

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

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

**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 award of grant funding as discussed in the report;
- (iii) notes progress on the development of a Regional Active Travel Development Fund as outlined in the report;
- (iv) notes progress on various active travel activities undertaken by the Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) and Cycle Training & Development Officer, and;
- (v) notes the Active Travel Task Force Report published by Transport Scotland.

**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 the 26 June 2018 the Partnership agreed to award funding to two projects totalling £35,500 from the 2018/19 Active Travel Grant and to delegate authority to the Director and Treasurer to approve awards upon receipt of additional information on a further two projects submitted under the Active Travel Grant scheme (Report RTP/18/22 refers).

- 2.3 At its meeting on 26 June 2018 the Partnership noted progress on the development of a Regional Active Travel Development Fund and agreed to remit the Director to progress proposals with Transport Scotland and receive an update at the next Partnership meeting.
- 2.4 At its meeting on 26 June 2018 the Partnership also noted progress on the Active Travel Audits programme and on various activities undertaken by the Cycle Training & Development Officer and was informed of the publication of an Active Travel Task Force Report

### **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. 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 A call for ATG applications was made in April 2018, with two applications approved by the Partnership at its meeting on 26 June 2018 committing up to £35,500 ATG budget expenditure (Report RTP/18/22 refers). A further two applications were deferred for an award decision to the Director and Treasurer upon receipt of further information and it was noted that the Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) would continue to engage with potential partners to identify further projects and opportunities.
- 3.4 Following submission of further supporting information Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust's application for feasibility and design of Auchterarder to Muthill Path has satisfied scheme eligibility criteria and the Director and Treasurer have approved award of £50,188 as detailed in Appendix A. However, following further discussion Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust application for Upper Tay Way failed to meet criteria and was withdrawn. This takes the total committed Active Travel Grant expenditure to £85,688.
- 3.5 A second call for 2018/19 Active Travel applications was made in July 2018 with a deadline of the 24 August 2018. A total of three applications were received as summarised in Appendix A.

- 3.6 The three applications have been assessed against the approved Active Travel Grant scoring criteria by a panel consisting of the Senior Partnership Manager, Senior Strategy Officer 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.
- 3.7 The applications by Perth & Kinross Council for Perth Cycle Network digital community engagement platform and NHS Tayside feasibility study into possible improvements to the active travel infrastructure in and around Ninewells Hospital both satisfactorily meet the ATG criteria and are recommended for award of ATG funding:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Recommended Grant Allocation</b>
Perth & Kinross Council	Perth Cycle Network Digital Community Engagement Platform	£24,800
NHS Tayside	Ninewells Hospital Active Travel Infrastructure Feasibility and Design	£35,000

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 As indicated in Appendix A, the Dundee City Council application for a shared use path and toucan crossing on Arbroath Road has provided insufficient information to enable a full assessment in accordance with the ATG's funding criteria. The Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) is continuing to liaise with Dundee City Council officers to review and develop their application with the potential for further consideration. It is proposed that the Partnership delegates authority to the Director and Treasurer to approve award of grant funding to this project, subject to receipt of a fully compliant proposal and application.
- 3.10 The projects recommended for funding in paragraph 3.7 commits a further £59,800 of this year's Active Travel Grant budget bringing the total allocation to £145,488. As in previous years, it is agreed with Sustrans that additional Community Links funding be levered should projects totalling in excess of the initial minimum £100,000 allocation be identified and Sustrans has confirmed £145,488 can be accommodated within the 2018/19 ATG and that further consideration of funding will be made on an individual application basis.

## Regional Active Travel Development Fund Update

- 3.11 Following a proposal submitted by the RTPs to the Minister for Transport and the Islands, seeking establishment of a Regional Active Travel Development Fund, the RTPs individually and collectively have submitted proposals to Transport Scotland for capital bids totalling £1m and £2m across the 7 RTPs, with Tactran potentially receiving £133,400 or £266,800 in 2018/19.
- 3.12 At its meeting on 26 June 2018 the Partnership received an update providing details of Tactran's proposals submitted to Transport Scotland for the Regional Active Travel Development Fund. These focus on taking forward the Regional Cycling and Walking Network detailed within the Regional Transport Strategy and the development of the Active Travel Audits to design stage (Report RTP/18/22 refers).
- 3.13 Tactran has subsequently indicated to Transport Scotland should £133,400 be allocated, taking forward sections of the Regional Cycling and Walking Network to feasibility and design would be the priority, with development of Active Travel Audits to design stage being proposed in addition should the further £133,400 be allocated to Tactran.
- 3.14 At the time of writing all RTPs are waiting on feedback from Transport Scotland regarding allocations of funding. The Director will continue to progress Tactran's proposals as remitted by the Partnership at its meeting on 26 June 2018 (Report RTP/18/22 refers) and provide an update at the meeting on 18 December 2018.

