

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

14 JUNE 2016

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRESS UPDATE

REPORT BY ACTIVE TRAVEL OFFICER

This report updates the Partnership on projects funded by the 2015/16 Tactran Active Travel Grant scheme and seeks approval of award of funding from the 2016/17 Tactran Active Travel Grant scheme.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership :-

- (i) notes the progress in delivering the 2015/16 Tactran Active Travel Grant scheme;
- (ii) approves the award of grant funding from the 2016/17 Active Travel Grant scheme for projects as detailed in the report; and
- (iii) agrees to receive reports detailing further 2016/17 Active Travel Grant awards at future meetings.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 16 June 2015 the Partnership noted the allocation of capital funding of £100,000 during 2015/16 from the Sustrans Community Links programme to implement active travel measures and remitted consideration and approval of funding awards to the Executive Committee (Report RTP/15/20 refers). The Executive Committee subsequently approved Active Travel Grant awards to 3 projects, committing a maximum of £56,000 during 2015/16 (Report RTP/15/25 refers).
- 2.2 At its meeting on 8 December 2015 the Partnership approved a further £5,000 Active Travel Grant award to one project committing a maximum of £61,000 during 2015/16 (Report RTP/15/38 refers) and agreed to delegate authority to the Director and Treasurer to consider applications and approve the award of the remaining Active Travel Grant funding. The Director and Treasurer subsequently approved a further Active Travel Grant award of £35,000 to one project, committing a maximum of £96,000 during 2015/16 (Report RTP/16/02 refers).
- 2.3 At its meeting on 8 March 2016 the Partnership noted progress in delivering the 2015/16 Active Travel Grant scheme, including the intention that the Active Travel Officer would continue to liaise with Dundee City Council, in partnership with Sustrans, to review Dundee City Council's application for Green Circular Upgrade at Trottick Ponds with the potential for resubmission in order to enable maximum commitment of the 2015/16 funding (Report RTP/16/08 refers).

- 2.4 At its meeting on 8 March 2016 the Partnership also noted that, based on the success of the previous 2014/15 and 2015/16 Active Travel Grant schemes, Tactran has secured a further allocation of £100,000 during financial year 2016/17 from the Sustrans Community Links programme under the partnership arrangement 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).

3 DISCUSSION

Active Travel Grant 2015/16

- 3.1 There were three separate rounds for the 2015/16 Active Travel Grant (ATG) scheme. The first call for applications to the 2015/16 ATG scheme was in May 2015, resulting in three approved projects receiving a total of £56,000 grant funding. (Report RTP/15/25 refers).
- 3.2 The second call for ATG applications was in September 2015 resulting in one project being awarded £5,000 grant funding (Report RTP/15/38 refers).
- 3.3 The third call for ATG applications was in February 2016 resulting in one project being awarded £35,000 grant funding (Report RTP/16/02 refers).
- 3.4 The 3 rounds of the ATG Scheme in total allocated £96,000 grant funding. In order to enable maximum commitment of 2015/16 funding, the Active Travel Officer continued to liaise with Dundee City Council regarding their Green Circular Upgrade – Trottick Ponds application submitted in round three of the ATG scheme during February 2016 and requested that the Council resubmit this application with sufficient information to enable its reassessment (Report RTP/16/08 refers).
- 3.5 On resubmission of Dundee City Council's application, and in accordance with the delegation of authority agreed on 8 December 2015, the Director and Treasurer approved funding for the project Green Circular Upgrade – Trottick Ponds, committing the remaining £4,000 of the 2015/16 ATG. The total amount requested by Dundee City Council exceeded the remaining grant allowance, therefore it was agreed with Sustrans that they would fund the remaining £17,000 to facilitate project delivery.
- 3.6 The award of 2015/16 ATG funding to the Green Circular Upgrade – Trottick Ponds project, together with previously approved allocations, committed the full £100,000 of the 2015/16 ATG budget. A summary of the 2015/16 ATG awards is outlined in Appendix A. The Active Travel Officer continues to engage with partners to ensure the completion of final summary reports and evidence of project completion.

