

# News Release

## **For Immediate Release**

**01 April 2019 / PR 10928**

### **Donated bikes help Thamesmead families learn to ride**

Children from Willowbank Primary School and their families have been able to learn how to cycle safely, thanks to Bexley's Cycle Recycle Scheme.

The scheme is a partnership between the Council and Sidcup Cycles. Unwanted bikes are donated by the public to the Council. Sidcup Cycles then check and make the bikes roadworthy before donating them to local children in schools or youth groups.

The Council's Road Safety team have been using the recycled bikes to provide free cycling training sessions to Willowbank Primary School in Thamesmead at its weekly after-school club.

Peabody Trust Community Sports Activator team loaned their bikes to the parents and carers at the after-school club for their training, while the children have been given their bikes to keep. As well as their bikes, every child taking part has also been given a free helmet and Hi-Viz vest.

The families are the latest to benefit from the scheme, which helps local families to get more active, learn how to cycle or improve any cycling skills they already have.

Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places, said: "We all know that cycling is great for your health and for our wider environment. This fantastic initiative helps families enjoy active fun together while recycling unwanted bikes and giving them to children whose families might not be able to afford one. Plus, we're training whole families to ride safely at the same time."

Peabody's Executive Director, Thamesmead, John Lewis, said: "I'm delighted Peabody has been able to contribute to this fantastic scheme. It is perfectly in keeping with our strategy of helping to create a healthier and happier Thamesmead."

If you'd like to donate an unwanted adult or child bike to the scheme, please call the Council on 020 8303 7777 and ask for the Road Safety team.