Slide 1

Santander Cycles London’s bike sharing scheme has been in operation since July 2010 and now operates in 12 of inner London’s 14 boroughs with the highest number of docks (171) in Westminster and the least in Newham – (table of docks by borough)

Between July and September 2023 there were over 2.4m bike trips which on average took 27 minutes and 36 seconds. Journeys on the weekend tended to be longer at 38 minutes and 1 second whilst weekday trips were shorter at an average of 24 minutes and 13 seconds.

The most popular time for using the bikes is between 8am in the morning and between 5 and 6pm in the evening on weekdays. The pattern is quite different on weekends with around 1500 trips between 11am and 6pm on weekends.

As a share of total journeys cycling makes up X% and of those cycling journeys Y% are taken using a Santander Cycle.

Cycling is a hugely beneficial mode of transport – its low cost and helps reduce carbon emissions whilst helping reduce serious illnesses such as:

* Heart disease,
* type 2 diabetes
* the occurrences of strokes
* and it can also improve the symptoms of some mental health conditions like depression and anxiety.

Slide 2

If we look at specific health indicators for the inner London barriers, we can see that there is a wide range of outcomes dependant on your borough for instance individuals are more likely to be overweight in Lewisham and Greenwich than those in Southwark.

Similarly, those in Greenwich, Newham and Tower hamlets have much higher diabetes diagnosis rate than areas in west London.

Those in Greenwich are also less likely to be physically active and have a relatively high prevalence of smoking in those aged over 18.

This information indicates that expanding the cycle scheme to areas in Lewisham and Greenwich are likely to have the biggest impact on negative health markers.

Those in Greenwich are most likely to benefit as physical activity is relatively low in this borough but it may experience less take up as a result – we’d have to investigate further as to whether the factors are as a result of accessibility or of other reasons.