Active Travel Grant 2016/17

- 3.7 As reported to the Partnership at its meeting on 8 March 2016, Tactran has secured a further allocation of £100,000 for financial year 2016/17 from the Sustrans Community Links programme.
- 3.8 The revised Active Travel Grant (ATG) scheme, as approved on 8 March 2016 (Report RTP/16/08 refers), has been designed to reflect and support Community Links and implementation of the Regional Transport Strategy. The ATG scheme aims to connect communities by providing high quality cycle and walking infrastructure.

- 3.9 The ATG scheme is open to all statutory bodies in the Tactran region, including constituent Councils, National Park Authorities, Health Boards and higher and further educational establishments. Community organisations can also apply but are required to work in partnership with their relevant Council. It is a condition of the Community Links scheme that projects involve match-funding from the applying organisation or other sources.
- 3.10 A call for ATG applications was made in April 2016 with a submission date of 16 May 2016. Five applications were received as summarised in Appendix B. These applications have been assessed against the ATG scoring criteria approved by the Partnership on 8 March 2016 by a panel consisting of the Director, Senior Partnership Manager and Sustrans' Strategic Cycling Plans Manager, supported by the Active Travel Officer. Two of the five project applications submitted in accordance with the scheme application process and criteria were considered suitable for award of ATG funding, subject to securing match funding.
- 3.11 Applications by the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust for the Tyndrum Community Cycle Path project and by Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust for the Auchterarder Community Shared Use Path Design Stage project satisfactorily meet the ATG criteria and are considered suitable for award of ATG funding:

Organisation	Project	Recommended Grant Allocation
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust	Tyndrum Community Cycle Path B	£30,000
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	Auchterarder Community Shared-Use Path – Design Stage	£6,750

- 3.12 The Partnership is asked to approve the allocation of funding to these projects as set out in the above table, subject to securing match funding. All funding provided is subject to satisfactory design standards being achieved.
- 3.13 As indicated in Appendix B, three applications did not meet the ATG funding criteria and are not recommended for funding.
- 3.14 In addition to submitting an application for Auchterarder Community Shared-Use Path design, Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust also submitted an application for Construction of Western Entrance to Auchterarder Community Shared-Use Path. Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust was also unsuccessful in an application for national 2016/17 Community Links funding for the construction of the majority of the remainder of the shared-use path. It is, therefore, considered that further design work is required for the full shared-use path, prior to consideration of any application for ATG funding towards construction of any path section, as further design work may alter the characteristic and structure of the shared use path. It is suggested that this application could be reassessed once Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust have completed the design work approved for ATG grant for the whole route and determined the final direction of the wider project.

- 3.15 Angus Council's Forfar Community Campus, Active Travel Route project does not provide a realistic or substantially improved option for those wanting to cycle to the new Community Campus due to a significant number of sets of steps in the active travel route and is, therefore, not recommended for funding at this time.
- 3.16 Alyth Development Trust's Bridging the Gaps Building the Future application did not provide sufficient or relevant information about the project for which they were applying to enable assessment. It is recommended that the Active Travel Officer continues to liaise with Alyth Development Trust to review their application, with the potential for resubmission for funding in 2016/17.
- 3.17 In addition Stirling Council made an enquiry regarding four applications for projects they had submitted to the National Community Links 2016/17 programme. It is understood that these applications were successful in being awarded National Community Links funding and the Active Travel Officer will liaise with Stirling Council to determine whether further funding applications are required for these projects.
- 3.18 The projects recommended for funding outlined in paragraph 3.12 would commit £36,750 of this year's budget and the Active Travel Officer will continue to engage with potential partners to identify projects for the remaining balance of £63,250 within the allocated 2016/17 ATG budget.

