



Beryl Bikes by Breeze offers multi-city bike share scheme across the Solent region

A new bike and electric bike sharing scheme is being launched across Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight today. Council Members of the Solent Transport Joint Committee: Councillor Lynne Stagg (Portsmouth), Councillor Eamonn Keogh (Southampton), and Councillor Phil Jordan (Isle of Wight) will unveil the scheme at The Hard Interchange in Portsmouth, 12:15-1pm on Thursday 6th October.

Solent Transport, its local authority partners and Beryl, have created the brand-new bike share scheme, giving thousands of people the chance to enjoy two-wheeled travel. The scheme, called 'Beryl Bikes by Breeze', offers a mixture of e-bikes and pedal bikes for hire across Portsmouth, Southampton and on the Isle of Wight.

Beryl Bikes by Breeze is part of the Solent Future Transport Zone, funded by the Department for Transport. It aims to help reduce congestion and CO₂ emissions, improve air quality, and inspire healthy and affordable active travel choices across the Solent region. Starting with an initial pool of 200 pedal bikes and 235 e-bikes it will increase to a fleet of more than 1000 bikes across the region by spring of next year. This bikeshare fleet joins Solent Transport's e-scooter hire project, providing people across the region with more choice and opportunity to make sustainable journeys and improving travel options for all.

Riders will be able to hire a bike through the new micromobility app, Breeze, developed by Solent Transport. Breeze also lets you hire both Beryl and Voi e-scooters and plan journeys on buses and trains across south Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. In future there are plans for more features including the ability to buy bus, rail and ferry tickets through the Breeze app. The bikes also work with the Beryl app.

As the scheme expands, most people living in the operating area will be within a five-minute walk of a hire bike. Providing bikes at more than 100 sites across the region, Beryl Bikes by Breeze will give better access to transport and inspire even more people to take up sustainable travel, helping to improve air quality and public health.

Both pedal bikes and e-bikes are available for everyone aged 16 and above, offering fun, easy and sustainable travel for residents and visitors alike. In future, cargo bikes and adapted bikes will be added to the scheme, ensuring a wide range of user requirements are catered for.

Solent Transport, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth City and Southampton City Councils are united in their vision for delivering a regional bike share scheme that offers a more cost effective and coordinated approach to transforming public transport as part of the Solent Future Transport Zone.

Portsmouth: Councillor Lynne Stagg, Chair of the Solent Transport Joint Committee and Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation at Portsmouth City Council, said *"As we face a global climate emergency, it's more important than ever that our residents have access to more sustainable ways to travel. We are delighted to be able to launch the scheme across three key areas in the Solent. We want to make cycling as easy and accessible for as many of our residents as possible. Beryl Bikes by Breeze will not only help protect the natural environment but encourage people to get active and even save money at a time when fuel is so expensive"*.

Southampton: Councillor Eamonn Keogh, Cabinet Member for Transport and District Regeneration at Southampton City Council, said *“This is a significant step for Southampton in tackling congestion and air pollution. Increasing the number of journeys being taken by bike is one of the five themes of the council’s Green City Plan 2030 and will help us meet the Government’s requirements for increasing active travel. Beryl Bikes by Breeze will help people enjoy using the Southampton Cycle Network safely and with more cycle lane infrastructure planned as part of the Southampton City Region Transforming Cities Fund, there has never been a better time to cycle in Southampton.”*

Isle of Wight: Councillor Phil Jordan, Cabinet Member for Transport, Isle of Wight Council, said *“Beryl have already been successfully running the e-scooter trial on the Isle of Wight. As part of the ongoing plans, we are pleased to be able to introduce e-bikes, giving residents and visitors an even better choice of ways to travel. Beryl Bikes by Breeze will initially be available in Cowes, Newport, and Ryde with the possibility of expanding this offer to other areas on the Island next spring. The e-bikes can be used on many routes, roads, and cycle ways, and more especially, used on the Red Squirrel Trail, which will allow riders to enjoy largely traffic-free cycling through the heart of the Island’s beautiful countryside.”*

Beryl: Beryl CEO Phil Ellis said: *“We are absolutely delighted to be able to launch the scheme in Portsmouth, Southampton and on the Isle of Wight and, in doing so, enable more people to take advantage of the excellent local cycling infrastructure. As with all our schemes, Beryl Bikes by Breeze has been designed to provide the best possible service for users by being delivered both in partnership with the local authority and in consultation with communities and key stakeholders”.*

Both Breeze and Beryl apps are available to download from the App Store for iOS and the Google Play Store for Android users. Once registered, you can use the apps to simply pick up and drop off bikes at secure parking places close to where you live and work.

Beryl Bikes by Breeze users can Pay-As-You-Ride (£1 unlock fee + 5p per minute for bikes, £1.50 unlock fee + 10p per minute for e-bikes). Once their ride is complete, users simply close the lock on the bike to end their ride and make the bike available for the next person to use. GPS trackers on the bikes will alert Beryl to any misuse, vandalism and vehicles ending up in locations outside the zone of operation.

The bikes are fully insured through Beryl’s public liability insurance. This is included in the prices charged for bike hire. Riders must observe the Highway Code and are strongly encouraged to wear a safety helmet and hi-vis clothing when using the bikes.

ENDS –

Photo to follow by 3pm on 6 October

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About Solent Transport

Solent Transport is changing the way the public travels in the Solent area; making it greener, healthier and economically stronger than it's ever been before. Through the delivery of transport solutions, Solent Transport provides leadership, strategy and direction to support sustainable economic growth in the Solent area. Originally established in 2007, Solent Transport is an apolitical partnership between the councils of the Isle of Wight, Hampshire County, Portsmouth and Southampton. In collaboration with the local community, business, government and transport operators, Solent Transport undertakes research; develops transport policy and strategy; submits and supports funding bids; and lobbies for transport improvements that will benefit everyone.

About the Solent Future Transport Zone

Solent Transport won £29m from the Department for Transport (DfT) to implement innovative future transport solutions around personal mobility and freight movements. The funding means the Solent area will benefit from several innovative transport solutions including: smartphone apps for planning and paying for sustainable journeys demand, e-bike share scheme, and new approaches to freight distribution, including drone freight trials for NHS deliveries across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. The three-year Solent Transport Zone programme proposes to address local challenges such as high levels of car usage and the environmental impacts of freight movement within Solent's urban areas. It will do this by delivering a series of complementary projects within two key themes: Personal Mobility and Sustainable Urban Logistics.

Beryl Bikes by Breeze on the Isle of Wight

- Note that only e-bikes are available on the Isle of Wight, not pedal bikes.
- The e-bikes can be used on the Red Squirrel Trail where e-scooters are prohibited.

About Beryl

- Beryl is the UK's leading micromobility company, championing sustainable travel options to help reduce road congestion and improve air quality and public health.
- Beryl has delivered affordable bike, cargo bike and scooter schemes in locations around the country; including Norwich, Watford, Hereford, Bournemouth, the Isle of Wight, Hackney and, most recently, Greater Manchester.
- A B-Corp certified operator, Beryl delivers schemes in partnership with cities and communities, placing people, social responsibility and environmental sustainability at the same level as financial sustainability.
- Beryl also provides technology for micromobility schemes in London and Birmingham and manufacture innovative technological solutions, such as the Laserlight.