

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**17 SEPTEMBER 2019****ACTIVE TRAVEL CAPITAL GRANTS****REPORT BY STRATEGY OFFICER (SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT)**

This report asks the Partnership to approve allocation of funding from Regional Active Travel Development Fund for two projects and delegate authority to the Director and Treasurer to agree and award the remainder of the fund. The Partnership is also asked to approve notes of interest in the Tactran Active Travel Grant, pending further information being provided.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership:

- (i) notes progress made in 2018/19 taking forward the Regional Active Travel Development Fund;
- (ii) approves the allocation of funding from the Regional Active Travel Development Fund 2019/20 to two projects as outlined within the report;
- (iii) delegates authority to the Director and Treasurer to agree further projects and award funding for the remainder of the Regional Active Travel Development Fund 2019/20; and
- (iv) approves the allocation of grant funding from the Tactran Active Travel Grant 2019/20 as outlined in Table 1, subject to receipt of more detailed project information.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As reported to the Partnership meeting on 18 December 2018, Tactran received a grant offer from Transport Scotland awarding £133,400 for the development of the Regional Walking and Cycling Network on 28 November 2018 (Report RTP/18/44 refers), based on the proposals submitted to Transport Scotland in consultation with the constituent Councils (Report RTP/18/22 refers).
- 2.2 At its meeting on 19 March 2019 the Partnership noted that 2020 Consultancy was awarded the commission to carry out feasibility studies between the settlements of Brechin to Montrose, Dunkeld to Blairgowrie and Stirling to Larbert, via Plean as part of the development of the Regional Walking and Cycling Network (report RTP/19/07 refers).

- 2.3 At its meeting on 18 June 2019 the Partnership noted that Sustrans had confirmed that a minimum of £100,000 would be available for Tactran Active Travel Grant Scheme in 2019/20. At the same meeting the Partnership noted that Partnership had received an additional grant for £233,300 from Transport Scotland to take forward Active travel projects by June 2019 (Report RTP/19/25 refers).

3 DISCUSSION

Regional Active Travel Development Fund Update – 2018/19

- 3.1 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 Partnership will recall that Tactran were successful in the award of £133,400 on the 28 November 2018 to take forward the agreed Regional Walking and Cycling Network priorities (Report RTP/18/24 refers).
- 3.2 In consultation with constituent Councils, three sections of the Regional Walking and Cycling Network were identified as a priority for feasibility and design: Brechin to Montrose; Dunkeld to Blairgowrie and Stirling to Plean. The Stirling to Plean route work was extended to Forth Valley Royal Hospital and Larbert in partnership with Sestran (Report RTP/18/22 refers).
- 3.3 The feasibility and design programme was completed by the end of June 2019 on all three routes with the final reports for each now complete and being used to inform discussions regarding further development of these regional active travel routes.

Regional Active Travel Development Fund Update – 2019/20

- 3.4 At its meeting on 19 March 2019 the Partnership were informed that Transport Scotland had asked the RTPs to confirm they will be bidding for a potential allocation to the 2019/20 Regional Active Travel Development Fund totalling £1m across the 7 RTPs. Following consultation with constituent Council officers Tactran bid for £133,400 to Transport Scotland covering either:
- taking forward the recommendations of the 13 active travel audits we have undertaken at key settlements across Angus, Dundee, Perth & Kinross and Stirling Council areas
 - to help bring forward further key routes within the Tactran Regional Walking and Cycling Network (TRWCN), building upon the 2018/19 design work undertaken on three corridors
- 3.5 A grant offer letter was received from Transport Scotland on 10 May 2019 confirming the award of £133,400 to Tactran.
- 3.6 Initial discussions with all 4 Local Authorities and other partners has identified two projects that will progress the implementation of the Regional Walking & Cycling Network:

- Continued implementation of the Aberargie path network between Bridge of Earn and Newburgh, identified as an aspirational NCN route within the Tactran Regional Walking and Cycling Network, estimated at £40,000.
- Continuation of the Stirling to Plean active travel route design work commenced in 2018/19 through the RATDF, estimated at £40,000.

