognised by Highway Engineers and Planners.

"The IHIE supports any initiative to reduce the numbers of single occupied cars on the nations overcrowded highway network, especially in such congestion hotspots as Bristol" said **Tony Sharp**, Vice President of the IHIE, who also Chaired the multi disciplinal steering group for the recent Guidelines, commenting on the 'Jam Busting June' omission of Motorcycles "but to ignore such a significant section as motorcycles and to treat them in the same way as single occupied motorcars is a nonsense. It would seem to fly in the face of Local Transport Plan (LTP) guidance which has identified the significant role that Motorcycles can plan in meeting Key targets of LTP's with regards to **Congestion, Access and Integration.**"

" Instead of turning their back on the contribution that motorcycling can make to congestion reduction Bristol should be providing facilities and encouragement to those making a conscious decision to travel by motorbike instead of the private car. Bristol, however despite 10 years of motorcycle access to bus lanes and promotion of motorcycle parking seem to have now convinced themselves that motorcycles have nothing to offer in this area. Some travel plan officers have even gone as far as stating that their promotion during 'Jam Busting June' might discourage people from riding bicycles or encourage a transfer away from public transport. Given the distance that many people travel from outside of the city, often from rural areas poorly served by public transport, to get into Bristol I find this difficult to believe. We have only to consider the introduction of the congestion charge in London which saw a 20% increase in Motorcycle use (and a 15% reduction in accidents) with no reduction in Public Transport or Bicycle use"

**Craig Carey-Clinch**, MCI's Director of Public Affairs said, "Bristol City council is considered a beacon council by many motorcyclists and associations. Bristol is one of the councils who permits the use of bikes in bus lanes and is usually pro-active and supportive of powered –two wheelers.

"This campaign is a step backwards and is neglecting to include bikes and scooters as a method of transport that can help reduce congestion, require less parking space than a car and is considered by government to be a credible alternative to a single occupancy car."

**- Ends -**

### **Press Enquiries**

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### **Notes to Editors**

1. *IHIE is the professional qualifying institution for incorporated engineers and technicians in highways, traffic, transport and construction, delivering sustainable transport for the UK.*
2. *A Press briefing note covering **the IHIE Guidelines for Motorcycling ~ Improving safety through engineering and integration** is available from IHIE.*
3. *"Motorcycle" is used to cover all forms of Powered Two Wheelers (PTWs) from the smallest moped, maximum speed 30mph, through scooters to the largest sports and touring machines.*