

**TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP****13 JUNE 2017****2017/18 ACTIVE TRAVEL GRANT SCHEME****REPORT BY ACTIVE TRAVEL OFFICER**

This report updates the Partnership on projects funded by the Tactran Active Travel Grant scheme to date and seeks the approval of awards of funding from the 2017/18 Tactran Active Travel Grant scheme.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 That the Partnership :-

- (i) notes the projects funded by the Tactran Active Travel Grant since its inception in financial year 2014/15;
- (ii) approves award of grant funding from the 2017/18 Active Travel Grant scheme as detailed in the report;
- (iii) delegates authority to the Director and Treasurer to approve further awards of grant funding to projects as discussed in the report; and
- (iv) agrees to receive a report on progress on the programme of Active Travel Audits at the Partnership meeting on 12 September 2017.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 10 December 2013 the Partnership approved the appointment of an Active Travel Officer in partnership with Sustrans (Report RTP/13/34 refers). Under this arrangement Tactran funds the costs of staff appointment with Sustrans committing a delivery budget of at least £100,000/annum, which is available to support the development of active travel capital works and networks within the region. The current agreement extends until June 2018 (Report RTP/P3/16 refers).
- 2.2 At its meeting on 14 March 2017 the Partnership noted that Tactran expected to secure a fourth annual allocation of £100,000 for financial year 2017/18 from the Sustrans Community Links programme, under the partnership arrangement with Sustrans and allocation of this funding has now been confirmed. The Partnership also approved the 2017/18 Active Travel Grant scheme guidance and criteria, which can be found [here](#) (Report RTP/17/06 refers).

### 3 DISCUSSION

#### Active Travel Grant

- 3.1 Set up as a match-funded grant scheme, the £100,000 Active Travel Grant (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.
- 3.2 The Tactran ATG 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, Tactran has been successful in committing all allocated funding to active travel projects within the region and details of all projects funded in previous years can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.3 A call for 2017/18 ATG applications was made in April 2017 with a deadline of 12 May 2017. Four applications were received as summarised in Appendix B. These applications have been assessed against the ATG scoring criteria approved by the Partnership on 14 March 2017 by a panel consisting of the Senior Partnership Manager and Sustrans' Strategic Cycling Plans Manager, supported by the Active Travel Officer. Only one of the four project applications submitted is considered suitable for award of ATG funding at this time.
- 3.4 The application by Perth & Kinross Council for the North Muirton Park Refurbishment satisfactorily meets the ATG criteria and is recommended for award of ATG funding:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Recommended Grant Allocation</b>
Perth & Kinross Council	North Muirton Park Refurbishment	Up to £34,200

- 3.5 The Partnership is asked to approve the allocation of funding to this project, as set out in the above table and summarised in Appendix B, subject to meeting the required design standards.
- 3.6 As indicated in Appendix B, two project applications, Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust's River Tay Way and Stirling Council's Stirling Station Gateway, have provided insufficient information to enable a full assessment in accordance with the ATG funding criteria. The Active Travel Officer is continuing to liaise with both applicants to review these applications with the potential for reconsideration. 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.

- 3.7 The Dunkeld & Birnam in Bloom's Birnam Circular Walk Link application does not meet the criteria, as set out in the application guidance, which states that the project must include an element of cycling and the minimum recommended width for a shared use path must be 2.5m. The project to develop a footpath is for the benefit of walking only and, therefore, is not recommended for funding.
- 3.8 The project recommended for funding in paragraph 3.4 commits £34,200 of this year's ATG budget. The Active Travel Officer is continuing to engage with potential partners to identify projects for the remaining balance of £65,800 within the allocated 2017/18 budget.

#### Active Travel Audits

- 3.9 At its meeting on 13 September 2016 the Partnership approved the development of a programme of Active Travel Audits in the region (Report RTP/16/28 refers). The aim of this initiative 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, Smarter Choices/Smarter Places and other potential funding sources.
- 3.10 Tactran, in agreement with partner Councils, has appointed consultants Arup to undertake the work of completing Active Travel Audits in an initial eight settlements by the end of June 2017 (Report RTP/17/06 refers), including:
- Arbroath
  - Forfar
  - Monifieth
  - Lochee, Dundee
  - North East Dundee
  - Crieff
  - Bridgend, Gannochy and Scone
  - Braehead, Stirling
- 3.11 The Partnership is asked to agree to receive a report on progress with the Active Travel Audits project at the next meeting on 12 September 2017, at which point the Active Travel Audits for the first eight settlements are scheduled to be completed, with a final report for each settlement issued by the consultant.