3.7 The Partnership is asked to approve a total allocation of £80,000 funding to these two projects.

3.8 Tactran Officers will continue to liaise with the regional partners regarding the allocation of the remainder of the fund and the Partnership is asked to delegate authority to the Director and Treasurer to agree further projects and award funding.

Tactran Active Travel Grant - 2019/20

3.9 At its meeting on 19 March 2019 the Partnership agreed that a targeted approach would provide a more focused use of the Tactran Active Travel Grant (ATG). It was therefore agreed that the first round of applications be targeted initially to the NHS Boards and Higher and Further Education establishments within the region as this reflects the close working partnerships Tactran has with these organisations (Report RT/18/44 Refers).

3.10 On 31 May 2019 Tactran received confirmation from Sustrans that a minimum of £100,000 is available for Tactran ATG.

3.11 The Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) has been in discussion with the constituent partners around the targeted approach to the fund and Tactran has received the following expressions of interest:

Organisation	Project	Outline Costs
Angus Council	Programme of dropped kerbs near Brechin Infirmary to improve all ability access.	£9,500
Dundee City Council	Infrastructure works to support an electric bike hire scheme at NHS and HE/FE sites across Dundee city	£15,000
Dundee City Council	Secure cycle parking for Students as part of a wider cycle parking strategy for Dundee city	£5,000
Dundee City Council / NHS Tayside	Signage and wayfinding at Ninewells Hospital	£7,000
Perth & Kinross Council	Green Route connecting health facilities in Dunning and Glenfarg	£20,000

Stirling Council	Active Travel access to the Stirling city care village - feasibility and design	£20,000
NHS Tayside	All ability access audits at main NHS Tayside facilities as part of a wider transport and access strategy	£22,000
Total		£100,000

Table 1 – Tactran Active Travel Grant – Expressions of Interest

- 3.12 The Partnership is asked to approve award of grant funding to the above projects subject to receipt of more detailed information around the proposed outcomes of the projects and their suitability against the 2019/20 ATG criteria.
- 3.13 Tactran officers will also continue to liaise with Sustrans regarding opportunities to increase the level of funding received, reflecting the Scottish Government’s Programme for Scotland which continues to be set at £80m per year.

Transport Scotland Additional Active Travel Grant

- 3.14 As noted at its Partnership meeting, Tactran received a grant offer letter for £233,300 on the 29 March 2019 from the Sustainable Transport team within Transport Scotland for active travel projects in the Tactran area for implementation by end of June 2019 (Report RTP/19/25 refers).
- 3.15 The funding helped take forward four projects in Dundee totalling £108,300 and for two projects in Perth & Kinross totalling £125,000, with all projects completed by end of June 2019, as follows:
- Active Travel Audit Work in Dundee City
 - North East Campus, Dundee
 - Ninewells Hospital - Footway Upgrade
 - Wayfinding Information Signage in Dundee City
 - Auchterarder Community School Access
 - Aberargie path network

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with Sustrans officers.
- 4.2 The Regional Active Travel Development Fund and Tactran Active Travel Grant projects have been developed in consultation with the Sustainable Travel Liaison Group, Transportation Officers Liaison Group, Public Transport Officers Liaison Group and other appropriate stakeholders.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Tactran was awarded £133,400 in 2018/19 for the Regional Active Travel Development Fund for Regional Walking & Cycling Feasibility Study to be completed by end of June 2019. In addition, Sustran contributed up to £46,600 towards the cost of a feasibility study. Tactran has been awarded a further £133,400 for the Regional Active Travel Grant Fund in 2019/20.
- 5.2 Tactran was awarded £233,300 Additional Active Travel Grant by Transport Scotland for projects to be completed by end of June 2019.
- 5.3 Sustrans has confirmed a minimum allocation of £100,000 for the Tactran Active Travel Grant scheme in 2019/20.

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:

Reports to Partnership RTP/18/22, Active Travel Progress Update and RTP/18/24 2018/19 Budget Monitoring, 26 June 2018

Report to Partnership RTP/18/44, Active Travel Progress Update, 18 December 2018

Report to Partnership RTP/19/07, Active Travel Progress Update, 19 March 2019

Report to Partnership RTP/19/25, Active Travel Progress Update, 18 June 2019