

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**26 JUNE 2018****ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRESS UPDATE****JOINT REPORT BY STRATEGY OFFICER (SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT) AND
CYCLE TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

This report updates the Partnership on progress with Active Travel projects and initiatives across the region and seeks the approval of awards of funding from the 2018/19 Tactran Active Travel Grant scheme.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership :-

- (i) approves award of grant funding from the 2018/19 Active Travel Grant scheme as detailed in the report;
- (ii) delegates authority to the Director and Treasurer to approve further awards of grant funding to projects as discussed in the report;
- (iii) notes progress on the Active Travel Audit programme as outlined in the report;
- (iv) notes progress on the development of a Regional Active Travel Development Fund as outlined in the report and Appendix B and agrees to remit the Director to progress proposals with Transport Scotland and receive an update at the next Partnership meeting; and
- (v) notes progress on various active travel activities undertaken by the Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) and Cycle Training & Development Officer.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 27 March 2018 the Partnership was informed that Tactran had secured a further minimum allocation of £100,000 for its Active Travel Grant scheme from the Sustrans Community Links Programme during the 2018/19 financial year. At the same meeting the Partnership also approved the 2018/19 Active Travel Grant scheme guidance and criteria, which can be found [here](#) (Report RTP/18/09 refers).
- 2.2 At its meeting on 14 March 2017 the Partnership noted the award of a contract to consultants Arup for undertaking an initial programme of key settlement Active Travel Audits, to be completed by 30 June 2017 (Report RTP/17/06 refers).

- 2.3 At its meeting on 12 September 2017 the partnership noted the completion of Phase 1 of the Active Travel Audits Programme and agreed to receive a further report on Phase 2 at a future meeting (Report RTP/17/20 refers).
- 2.4 Further Active Travel progress reports were received by the Partnership at its meetings on 12 December 2017 and 27 March 2018 (Reports RTP/17/34 and RTP/18/09 refer)

3 DISCUSSION

Active Travel Grant

- 3.1 Tactran and Sustrans have been working in partnership to promote and deliver active travel projects in the Tactran region through the Active Travel Grant (ATG) since 2014/15 and a minimum of £100,000 is available to take forward projects in 2018/19.
- 3.2 The ATG has been designed to reflect and support the Sustrans Community Links scheme and associated criteria, and implementation of the Tactran Regional Strategy Refresh 2015-2036, in particular Strategy 5.3 Active Travel.
- 3.3 The Tactran Active Travel Grant aims to connect communities by providing high quality cycling and walking infrastructure and is available to all partners in the Tactran region including constituent Councils, National Parks, Health Boards, higher and further educational establishments and other statutory bodies. Community organisations and businesses can be considered for this scheme but are required to work in partnership with their relevant Council or other statutory body. Since the schemes inception in 2014/15, Tactran has been successful in committing all £420,000 of allocated ATG funding on 28 active travel projects with a total project cost of over £1.7m within the region.
- 3.4 A call for 2018/19 Active Travel applications was made in April 2018 with a deadline of 21 May 2018. Three applications and one expression of interest were received as summarised in Appendix A. The three applications have been assessed against the approved Active Travel Grant scoring criteria by a panel consisting of the Senior Partnership Manager and Sustrans' Partnerships Manager, Scotland Region, supported by the Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport). Two of the three applications submitted are considered suitable for award of ATG funding at this time.
- 3.5 The applications by Perth & Kinross Council for the expansion of the Green Routes and the Carse of Gowrie Cycle and Ride project both satisfactorily meet the ATG criteria and are recommended for award of ATG funding:

Organisation	Project	Recommended Grant Allocation
Perth & Kinross Council	Expansion of Green Routes	£15,500
Perth & Kinross Council	Carse of Gowrie Cycle and Ride	£20,000