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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/13/34, Walking and Cycling Strategy Update, 10  
December 2013

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

**Active Travel Grant 2014 – 2017 Project Portfolio**

**Appendix A**

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Allocated
<b>2014/15</b>				
Dundee City Council	Coupar Angus Road Shared Footpath / Cycleway	The combined cycleway provides excellent cross boundary links between Dundee and Angus, allowing commuters and members of the public to walk/cycle between Dundee and Birkhill. The path also intersects with the Dundee Green Circular. The path links into a proposed leisure development to the South East of the path and runs beside Camperdown Country Park which see thousands of visitors every year.	£150,000	£15,935
Dundee City Council	Lochee Link Path from South Road to the Miley Cycle Link Improvements	The combined cycleway provides links between two existing paths; the Miley to the east and the South Road radial cycleway to the west of Lochee High Street. This link in the existing cycle network provides easy access to the High Street and other amenities in the surrounding area. The project forms part of a wider Lochee High Street redevelopment with central government funding. The link also provides safe access across the city from Broughty Ferry to Charleston.	£27,280	£13,640
Dundee University	Increased Student Accessibility	Dundee University have completed several projects to improve cycling and walking infrastructure at the university. The improvements include a new bike shelter at the life sciences building which monitors usage, a new tarmac path and ramp at steps in Airlie Place and the introduction of a contraflow on a one way street at Crossrow with crossing and signage.	£28,000	£14,000
Perth & Kinross Council	A923 at Tullybaccart – Shared Use Path	A short shared use path has been put in to link the car park on the A923 at Tullybaccart and the C403. This forms part of the proposed Carse Cycle Network that links Glendoick, Longforgan, Inchtute, Abernyte and Coupar Angus using minor roads. The path is the first step in the construction of a route which will see a “Green Route” cycle network providing safer roads for vulnerable road users.	£7,300	£3,650
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	Auchterarder Path Feasibility Study	PKCT, in partnership with PKC and the Auchterarder Community Sports Partnership are developing a feasibility plan for upgrading paths in Auchterarder. To date this has included developing specifications, liaising with landowners and gaining permission for works, developing a local Paths Group, consulting with the community, meeting local developers and identifying developer contributions.	£7,450	£3,225
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority	Tyndrum – Crianlarich – Killin Path and Cycleway	This project updates existing feasibility studies (2003 & 2006) for a shared route between Tyndrum and Killin. The route forms part of the Three Saints Way long distance National Walking and Cycling Network and West Highland Way. Tender-	£14,694	£7,000

		ready documents for an upgrade between Tyndrum and Kirkton Farm, along with outline designs for an 'upper link' and Kirkton Farm to Crianlarich were produced.		
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority	Active Communities	The LLTNPA have been working with the Drymen Community Trust to develop active travel projects connecting three rural communities within the National Park Area. The communities are linked by a fragmented and unsafe pedestrian path network; this project will establish high quality safe multi-user active travel links between them. A feasibility study has been completed and almost £500k secured to deliver the first phase of the works. This funding has allowed the detailed design of phase 2 to be commissioned.	£12,000	£6,000
Angus Council	Pitnappie Cutting Project	Angus Council aims to construct a walking/cycling path along a 1.7km stretch of the former Dundee-Newtyle railway adjacent to a particularly steep, bendy and dangerous part of the B954. Lengths of the line to both the north and south have already been transformed into paths by local path networks. Pitnappie Cutting is the "missing link" between these two sections and upgrading it will considerably extend the existing railway path and would be a significant step towards the ultimate aim of linking the two sections, providing a largely off-road route from the north of Dundee through the Sidlaw hills to the Strathmore area.	£15,000	£7,500
Angus Council	Montrose Destination Signage and NCR1 Realignment	This project has involved improving destination signage on NCR1, creating a link from NCR1 to Montrose railway station and updating signage to tie in with wider rural core paths around Montrose. NCR1 has been realigned onto a safer route at Broomfield, to avoid the busy Broomfield Road/Rosehill/Montrose Business Centre junction. The route now follows a quieter adopted road and a section of un-adopted road.	£18,100	£9,050
Stirling Council	Dunblane Station to Springfield Terrace Cycle Path (design works)	This project is an extension of the Dunblane Station Access for All project which included a new Network Rail bridge at Dunblane Station and the pedestrian, cycle and public realm improvements to the east of the station. A new path is to be created that links the new bridge to Springfield Terrace, avoiding the need to go through the Tesco and Stirling Council car parks. The path improves links between the station and residential areas in the west of Dunblane.	£30,000	£15,000
Stirling Council	Bridge of Allan Primary School: Safe Route to School	At present an off road cycleway runs alongside Cornton Road, but children need to cross where there are no crossing facilities and concerns with traffic speeds and visibility as identified in the Bridge of Allan Primary School's School Travel Plan. The route also serves allotments, open space and playing fields west of Cornton Road. Stirling Council is currently investigating a road safety scheme further up Cornton Road / Fountain Road, this funding has enabled the project to be expanded to improve crossing safety along the route to the primary school. Design work has been undertaken, which included community consultation and assessment of options such	£40,000	£5,000

