

**TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP****6 DECEMBER 2016****ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRESS UPDATE****JOINT REPORT BY ACTIVE TRAVEL OFFICER AND CYCLE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

This report seeks approval of award of funding from the 2016/17 Tactran Active Travel Grant scheme; delegation of authority to officers to approve award of remaining Active Travel Grant funding in 2016/17; and provides a general update on Active Travel activity undertaken by the Active Travel Officer and Cycle Training and Development Officer.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

## 1.1 That the Partnership :-

- (i) notes and welcomes the award of an additional £25,000 Active Travel Grant from the national Community Links fund for 2016/7;
- (ii) approves the award of grant funding from the 2016/17 Active Travel Grant scheme for projects as detailed in the report and Appendix A;
- (iii) delegates authority to approve award of the remaining balance of 2016/17 Tactran Active Travel Grant funding to the Director and Treasurer;
- (iv) delegates authority to approve award of a contract for the undertaking of a programme of Active Travel Audits to the Director and Treasurer; and
- (v) notes the progress on various active travel activities undertaken by the Active Travel Officer and Cycle Training & Development Officer as outlined in the report.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 8 March 2016 the Partnership noted that Tactran has secured a third annual allocation of £100,000 during financial year 2016/17 from the Sustrans Community Links programme, under the Partnership arrangement with Sustrans to employ an embedded Active Travel Officer. The Partnership also approved revised 2016/17 Active Travel Grant scheme guidance and criteria (Report RTP/16/08 refers).

- 2.2 At its meetings on 14 June 2016 and 13 September 2016 the Partnership received progress reports on Active Travel activity and approved various awards of grant funding under the 2016/17 Active Travel Grant (ATG) scheme (Reports RTP/16/20 and RTP/16/28 refer). At its meeting on 13 September 2016 the Partnership also approved an allocation of up to £25,000 from the 2016/17 ATG fund to support a programme of Active Travel Audits in key settlements across the region. Sustrans has confirmed availability of a further £25,000 from the national Community Links budget to support regional ATG activity in 2016/17.
- 2.3 At the meeting on 8 March 2016 the Partnership also approved arrangements for appointment of a Cycle Training & Development Officer in partnership with Cycling Scotland. Marianne Scott took up post on 20 June 2016, working on a range of projects and initiatives to support the development of cycle training in schools through the national Bikeability scheme; early years cycling in nurseries; adult cycle training and other activities to get more people cycling easily and safely, in support of Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) and Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) aims and objectives.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

#### Active Travel Grant 2016/17

- 3.1 The revised ATG scheme, as approved on 8 March 2016 has been designed to reflect and support both the national Community Links initiative and implementation of the RTS. The ATG scheme aims to connect communities by providing high quality cycling and walking infrastructure.
- 3.2 A call for ATG applications was made in April 2016 with a submission date of 16 May 2016. A total of five applications were received of which two were approved by the Partnership on 14 June 2016: Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust's Auchterarder Community Shared-Use Path Design Stage and Loch Lomond & the Trossachs Countryside Trust's Tyndrum cycle path (Report RTP/16/20 refers).
- 3.3 A second call for ATG applications was made in July 2016 with submissions invited by the end of August 2016. Two applications were received, both of which were approved by the Partnership on 13 September 2016: Forward Coupar Angus' Strathmore Cycling Network and Perth & Kinross Council's Inveralmond Industrial Estate link (Report RTP/16/28 refers).
- 3.4 Overall, the four approved projects committed £56,948 of the 2016/17 ATG budget and it was noted by the Partnership that the Active Travel Officer would continue to engage with potential partners to identify other projects for funding in 2016/17.
- 3.5 A third call for ATG applications was made in October 2016 with submissions invited by November 2016. Two applications were received, which have been assessed against the ATG scoring criteria approved by the Partnership on 8 March 2016 and are considered suitable for award of ATG funding:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Recommended Grant Allocation</b>
Blackford Community Council	Blackford Cycle Paths Project	£10,000
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	Tayside Way Feasibility Study	£15,000

- 3.6 The Partnership is asked to approve the allocation of funding as summarised in the above table and detailed in Appendix A, subject to the projects securing match funding.
- 3.7 The projects recommended for funding above, along with the previously approved projects, commit a total of £81,948. Allowing for allocation of additional ATG funding by Sustrans, as outlined in 2.2 above, there is a remaining balance of £18,052 available to support further activity/projects in 2016/17. The Active Travel Officer is continuing to engage with potential partners to identify eligible projects to be funded from the remaining balance of the 2016/17 ATG budget.
- 3.8 In order to enable maximum commitment of the available 2016/17 ATG budget, and having regard to the limited time available within the current financial year to do so, it is recommended that authority to approve award of the balance of the 2016/17 ATG budget is delegated to the Director and Treasurer.