## Bikeability

- 3.15 Bikeability coordinators continue to operate in Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross, supported by Tactran. In Stirling, Tactran's Cycle Training and Development officer continues to provide interim co-ordination and support while Stirling Council and Cycling Scotland consider how best to support Bikeability.
- 3.16 Level 2 Bikeability training was provided at 42% of primary and secondary schools across the region in 2016/17 compared to a national average of 38%. The target delivery rate for Level 2 training at primary and secondary schools across Scotland in the current academic session is 60%, with updated national figures for 2017/18 expected to be published in September 2018. All four partner Councils are expected to maintain or increase participation during 2017/18.
- 3.17 Discussions are ongoing with Education Departments within all partner Local Authorities to embed Bikeability within the curriculum.

### All Ability & Adult Cycling Opportunities

- 3.18 Dundee University's Institute of Sport and Exercise has now completed Phases 1, 2 and 3 of Active Living and Seniors cycling project. The University of Dundee is in the process of producing project evaluation and case studies and they will be reported to a future Partnership meeting when available.
- 3.19 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.

### Cycle Friendly School/Campus/Employer/Communities

- 3.20 A further 2 schools now hold an active Cycle Friendly School Award taking the total to 27 schools in the Tactran area, with 4 more schools working toward award working through an action plan and 12 schools considering applying.
- 3.21 University of Dundee continues to be the only Cycle Friendly Campus within the Tactran area. Abertay University, Perth UCI College, Dundee & Angus College (Kingsway Campus, Gardyne Campus & Angus Campus, Stirling University & Stirling College registered in 2017 for the award scheme and continue to work towards completion.
- 3.22 A further 7 employers have achieved Cycle Friendly Employer status since the Partnership meeting in June 2018, taking the total across the region to 29 employers, with 25 more employers registered and due to be assessed or currently working towards achieving Cycle Friendly Employer status.
- 3.23 Cycle Friendly Employer development grants have been awarded by Cycling Scotland during August 2018 to a number of employers in the Tactran area, including Perth & Kinross Council to improve cycle parking at Pullar House, Perth; Stirling Council for cycle parking and training at Teith House, Stirling; NHS Tayside for a cycle parking hub at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee; and Dundee One Jute Priorities for staff training, drying facilities and cycle parking.
- 3.24 Cycle Friendly Communities development grants have been awarded by Cycling Scotland to a number of communities in the Tactran area, that either have Cycle Friendly Communities status (Coupar Angus Cycling, Angus Cycle Hub) or are working towards Cycle Friendly Communities Status (Dundee International Women's Centre, Dundee and Angus ADHD support group, Dundee Disability Sport).

### Nursery Play on Pedals

- 3.25 Play on Pedals continues to increase across the region with all four-local authority early years teams planning and organising training for staff during 2018/2019. The programme is well received in the region and continues to grow from strength to strength with 102 of the 170 nurseries in the region now having staff trained in Play on Pedals.

### Making Cycling Mainstream

- 3.26 Making Cycling Mainstream Planning, Design & Behaviour Change courses have been arranged by Tactran and Cycling Scotland during November 2018 for constituent Councils and other partners.

### Tour de Tay

- 3.27 Tactran continues to support and sponsor the Tour de Tay cycle challenge. This year's event organised by Abertay University is scheduled to take place on 29 September 2018 and is open to all to complete either a 25 mile or 50 mile route along the banks of the River Tay.