		as speed reductions, new crossings and cycleway improvements. Further funding has now been secured from Sustrans Community Links to carry out identified works.		
			<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>£100,000</b>
<b>2015/16</b>				
Dundee City Council	Riverside Avenue to Perth Road Link	The works provided a much needed upgrade to an existing cycle route linking Perth Road to Riverside Drive. The works included an upgrade of the area from Wright Ave to West Entrance of Riverside Wildlife Park and the provision of a new Toucan Crossing on Riverside Ave, west of Wright Ave. Additionally, a new cycle counter was installed into this location so that the Council will be able to provide count data on the usage of the path in the future.	£155,000	£36,500
Perth & Kinross Council	Janet Forbes Avenue, Longforan – Shared-use Path	This project saw a footway along Janet Forbes Avenue from Kingswell Road junction to housing development at Mary Findlay Drive upgraded to a shared use path. This route will connect two residential areas and provide a continuous shared use link from the west to the village centre and other travel links (bus stops, school bus links). Solar studs were also installed to illuminate unlit section of route.	£29,000	£14,500
Stanley Development Trust	Stanley – Luncarty Cycle Path	Stanley Development Trust commissioned a feasibility study to identify best route for a proposed cycle link between Luncarty and Stanley. This route has been identified as a key proposal for enhancing quality of life in the village and provide an alternative option to a busy road for everyone to walk and cycle.	£10,500	£5,000
Angus Council	New Community Campus, Brechin	The additional funding at the new Brechin Community Campus was used to further enhance the cycle parking provision at the site. The additional funding allowed Angus Council to install additional Sheffield racks with a Perspex cover at the main entry door. This project added value to a wider Community Links programme in 2015/16 to upgrade and resurface paths to provide a spinal active travel route through Brechin to the new campus.	£5,000	£5,000
Stirling Council	Stirling Station Gateway	The Active Travel Grant funding contributed to a broader multi-year partnership project between Stirling Council, Network Rail, ScotRail, Sustrans and Tactran to transform the area surrounding Stirling Railway Station, as well as Murray Place/Station Road area, into a high quality environment, linking the City's retail centre, bus and rail transport hubs and the Forthside area. Part 1 saw the completion of detailed design work of the area surrounding the station and the start of construction of enhanced pedestrian spaces. Part 2 will see the detailed design and construction of Stirling Station's forecourt.	£450,000	£35,000