National Community Links 2016/17

- 3.19 The National Community Links programme is running again in 2016/17. The application process opened on 6 January 2016 and closed on 16 February 2016.
- 3.20 All applicants were informed of the final funding decision on 26 May 2016, with a total of £1,520,145 assigned to 23 projects within the Tactran region.
- 3.21 The Active Travel Officer will continue to communicate with the relevant Community Links Officers about projects based in the Tactran region.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 This report, and proposed awards of ATG funding, has been prepared in consultation with Sustrans who are in agreement with the proposals.
- 4.2 The Tactran Community Links Active Travel Grant scheme has 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 An allocation of £100,000 for the Tactran Community Links Active Travel Grant scheme in 2016/17 has been made from the Sustrans Community Links programme.
- 5.2 Provision for the costs associated with appointment of the Active Travel 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.

Nina Gillespie
Active Travel Officer

Report prepared by Nina Gillespie. For further information contact Nina Gillespie email ninagillespie@tactran.gov.uk or telephone 01738 475773.

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/15/20, RTS Delivery Plan Update, 16 June 2015

Report to Executive Committee RTP/15/25, 2015-16 Tactran Community Links Active Travel Grant Awards, 31 July 2015

Report to Partnership RTP/15/38, Active Travel Progress Update, 8 December 2015

Report to Director and Treasurer RTP/16/02, 2015-16 Tactran Community Links Active Travel Grant Awards, 19 February 2016

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

2015/16 Active Travel Grant – Awards Summary

Appendix A

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Requested	Grant Allocated
Round 1					
Dundee City Council	Riverside Avenue to Perth Road Link	Riverside Avenue (NCN77/Green Circular) overlay; new toucan crossing on Riverside Avenue; and new cycleway construction/existing path overlay/dropped kerbs to Riverside Avenue to Perth Road link	£155,000	£77,500	£36,500
Perth & Kinross Council	Janet Forbes, Longforgan Shared-Use	Provision of 2.5m wide shared use path on Janet Forbes Avenue connecting Kingswell Road with Mary Findlay Drive .	29,000	£14,500	£14,500
Stanley Development Trust	Stanley-Luncarty Cycle Path Feasibility Study	Feasibility study to identify the best route for a proposed 3km cycle link between the villages of Luncarty and Stanley	£10,500	£5,000	£5,000
Round 2					
Angus Council	Brechin Community Campus Cycle Parking	Upgrade public cycle parking to provide cover for 16 Sheffield stands, as part of overall access project providing active travel routes to the new community campus.	£10,000	£5,000	£5,000
Round 3					
Stirling Council	Stirling Station Gateway	Enhancements to Goosecroft Road; Alterations to existing traffic signalling to provide a toucan crossing; footway widening and resurfacing; provision of shared use surfaces; link created between NCNs 765 and 76 and Stirling Rail Station	£250,000	£35,000	£35,000
Dundee City Council	Green Circular Upgrade: Trottick Ponds	Upgrade the path (about 500m) of the Green Circular in the near vicinity of Trottick Ponds. Other sections have been upgraded to sealed surface; this will join other sealed surfaces completing the upgrade of 10 miles of the Green Circular from Panmurefield in the east to Clatto Park in the west.	£26,000	£21,000	£4,000*
				TOTAL ALLOCATION	£100,000

*£17,000 awarded by Sustrans.

Projects Recommended for Approval

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Requested	Grant Allocated
Loch Lomond & The 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. 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	£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.	£13,500	£6,750	£6,750

Projects Not Recommended for Approval at this Time

Organisation	Project	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Funding Requested
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust	Auchterarder Community Shared-Use Path – Construction of Western Entrance	The construction of a new easy access ramp to the western entrance of Provost Walk and 140 metres of new path in the adjoining field to improve access for all users.	£103,515	£47,929
Angus Council	Forfar Community Campus – Active Travel Route	Improve active travel access, by upgrading a popular and strategic walking route at Bankhead Steps.	£60,000	£20,000
Alyth Development Trust	Bridging the Gaps – Building the Future	Alyth Town Centre Regeneration application for community engagement events in the town square and the development of new signage and mapping.	£10,000	£10,000