- 3.6 The Partnership is asked to approve the allocation of funding to these projects, as set out in the above table and summarised in Appendix A. It should be noted that construction project applications require match funding, but applications for feasibility and design can be fully funded by the ATG, under the revised 2018/19 ATG criteria.
- 3.7 As indicated in Appendix A, the Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust (PKCT) application for Upper Tay Way project has provided insufficient information to enable a full assessment in accordance with the ATG's funding criteria. In addition PKCT has submitted an expression of interest for an Auchterarder to Muthill Feasibility Study, which requires further development work before being suitable for consideration as an application to the ATG.
- 3.8 The Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) is continuing to liaise with PKCT to review their application and develop their expression of interest with the potential for further consideration of both. It is proposed that the Partnership delegates authority to the Director and Treasurer to approve award of grant funding to these projects, subject to receipt of fully compliant proposals and applications.
- 3.9 The projects recommended for funding in paragraph 3.5 commits £35,500 of this year's Active Travel Grant budget. The Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) is continuing to engage with potential partners to identify projects that can be delivered utilising the remaining minimum £63,500 within the allocated 2018/19 budget. As in previous years, it is anticipated that additional Community Links funding will be able to be levered should projects totalling in excess of the initial £100,000 allocation be identified.

Active Travel Audits

- 3.10 A programme of Active Travel Audits commenced in March 2017 and is programmed to be completed by end of June 2018, with 13 settlement locations in total having been audited.
- 3.11 The aim of the Active Travel Audits is:
- to compile up-to-date information and mapping of existing active travel networks in main settlements;
 - to map associated potential settlement active travel networks in support of the RTS and partner Council Active Travel Strategies; and

- to develop prioritised action plans and outline costs of recommended active travel infrastructure and facilities within each settlement to inform and support development of robust future funding bids to the Community Links Programme, Smarter Choices/Smarter Places and other potential funding sources.
- 3.12 At its meeting on 23 March 2018 the Partnership noted that it is intended to develop and design the infrastructure proposals recommended within the Active Travel Audits, before pursuing further settlements and locations to audit. Two funding options are currently being explored during 2018/19, one utilising funding from Sustrans' National Community Links fund and another through direct funding from Transport Scotland via a Regional Active Travel Development Fund (Reports RTP/18/09 and RTP/18/14 refer respectively).
- 3.13 In addition, the Partnership is asked to note that information provided within the audits has been key in supporting bids to Sustrans' Community Link Plus initiative by Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross Councils. Stirling Council has taken forward some of the proposals from the audits carried out in 2017 to bid for Community Links funds for detailed design.

Regional Active Travel Development Fund

- 3.14 At its meeting on 23 March 2018 the Partnership received an update within the Director's Report (Report RTP/18/14 refers) regarding a proposal submitted by the RTPs to the Minister for Transport and the Islands, seeking establishment of a Regional Active Travel Development Fund, and a written response by the Minister inviting the RTPs individually and collectively to submit proposals for capital bids totalling £2m and £1m across the 7 RTPs. Discussions have now taken place between the RTPs and an equitable indicative dispersal of funding has been proposed, which would result in Tactran potentially receiving £266,800 or £133,400 in 2018/19 from Scotland-wide allocations of £2m or £1m respectively.
- 3.15 Tactran has submitted proposals, as detailed in Appendix B, to Transport Scotland for the Regional Active Travel Development Fund. These focus on the development of the Active Travel Audits to design stage and taking forward the Regional Cycling and Walking Network detailed within the Regional Transport Strategy.
- 3.16 A meeting between the RTPs and Transport Scotland is scheduled for early July 2018 to discuss the joint and individual RTP proposals submitted. The Partnership is asked to remit the Director to progress Tactran's proposals and receive an update at the meeting on 25 September 2018.

Map Facility

- 3.17 A map facility has been prepared for Tactran Partnership members and partners' information, providing spatial details of the various cycle training and development initiatives outlined below ([link to map](#)). The various coloured symbols on the map indicate where the initiative is active and a grey symbol indicates where there is interest and/or the organisation is working towards achieving an initiative. A red symbol indicates organisations that have declined to participate. This is the first such regional mapping facility in Scotland and has been developed in partnership with Cycling Scotland. Cycling Scotland is now rolling out similar maps throughout Scotland.

