

GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR Ministry of Enterprise, Development, Technology and Transport Suite 771 Europort Gibraltar

## PRESS RELEASE

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## **GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES URBAN BIKE SCHEME – GIBI BIKES**

The Government has today launched its Urban Bike Scheme. The scheme will be known as "Gibi Bikes". The mission statement is "Go Green".

The Minister for Transport, the Hon J J Holliday, today inaugurated the scheme by officially commissioning the bike station at Market Place. Work has been ongoing on the construction of the stations and today sees the commencement of the testing phase that will see Gibi Bikes employees riding between different stations testing the scheme. This phase of the project is being rolled out with 11 stations being switched on today and the remaining stations coming into use within the next two of weeks. Once all the stations are operational, the scheme will have 100 bicycles at the disposal of the public at any one time and will operate daily from 07.00 am to 10.00pm.

The sites that have been switched on today are:

- Frontier (3 Stations)
- Waterport Road (Watergardens)
- Europort
- Grand Parade
- Referendum Gates
- Line Wall Road
- Orange Bastion
- Market Place (2 stations)

The other remaining sites that are due to become operational shortly are:

• Waterport Road (Waterport Terraces)

- Victoria Stadium
- Reclamation Road
- Commonwealth Parade Car park
- Rosia Road
- Bayview Terraces
- Catalan Bay
- St. Joseph's School
- Rosia Parade
- Eastern Beach
- Europa Point

Today, the 332 persons who had registered their interest on the scheme's website have been written to inviting them to become members of the scheme. Anybody that has yet not applied is invited to log on to the GibiBikes web site <u>www.gibibikes.gi</u> and become a member of the scheme.

Users will be asked to provide credit card details on registration. These details are held as security for the bike so that, in the unlikely event the bike is not returned, a punitive fee can be deducted from the card.

As an incentive to become a member, those persons that apply for membership before the end of November will be given an extra month's membership so their membership will expire at the end of December 2012.

There will be an annual subscription fee of £24. This will entitle the user to one hour's free bicycle use per day. If this hour is exceeded then a charge will apply. Listed below is a schedule of fees for information.

Access Period Fee	Charge per User
Annual	£24
Card Issue Fees	Charge per Card
Card Issue Fee	£0
Additional/Replacement Cards	£5
Usage Charges	
Duration	Charge per Cycle
Less than 60 minutes (1 hour)	Free
Less than 90 minutes	£2
Less than 120 minutes (2 hours)	£5
Less than 150 minutes	£8
Less than 180 minutes (3 hours)	£10
Less than 360 minutes (6 hours)	£20

Less than 1,440 minutes (24 hours)	£30
Late Return Charge	£150
Additional Charge	
Description	Charge per Cycle
Description Non-Return Charge	<b>Charge per Cycle</b> £500

Using the system is very simple, to ride a bicycle you simply swipe your card at an Urban Bike station and it will release a bike for you to ride.

When you want to return a bicycle, after you have reached your destination, all you have to do is return your bike to any Urban Bike station. The bike is automatically locked and ready for the next user.

Each docking station consists of 'docking modules' which lock the bicycles in place, ready for use, as well as the vertical interactive and informative column that identifies the user.

Commenting on the commencement of the scheme, the Minister for Transport, the Hon Joe Holliday said: "I am pleased that today sees the commencement of this scheme. This scheme forms an integral part of the Government's transport and environmental policy and also of the Government's Integrated, Parking and Transport Plan. Its aim is to encourage people to leave their vehicles at home thus reducing traffic congestion, promote a healthier lifestyle and a greener environment. I would therefore urge people to embrace a healthier and greener lifestyle and give the Gibi Bikes a try".