### Active Travel Task Force

- 3.28 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.
- 3.29 The [Active Travel Task Force Report](#) was published by Transport Scotland on 7 June 2018 and is a result of oral and written evidence presented to the Task Force Members during 2017. It makes recommendations on how to tackle the barriers to delivering new, innovative and popular infrastructure which encourages walking and cycling. The Partnership will recall that the report provides 18 recommendations under 4 themes: Infrastructure; Policies, Processes and Resources; Community Engagement; and Behaviour Change and Culture.
- 3.30 The report forms part of a wider strategy within the Active Scotland Delivery Plan [Active Scotland Delivery Plan](#) which was published in July 2018. This report has six intended outcomes with the most relevant being Outcome 4: We improve our active infrastructure – people and places.
- 3.31 The Regional Transport Partnerships are mentioned specifically in recommendation 2.4 noting that National, Regional and Local ownership and planning and delivery of active travel projects between policy departments must be more co-ordinated, and include as a minimum, Planning, Environment, Health and Education Departments within Central and Local Government. It is also noted that Regional Transport Partnerships need to be better resourced to address cross-boundary issues, in partnership with stakeholders.

- 3.32 The projects set out within the Tactran Regional Transport Strategy Delivery Plan are aligned with the recommendations within the report and the Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) and the Cycle Training & Development Officer will continue to liaise with our partners over the delivery and development of policy and projects which support these recommendations.
- 3.33 Tactran officers recently responded to Transport Scotland's Active Travel Logic Framework which looks to identify high level key performance indicators and associated data sets all of which help evidence and measure progress against the 18 recommendations set out within the Active Travel Taskforce report. A communications plan is due to be released by Transport Scotland within the coming months.
- 3.34 An Active Travel Commissioner will be employed by the Scottish Government to ensure delivery of world-class active travel infrastructure across Scotland, as detailed with the 2017/18 Programme for Government. This post is currently being advertised.
- 3.35 The Cabinet Secretary sent a letter to COSLA, Scottish Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives on Friday 31 August. The letter invites their views on the Active Travel Task Force Report as well as their commitment to work with Transport Scotland and other stakeholders to discuss, agree and develop actions for a shared delivery and communications plan to take the report forward.
- 3.36 The letter states that there will be further conversations with Transport Scotland, Scottish Government officials, Local Authorities and other partners to seek views on the report and to discuss and agree the implementation and delivery of recommendations as appropriate. It also highlights the annual Ministerial Active Travel Summit which will be on 24th October in Edinburgh this year. The event will be an opportunity to discuss the Task Force report and it is proposed that any further developments will be reported to future meetings of the Partnership.

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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/18/09, Active Travel Progress Update, 23 March 2018

Report to Partnership RTP/18/22, Active Travel Update, 26 June 2018

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Requested	Awarded Grant Funding
<b>Projects Approved</b>					
Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust	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.	£50,188	£50,188	£50,188

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Requested	Recommended Grant Funding
<b>Projects Recommended for Approval</b>					
Perth & Kinross Council	Perth Cycle Network: Digital Community Engagement Platform	In order to help obtain high quality feedback from Perth City communities on proposed cycling investment, this project is to invest in a digital community engagement tool, which will help collate the views and opinions of a wide range of stakeholders. It will also help inform the business case and influence the development of the Stage 2 Sustrans Community Links Plus submission and wider active travel investment in the City.	£24,800	£24,800	£24,800
NHS Tayside	Ninewells Hospital Active Travel Infrastructure Feasibility and Design	NHS Tayside and the Ninewells Hospital site have an existing staff travel plan and cycling has been identified as a key travel mode to promote to staff and visitors. A recent short life working group was formed to consider the existing travel plan with a view of updating it and to also explore what more can be done to improve the infrastructure and opportunities for staff and visitors to cycle and walk to Ninewells Hospital. As part of the wider programme of works looking to deliver the travel plan it is intended to carry out feasibility outline design of upgrading and introducing new active travel infrastructure in and around the Ninewells Hospital site for staff, visitors and the wider community.	£35,000	£35,000	£35,000

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Requested	Recommended Grant Funding
<b>Projects Not Recommended for Approval at this Time</b>					
Dundee City Council	Arbroath Road Toucan Crossing Path	Through the community engagement of Dundee Decides, the public of East End Ward in Dundee voted for a toucan crossing across Arbroath Road to Dawson Park. This project will provide a connecting path on the south side of Arbroath Road that runs adjacent to Dawson Park to create a cycle path along this section allowing it to connect with existing and future aspirations of creating additional cycle infrastructure.	tbc	tbc	tbc