Bikeability Support Plus Funding

- 3.18 Bikeability coordinators continue to operate in Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross, supported by Tactran. In Stirling the Cycle Training and Development officer continues to provide interim co-ordination and support while Stirling Council look at how best to support Bikeability. All four local authorities are submitting Support Plus Funding Applications to Cycling Scotland for the continuation of support and funding for Bikeability Coordination during 2018/19. There is a continuing increase in Bikeability in both Primary and Secondary schools, with Level 2 and Level 3 Bikeability projects planned during the current school year.

All Ability & Adult Cycling Opportunities

- 3.19 Dundee University's Institute of Sport and Exercise completed Phase 1 and 2 of Active Living and Seniors cycling project between September 2017 and May 2018, with Phase 3 commencing at the start of May 2018.
- 3.20 Phase 1 of the Active Living and Seniors cycling project provided Essential Cycling Skills, with all 8 participants completing the course and gaining a new-found confidence to cycle as part of daily active travel. Phase 2 commenced on 13 March 2018 with a further 8 participants taking part.
- 3.21 Phase 3 started on 2 May 2018 with the Cycle Ride Leader (CRL) course attended by 2 staff and 3 participants. All participants passed the CRL course and they will support the project with led rides during 2018/19. Bike maintenance sessions are planned for all participants who attended Phases 1, 2 and 3.
- 3.22 The University of Dundee has been measuring the health and wellbeing of the participants to assess the benefits. Project evaluation and case studies are in the process of being collated and will be reported to a future meeting.

- 3.23 The longer term aim remains to introduce the project into Universities across Scotland who are running similar active living programmes to the University of Dundee, and to work with local authority active travel coordinators/hubs to introduce the Essential Cycling Skills across a range of community groups, NHS medical hubs, women's groups, men's sheds/groups, community centres, churches and service centres.
- 3.24 In addition, "learn to ride" sessions commenced on 5 June and will be running once a week over three weeks and will be attended by adults from the University of Dundee, with 11 participants attending the sessions which incorporating elements of Adult play on pedals and Essential Cycling Skills.

Cycle Friendly School/ Campus/ Employer/Communities

- 3.25 There are currently 25 schools with Cycle Friendly School award status, with a further 8 schools working through an action plan and 10 schools considering applying.
- 3.26 The University of Dundee continues to be the only Cycle Friendly Campus in the Tactran region. However, Abertay University, Perth UCI College, Dundee & Angus College, Stirling University and Forth Valley College have all registered in 2017 for the award scheme and continue to work towards completion by August 2018.
- 3.27 Interest and participation in the Cycle Friendly Employer scheme continues to grow, with a further 3 employers, DWP Pensions Centre Dundee, Scottish Government Marine Scotland, NHS Tayside Kingscross Hospital, having been awarded Cycle Friendly status since the Partnership meeting in March 2018, taking the total to 22 employers across the region having achieved Cycle Friendly Employer status. A further 32 employers are registered and due to be assessed or currently working towards achieving Cycle Friendly Employer status. A further 8 employers have indicated interest in the scheme and will be contacted with a view to encouraging participation.
- 3.28 Cycle Friendly Communities status has been achieved by Coupar Angus Cycling Hub, Angus Cycling Hub and FABB Scotland. Dundee Disability Sport and Dundee International Women's Centre, Dundee Community Health Team and Revolution Strathearn are all continuing to work toward Cycle Friendly Community status in 2018.

Nursery Play on Pedals

- 3.29 As reported to the Partnership at its meeting on 27 March 2018, 82 staff within the Tactran region across all 4 Local Authorities have been trained in Play on Pedals. A further 18 staff are currently undergoing training to be completed by end of June 2018.