#### Active Travel Audits

- 3.9 Following the Partnership's approval on 13 September 2016 to pursue the development of a programme of Active Travel Audits in the region (Report RTP/16/28 refers) the Active Travel Officer has continued to liaise with constituent Councils to progress this.
- 3.10 Along with the additional £25,000 of 2016/17 ATG funding referred to in 2.2 above, the Active Travel Officer has confirmed additional funding from constituent Councils totalling up to £20,000, with additional funding proposed to be committed from the Tactran Revenue Programme, as discussed in the separate report on 2016/17 Revenue Programme and Monitoring, to support the undertaking of an initial tranche of Active Travel Audits this financial year.
- 3.11 At the time of writing settlements to be audited in 2016/17 include :-
- Angus - Arbroath and Forfar
  - Perth & Kinross - Crieff
  - Dundee City – locations to be agreed
  - Stirling – locations to be agreed

- 3.12 Work is continuing, in partnership with Councils and Sustrans, on the procurement of consultancy support with a view to appointing a suitably qualified and experienced consultant to commence the programme of settlement audits in early 2017. In order to enable this work to be progressed it is proposed that authority to award a contract be delegated to the Director and Treasurer in consultation with the Chair.

#### Low Carbon Travel & Transport Hubs

- 3.13 Transport Scotland has been awarded up to £13.9 million until the end of 2018 under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020 programme to deliver a Low Carbon Travel & Transport (LCTT) programme of Low Carbon Hubs and Active Travel Hubs. It is expected that the LCTT programme will deliver 4 LCTT Hubs in the Lowland and Upland areas and 2 in the Highlands & Islands, construct up to 53km of cycle or walking paths and increase the number of ULEV registrations by 50.
- 3.14 The Energy Savings Trust has been appointed by Transport Scotland to deliver the LCTT Challenge Fund, which will facilitate the delivery of the Hubs. The fund bidding process is expected to run from December 2016 to January 2017. Each application should have a project cost between £500,000 and £2 million, with the LCTT Challenge Fund providing 40% match funding in the Lowland and Upland areas and 50% in the Highlands & Islands.
- 3.15 In July 2016, Transport Scotland established a Pre-Application Support Fund (PASF) to provide grant funding of £10,000 to organisations in order to develop ideas for the LCTT Challenge Fund. A total of 6 projects within the Tactran area were successful in securing PASF grant funding:
- Angus Council – Angus Integrated Green Transport Hub
  - Dundee City Council – Dundee Waterfront Travel Hub
  - Forward Coupar Angus – Eastern Perthshire Low Carbon Hub
  - Perth & Kinross Council – Perth on the Go
  - Stirling Council – Stirling Council Park & Choose
  - Trossachs Business Partnership – An Active Travel Hub for Aberfoyle and the Trossachs

- 3.16 The Active Travel Officer has contacted the above organisations to offer support during this development stage as well as to offer support for the forthcoming LCTT Challenge Fund application stage, and will continue to liaise with all potential applicants as needed.

#### Active Travel Strategies

- 3.17 Angus Council's Active Travel Strategy was adopted at the Communities Committee meeting on 15 November 2016. Additionally, Councillor Jeanette Gaul was appointed as Angus Council's Councillor Active Travel Champion. The approved strategy can be found [here](#).

- 3.18 Dundee City Council's Cycling Strategy was adopted at the City Development Committee meeting on 27 June 2016, following a public consultation from 28 October 2015 to 11 December 2015. The report and approved strategy can be found [here](#).
- 3.19 Perth & Kinross Council is currently drafting its Active Travel Strategy and expects to have a version ready to submit to the relevant Committee meeting in 2017. The Active Travel Officer will continue to consult with Council Officers on the contents of this Strategy.
- 3.20 As reported on 13 September 2016 (Report RTP/16/32 refers), Stirling Council has recently conducted a public consultation on their Local Transport Strategy, which incorporated an Active Travel Action Plan. The Council is now working to incorporate the responses received during the consultation exercise and expects to present the Strategy and associated Action Plan for adoption at the Council meeting in December 2016.

