



For immediate release: October 25, 2017

Groups encouraged to apply to become a Yorkshire Bank Bike Library

Residents and community groups are being encouraged to apply for funding to help them set up their own Yorkshire Bank Bike Library - and make a difference to young people's lives.

Since the launch of the first Yorkshire Bank Bike Library two years ago, almost 50 bike libraries have opened – and more than 48,000 chances to ride a bike have been offered to children.

The scheme is sponsored by Yorkshire Bank and run in collaboration with Welcome to Yorkshire's cycling initiative, Cycle Yorkshire.

It aims to give every child in Yorkshire access to a bike, for free.

Unwanted bikes are donated at one of the county's 60 donation stations, where they are repaired. Incredibly, the generous people of Yorkshire have donated over 5,000 bikes to the scheme so far.

The cycles are then made available to hire completely free of charge from one of the 47 bike libraries across all four corners of Yorkshire.

A fifth round of funding has now been released by Yorkshire Bank to help not-for-profit organisations set up their own bike library and deliver a cycling legacy for all generations and abilities.

The project also offers financial and marketing assistance, as well as PR support.

During this round, the scheme is particularly looking for applications from community groups in York, Harrogate, Ryedale and Hambleton.

Sir Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, said: "When we launched the Yorkshire Bank Bike Library scheme we set a goal of giving every child in Yorkshire access to a bicycle. So far, we've opened almost 50 bike libraries across Yorkshire and we want to make a difference to even more children. With this fifth round of funding we can.

“If you want to be involved with a feel-good project then please get in touch – it’s a wonderful scheme to be involved with.”

Helen Page, Group Innovation & Marketing Director at Yorkshire Bank, said:
"Watching the Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries grow from strength to strength is fantastic. Giving more children an opportunity to have access to a bike is one of the main reasons to support this brilliant initiative."

Each bike library is different and all offer a range of activities, including short or long-term loans, family rides, skills training or activity sessions.

Initial expressions of interest must be submitted to Rachel Davies
rdavies@yorkshire.com no later than Friday, December 8.

For more information visit bikelibraries.yorkshire.com/funding

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Notes to editors:

- Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries is a joint project with Welcome to Yorkshire’s cycling initiative, Cycle Yorkshire and Yorkshire Bank.
- Cycle Yorkshire is a partnership of Welcome to Yorkshire, local authorities and other key cycling organisations in Yorkshire committed to using Yorkshire’s Tour de France Grand Départ 2014 to deliver a region wide cycling legacy for all generations and all abilities.

Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries Partnership Overview

- Yorkshire Bank has partnered with Cycle Yorkshire to launch the Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries initiative across the region.
- The aim is to make cycling more accessible in Yorkshire by providing communities with bike libraries.
- People are encouraged to amnesty their old bikes and drop them off at the designated donation stations.
- Donated bikes will make up the Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries and be available to individuals, local enterprises and community groups to borrow, so more people, young and old, can enjoy the benefits of cycling.
- The partnership launched on 12 December 2014.

Yorkshire Bank

Yorkshire Bank was founded in 1859 in Halifax, West Yorkshire. Yorkshire Bank is a trading name of Clydesdale Bank plc, part of CYBG PLC.

For more information please contact:

Rebecca Penston – Press Officer, Welcome to Yorkshire

Email: rpenston@yorkshire.com

Phone: 0113 322 3578

Mobile: 07581 575 220