Making Cycling Mainstream

- 3.30 Tactran and Cycling Scotland are currently discussing organising Making Cycling Mainstream courses in the region, with constituent Councils and other partners. The intention is to deliver Continuing Professional Development modules on Planning and Design and this may also include module specialisms on Network Planning and Detailed Design.

Active Travel Task Force

- 3.31 Following the national Active Travel Summit on 2 November 2016, a Ministerial Task Force was formed to consider ways to improve delivery of ambitious and inclusive walking and cycling projects in Scotland, helping to create high quality places and communities that support health and wellbeing.
- 3.32 The [Active Travel Task Force Report](#) was published by Transport Scotland on 7 June 2018 and provides 18 recommendations under 4 themes: Infrastructure; Policies, Processes and Resources; Community Engagement; and Behaviour Change and Culture. In order to allow full consideration of the Task Force Report in consultation with Councils and other partners, it is intended to report further on this and how Tactran and partners can best respond to, support and promote the report and associated recommendations to a future Partnership meeting.

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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/16/28 Active Travel Progress Update, 13 September 2016

Report to Partnership RTP/17/06 Active to Travel Progress Update, 14 March 2017

Report to Partnership RTP/17/20 Active Travel Audits, 12 September 2017

Report to Partnership RTP/17/34 Active Travel Progress Update, 12 December 2017

Report to Partnership RTP/18/09, Active Travel Progress Update, 23 March 2018

Report to Partnership RTP/18/14, Directors Report, 23 March 2018

2018/19 Active Travel Grant Projects

Appendix A

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Requested	Recommended Grant Funding
Projects Recommended for Approval					
Perth & Kinross Council	Expansion of the Green Routes Network across Perth & Kinross	This project is part of a wider initiative which looks to promote behavioural change across Perth and Kinross, encouraging rural communities to become active by cycling and walking more often. The Green Routes project implements a reduced speed limit on quiet roads and signage that indicates that the road is used by cyclists and walkers. This project will implement Green Routes at New Alyth (linking with a previous ATG Strathmore Cycle Network project), Muthill, Longforan, and Bendochy, linking these locations into a wider Green Route network.	£31,000	£15,500	£15,500
Perth & Kinross Council	Carse of Gowrie Cycle and Ride	This project is part of a wider objective to promote travel behavioural change for the communities along the Carse of Gowrie. The project is looking to improve integration between cycling and buses by installing secure cycle parking and improved active travel links to key bus stops along the A90 corridor between Perth and Dundee.	£40,000	£20,000	£20,000

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Requested
Projects Not Recommended for Approval at this Time				
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	Upper Tay Paths	This project aims to make several improvements to the path network in and around the communities of Aberfeldy and Grandtully. Five specific areas were identified; three propose small scale construction works and two propose design work. More information is required around the proposals specifically looking at the intended construction standards along the paths and in identifying the connections the network would provide.	£27,350	£7,437.50
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	<u>Expression of Interest</u> Auchterader to Muthill Feasibility Study	The project looks to carry out a feasibility study and outline design along the disused railway path between Auchterarder and Muthill. This project would have regional significance in helping develop the connection between Crieff and Perth, identified as an aspiration for Tactran Regional Walking & Cycling Network.	tbc	tbc

Introduction

Tactran’s Active Travel strategy aims to improve the active travel network across the region. Section 5.3 of the Tactran RTS 2015-2036 Refresh outlines the detailed strategy for Active Travel and section 3 of the associated Tactran RTS Delivery Plan 2016-2021 provides details of Active Travel projects. Tactran will utilise funding from Regional Active Travel Development Fund to progress active travel networks within and connecting our settlements. The intended outcome is to enable and promote active travel as a realistic choice of travel within and to access our settlements.