#### Active Travel Summit

- 3.21 Transport Scotland's Annual Active Travel Summit was held on 2 November 2016 at The Albert Halls in Stirling. The Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf, was in attendance and made a number of key announcements at the Summit, including:
- the formation of a taskforce which will report directly to the Minister, to drive forward ambitious cycling infrastructure such as segregated cycle paths and to tackle barriers to the delivery of both cycling and walking projects. It is expected that the taskforce will involve representation from and will consult with relevant organisations, including Regional Transport Partnerships, in due course;
  - a continued commitment to at least maintaining current levels of Scottish Government Active Travel funding and expenditure during the lifetime of the current Parliament;
  - launch of the latest round of the multi-million pound Community Links PLUS design competition which, as previously, will be managed by Sustrans. The design competition consists of three stages: the first requesting the submission of any Expressions of Interest by 2 December 2016, with subsequent stages running from December into 2017. The winning project will then be announced in the summer of 2017.

#### Review of Active Travel Policy Implementation Report

- 3.22 On 2 November 2016 Transport Scotland published its research, Review of Active Travel Policy Implementation Report. The primary purpose of the research was to investigate "How can implementation of Scottish Government policies deliver higher levels of active travel?" including the consideration of:

- whether closer collaboration between Scottish Government directorates can create places or attitudes that are more supportive of active travel choices;
  - whether the Scottish Government can improve the efficiency of delivery of active travel projects;
  - whether capacity for delivery of active travel outcomes can be increased, such that better outcomes can be delivered for Scottish Government investment.
- 3.23 This research emerged from a previous review by the Scottish Government in 2015 of how its policies relating to active travel are implemented, which concluded that the Scottish Government's ambition for increased levels of walking and cycling is recognised by, and shared across various policy areas, but that there are potential weaknesses in policy delivery. The full report can be read [here](#). It is expected that the key findings of the report will be addressed by the Ministerial Task Group referred to in 3.21 above.

#### Bikeability Support Plus Funding

- 3.24 Deployment plans for 2016-17 are now in place for both Angus Council and Stirling. Discussions are ongoing with Perth and Kinross and Dundee to confirm coordination plans with funding offers in place from Cycling Scotland to support appointment of local coordinating staff.
- 3.25 The percentage of schools across the region completing Level 2 training in 2015/16 was 50.7%, comparing favourably against a national average of 37.5%. Whilst both Dundee and Angus have recorded a recent drop in participation, as a result of the deployment plans outlined above the target delivery rate for the current academic session is to increase participation to 60% across the region.
- 3.26 Angus Council will support the Angus Cycle Hub to manage training delivery in 2016/17. Dundee City Council has a Cycling Strategy commitment to appoint a cycling coordinator whose remit would include coordination of Bikeability Training by March 2017. Dundee City Council has declined the Support Plus Funding for 2016/2017. Perth and Kinross Council will coordinate delivery through their Community Safety team and Stirling Council will continue to deliver through the Education team with support from community partners including Recyke-A-Bike.

#### All Ability & Adult Cycling Opportunities

- 3.27 The Cycling Officer is working with the Live Active Wellbeing Steering group to develop a programme for All Ability Cycling with user groups across Perth & Kinross, using the equipment provided by Live Active and by targeted referrals through NHS Physiotherapy groups. Through links with FABB (Facilitating Access Breaking Barriers) Scotland there will be continued effort to ensure broader participation.

3.28 Since August 2016, seven delivery outlets have been recruited and trained to offer the Essential Cycling Skills course in addition to Recyke-A-Bike in Stirling. These include:

- Angus Cycling Hub, Electric Bikes Scotland, Stirling Cycle Hub, Recyke-A-Bike, Coupar Angus Cycle Hub, Wheels Cycling Centre in Callander, World of Cycling in Broughty Ferry.

3.29 The offer has been promoted via local authorities, NHS Forth Valley and NHS Tayside and the Cycling officer is consulting with partners across the region to run a pilot project aimed at promoting social benefits of cycling via led-rides to people at retirement age.

#### Cycle Friendly School

3.30 A further 22 schools have held Cycle Friendly School (CFS) Awards in the past are to be assessed to CFS standard. Blairgowrie High School recently attended Cycling Scotland's School Camp and has been awarded £3,000 of funding to deliver a school cycling project. With a further 22 schools who have held CFS in the past to be reassessed to CFS standard.

3.31 The ten active CFS schools are as follows:

- Stirling – Strathblane Primary School, Buchlyvie Primary School, Cambussbarron Primary School, Wallace High School, Beaconhurst Primary School, Killearn Primary School, Fallin Primary School, Dunblane Primary School.
- Perth & Kinross – Oakbank Primary School, Murthly Primary School, Meigle Primary School.

#### Cycle Friendly Campus

3.32 The University of Dundee has achieved Cycle Friendly Campus status, with a 10% rise in the number of students and staff cycling. The University of Stirling, Forth Valley College and Dundee and Angus College are all registered with the award scheme. Through funding from Cycling Scotland, the University of Stirling is hosting a student intern to develop cycling policy.