Dundee City Council	Green Circular Upgrade – Trottick Ponds	The Active Travel Grant was used to upgrade a section of Dundee's Green Circular route in the vicinity of Trottick Ponds. Upgrading the surface of this route connected two sections of already sealed surface, providing a continuous, sealed, shared-use path that will provide a key link for east-west travel by bike and foot in Dundee.	£26,000	£4,000 (Sustrans: £17,000)
			<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>£100,000</b>
<b>2016/17</b>				
Loch Lomond & Trossachs Countryside Trust	Tyndrum Community Cycle Path B	Part of a wider phased plan to progress development of a new off-road cycle link between Tyndrum, Crianlarich and Killin (building on work funded by ATG in 2014/15). This phase will build a new section of cycle path from Tyndrum, creating a new circular day route and connecting local businesses to the village.	£62,647	£30,000
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	Auchterarder Community Shared-Use Path Design Stage	A survey and design for the proposed improvements along the Provost Walk, adjacent to the A9, include widening and resurfacing, with improved drainage, to make it fit for shared use (building on work funded by ATG in 14/15).	£19,996	£9,998
Perth & Kinross Council	Inveralmond Industrial Estate Link	This project will provide a 2.5m wide shared use path for cyclists and pedestrians from Lawgrove Place to River Almond cycle path (NCN 77). This new and improved link will provide a valuable route for vulnerable road users including walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users. As part of the project associated signing will be provided which will direct users to and from the industrial estate. Marketing exercises will be carried out in partnership with Tactran on completion of the project.	£13,900	£6,950
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	Loch Tayside Way	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
Forward Coupar Angus	Strathmore Cycle Network	Commission a consultant to complete a feasibility study to investigate two cycle paths, one from Alyth – Blairgowrie and one Blairgowrie – Coupar Angus. Additionally, the study will look to review the link between Alyth and Coupar Angus to make it more direct. Both links are included in Tactran's Regional Transport Strategy Refresh 'Regional Walking and Cycling Network' map as aspirational regional cycling routes.	£20,000	£10,000
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	£20,000	£10,000

		and Auchterarder.		
Tactran	Active Travel Audits (Phase 1)	<p>Tactran have appointed an experienced Consultant to produce an Active Travel Audit report for each of the main settlements/areas selected, which will identify the existing core active travel infrastructure and facilities, considers opportunities for new routes and improvements, and proposes a potential active travel network for each settlement, including an associated action plan of interventions for further investigation.</p> <p>The purpose is to provide TACTRAN and each Council with a proposed network, associated facilities and an action plan to direct potential future investment towards the development of the active travel network within each settlement.</p> <p>The aim of the study is to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up-to-date information of existing active travel networks to include an account of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling within the settlement.</li> <li>• Information and map of potential active travel network of the settlement to include an account of recommended infrastructure and facilities needed within the settlement.</li> <li>• A proposal for investment in active travel infrastructure in each settlement, prioritised into an action plan, to help guide potential future active travel investment.</li> </ul>	£81,059	£25,000
			<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>£111,948</b>

**2017/18 Active Travel Grant Projects**

**Appendix B**

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Requested	Recommended Grant Funding
<b>Projects Recommended for Approval</b>					
Perth & Kinross Council	North Muirton Path Refurbishment	The aim of this funding is part of a wider scheme redeveloping a park in North Muirton, part of its scope being to formalise the desire lines of walkers and cyclists cutting over the park, which connects community assets with the Community Campus, Primary School and existing cycle and footpath networks that have recently been improved. This funding would enable the construction of a shared use path and lighting, including signage and furniture, within the park.	£237,100 (including £68,400 Active Travel)	Up to £34,200	Up to £34,200

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Requested
<b>Projects Not Recommended for Approval at this Time</b>				
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	River Tay Way	This project would build on the 2016/17 Tayside Way feasibility study, looking to upgrade specific sections of an off-road walking and cycling route between Kenmore and Perth. Three stretches in particular are suitable for upgrade to allow walking and cycling. The primary purpose of this project is to progress the Kenmore to Aberfeldy section of the path to the point where it is ready to go to tender. The secondary purpose is to use the Kenmore to Aberfeldy section as an exemplar to build support among other landowners to gain 'in principle agreement' for the proposed upgrades.	£30,000	£15,000
Stirling Council	Stirling Station Gateway	Stirling Station Gateway is a partnership project that seeks to significantly enhance the public realm at Stirling Station and the adjoining city centre streets. This application, covering Phase 2, would see the development of designs of the active travel elements of the project, in particular the place-making aspect of the Station Forecourt, providing an all-ability gateway into Stirling and better integrate the station into the city centre.	£300,000	£40,000
<b>Projects Not Recommended for Approval</b>				
Dunkeld & Birnam in Bloom	Birnam Circular Walk Link	This project looks to install a 1.8m wide sealed surface starting from Torlee Road to the entrance of the Birnam Circular Walk, thereby completing the gap in the walk. It would provide a facility so for people of all mobility abilities to access the Circular Walk and stop people walking on the busy road.	£40,000	Not yet known