Bringing Forward Networks in Urban Areas: Regional Active Travel Audits Programme:

Tactran has been undertaking a programme of Active Travel Audits ensuring a consistent approach to Active Travel network development in the main settlements in the region. The aim of the Active Travel Audits study is to provide:

- Up-to-date information of existing active travel networks to include an account of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling within the settlement
- Information and map of potential active travel network of the settlement to include an account of recommended infrastructure and facilities needed within the settlement
- A proposal for investment in active travel infrastructure in each settlement, ranked into an action plan, to help guide potential future active travel investment.

Active Travel Audits have been completed for 10 settlements/urban areas to date, with a further 3 to be completed by June 2018, see table below:

Location	Active Travel Audit Status	Location	Active Travel Audit Status
Arbroath	Complete	North East Dundee	Complete
Brechin	Complete	Bridgend/Scone, Perth	Complete
Forfar	Complete	Crieff	Complete
Monifieth	Complete	Dunkeld Road Corridor, Perth	On Going
Montrose	Complete	Braehead, Stirling	Complete
Coldside, Dundee	Complete	Kings Park, Stirling	On Going
Lochee, Dundee	Complete		

Construction costs identified for full implementation of the entire networks identified in all audited areas to date extends to £67m - £137m. The next proposed milestone is to identify and carry out design work of prioritised active travel networks within the areas in partnership with Local Authorities and communities. Tactran will agree with Local Authorities the areas and routes to be prioritised for outline design and will allocate £67k (£1m allocation) or £133k (£2m allocation) of the Regional Active Travel Development Fund to this initiative.

Connecting Settlements: Tactran Regional Walking and Cycling Network

The development of the National Cycle Network (NCN) has shown how the provision of well-designed and easy-to-use routes can encourage more people to take up cycling or to cycle more regularly. Tactran's RTS identifies a Regional Cycling and Walking Network that connects the settlements within the Tactran region and complements the NCN, long distance paths, tourism strategies and local active travel strategies. The development of the regional network will complement the NCN by ensuring settlements within a reasonable distance of each other are connected and that cycling and walking becomes a realistic option for connecting outlying settlements with larger towns and cities.

The following routes have been identified within the RTS Delivery Plan as part of the Regional Cycling and Walking Network.

Location	Local Authorities & Partners	Route Length Kms (approx)
Montrose - Dunkeld (via Brechin, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Alyth, Blairgowrie)	Perth & Kinross Council, LLTNPA	95
Arbroath - Brechin	Angus Council	22
Dundee - Forfar	Angus Council, Dundee City Council	22
Dundee - Kirriemuir	Angus Council, Dundee City Council	30
Dundee - Blairgowrie (via Coupar Angus)	Angus Council, Dundee City Council, Perth & Kinross Council	32
Perth - Blairgowrie	Perth and Kinross Council	25
Perth - Crieff (via Auchterarder)	Perth and Kinross Council	50
Stirling to Plean/Cowie/Fallin and Denny	Stirling Council/Falkirk Council	11
	Total Km	287

The total cost of delivering the full 287km Regional Cycling and Walking Network is estimated at £36m based on Paths for All estimating price guide*. The proposed first milestone is to carry out feasibility studies on specific routes in consultation and partnership with the relevant Local Authorities and partners. Tactran will allocate £67k (£1m allocation) or £133k (£2m allocation) of the Regional Active Travel Development Fund to this initiative.

* <https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/pfa/creating-paths/estimating-price-guide.html> @ £125 per linier meter at 2.5m wide

Evaluation

It is proposed that (5%) of the cost of each project is dedicated towards establishing active travel and mode share counts in the project areas to both enable (i) before/after evaluation of projects (ii) contribute to the broader monitoring framework evaluating packages of measures across the region

Summary

	£1m Allocation	£2m Allocation
Bringing forward networks in urban areas: Regional Active Travel Audit Programme	67k	133k
Connecting settlements: Regional Walking and Cycling Network	67k	133k
Totals	134k	266k

Tactran Regional Walking and Cycling Network



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