#### Cycle Friendly Employer

3.33 Large employers across the region have been contacted about working towards Cycle Friendly status. Angus Cycle Hub has expressed interest in becoming a Cycle Friendly Service Centre to support rollout of the award across Dundee and Angus.

### Cycle Friendly Communities

- 3.34 Within the region, two community led cycling projects were awarded funding through the Cycle Friendly Communities Fund, including Dundee Association for Mental Health and Coupar Angus Cycle Hub. Coupar Angus is well placed to undertake the Cycle Friendly Community Award process.

### Nursery Play on Pedals

- 3.35 Early years teams across Stirling, Perth and Kinross and Dundee are established partners for the rollout of Play on Pedals training to staff in the nursery setting. The Cycling Officer has led conversations with Angus Council's Early Years Team with a commitment to adopt the scheme expected before January 2017.

### Cycling Scotland Conference

- 3.36 Cycling Scotland's annual conference was held at Perth Concert Hall on 7 and 8 November, including study tours on 7 November in Dundee and Perth, followed by a Civic Reception. The University of Dundee collected the 2016 award for Cycle Friendly Campus of the Year. The conference attracted 212 delegates from across Scotland and beyond. The Cycling Officer took a leading role in coordinating the study tours.

### Pedal for Scotland

- 3.37 Following previous discussion between Tactran and Cycling Scotland about the potential to run Pedal for Scotland rides within the Tactran area, the Cycling Officer is reviewing options for locations and partners to host "Wee Jaunt" rides in 2017 with an initial reach of 500 riders per Jaunt.

### Dr Bike

- 3.38 Perth Bike Station has offered Tactran free 2-hour bike maintenance sessions, which are being offered to community groups and other organisations (e.g. Brownies) to support encouragement of and increased take-up of cycling.

### Practical Cycle Awareness Training for PCV/LGV Drivers (PCAT)

- 3.39 All local authorities have been invited by Cycling Scotland to apply for funding to carry forward the PCAT training. In the Tactran area Stirling and Perth and Kinross Councils have both developed their own JAUPT (Joint Approvals Unit for Periodic Training – this is an accredited professional body for HGV/LGV drivers) accredited CPD course with support from Cycling Scotland to continue offering their fleet drivers cycle-awareness training. Perth & Kinross are also supporting the training of Moray Council's drivers.

## Activity Mapping Exercise

- 3.40 The Cycling officer is undertaking an ongoing exercise to identify and map existing gaps and opportunities in the promotion and delivery of cycle training and development across the Tactran region, including uptake of and progress on the various schemes and initiatives offered by Cycling Scotland. This will be reported on in detail at a future meeting.

## **4 CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 The report and relevant proposals have been the subject of consultation and agreement with Sustrans, the Sustainable Travel Liaison Group, Transportation Officers Liaison Group and other appropriate stakeholders.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 An initial allocation of £100,000 for the Tactran Community Links Active Travel Grant scheme has been supplemented by an additional £25,000 allocation from the 2016/17 Sustrans Community Links programme.
- 5.2 Provision for the costs associated with appointment and activity of the Active Travel Officer and Cycle Training & Development Officer exists within the approved 2016/17 RTS Revenue Programme Budget.

## **6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Equality Impact Assessment and no major issues have been identified.

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## **NOTE**

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing this Report:

Report to Partnership RTP/16/08, Active Travel Progress Update, 8 March 2016

Report to Partnership RTP/16/20, Active Travel Progress Update, 14 June 2016

Reports to Partnership RTP/16/28, Active Travel Progress Update, RTP/16/32, General Consultations, 13 September 2016

**Community Links Active Travel Grant Projects 2016/17**

Appendix A

**Projects Recommended for Approval**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Grant Funding Requested</b>
Blackford Community Council	Blackford Cycle Paths Project	This project will undertake a community consultation and feasibility study to identify a route or routes which could be upgraded and improved to provide a safe path or paths for cycling, linking Blackford to Gleneagles Station, Gleneagles Hotel, GWest and Auchterarder.	£20,000	£10,000
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	Tayside Way Feasibility Study	This project will undertake a feasibility study of the proposed Tayside Way, a potential long distance walking/cycling link from Kenmore to Perth. This would provide an 80 km/50 mile route that would pass through the communities of Aberfeldy, Grantully, Logierait, Dunkeld, Caputh, Stanley and Luncarty, enabling local residents to undertake low carbon travel as well as create a long-distance route.	£30,000	£15,000