

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET27 October 2016Report by Director of EnvironmentDELIVERY OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY AND THE ACTIVE TRAVEL
ACTION PLAN**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to update members on progress with delivery of the Council's Local Transport Strategy (LTS) and the Active Travel Action Plan (ATAP).

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet welcomes the external funding secured for transport related schemes and notes the progress update in achieving the outcomes of the LTS and ATAP.

BACKGROUND

3. The East Renfrewshire Council LTS was produced in accordance with guidance from the Scottish Government and sits in a hierarchy of transport plans below the National Transport Strategy and Regional Transport Strategy.

4. The East Renfrewshire Council ATAP was developed in line with guidance produced by Transport Scotland and Sustrans as a key action of the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) and was agreed by Cabinet in October 2015.

REPORTLTS Projects 2015/16

5. In 2015/16 the Roads Service was successful in attracting external funding of £961,032 for various projects which contribute to the LTS.

6. A full summary of 2015/16 projects contributing to the LTS is included as Appendix A to this report.

LTS Projects 2016/17

7. In 2016/17 the Roads Service is continuing to seek external funding to deliver projects contributing to the delivery of the LTS. Funding of £446,377 has already been secured for the following projects:

- £170,000 from SPT for Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements
- £30,000 from SPT for Bus Infrastructure Improvements

- £30,000 from SPT for progression of Barrhead Park and Ride extension
- £87,500 from Sustrans for Davieland Road Reconfiguration
- £10,000 from Sustrans Community Links for Newton Mearns Cycle Network Spatial Planning
- £10,000 from Sustrans Community Links for Auchenback Community Street Action Plan, Barrhead South
- £20,000 from Sustrans Community Links for Mearnskirk to Mearns Primary Link Route
- £84,877 from Paths for All/Transport Scotland for Smarter Choices, Smarter Places, Newton Mearns and Thornliebank projects
- £4,000 from Sustrans Scotland Cycle and Scooter Parking Fund for 2 large new bike shelters at OLM Primary School

8. A summary of 2016/17 projects will be presented to the Cabinet in October 2017.

Active Travel Action Plan (ATAP)

9. The ATAP which was published in October 2015 includes 25 Actions for Delivery and an update on progress is included in Appendix B.

Future Reporting

10. A further update on projects contributing to the delivery of the LTS and ATAP will be provided to the Cabinet in October 2017.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

11. The cost of implementing the infrastructure elements of the LTS is partly contained within existing Capital and Revenue budgets with full implementation dependent upon receiving funding from external sources. The LTS and ATAP have the potential to assist the Council in gaining funding from external sources to take forward its priority transport schemes which cannot be funded entirely through the Council's own budgets. It thus has the potential to generate additional transport related investment in the area. Transport schemes are unlikely to attract funding unless they are identified in the LTS and ATAP.

12. The LTS and ATAP will improve the efficiency of the Council by providing strategic direction for the transport related schemes that are taken forward. It will also ensure coordination between transport planning at national and regional levels as well as assisting in providing policy coordination with other key areas such as land-use planning, community planning, economic development, environment, equality and social inclusion.

CONSULTATION

13. The LTS was subject to extensive public consultation with input sought from key stakeholders and the public, with the final strategy taking full cognisance of these consultation exercises.

14. The ATAP was subject to public consultation through a 500 sample survey and an online survey promoted through the Citizen Space portal.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

15. The Roads Service works with many key stakeholders and external funding authorities including Transport Scotland, SPT, Sustrans and Cycling Scotland in order to assist in meeting the objectives and outcomes laid out in the LTS and ATAP.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

16. There are no implications in terms of staffing, property, legal, IT and equalities. The LTS and ATAP contribute positively to sustainability, focusing on alternatives to private transport.

CONCLUSIONS

17. The LTS remains the statutory document in reflecting the Council's interest in regional and national policy development as well as providing strategic direction for transport at a local level. To date the LTS has been significant in supporting successful applications for the external funding of projects of importance to the Council. Supporting the existing LTS emphasises the continued relevance of the LTS with a focus on delivery of projects.

18. The ATAP provides our strategic direction for the provision and promotion of active travel. It is within this framework that our future projects will be prioritised to provide a local contribution to national policy in relation to walking and cycling.

RECOMMENDATIONS

19. It is recommended that the Cabinet welcomes the external funding secured for transport related schemes and notes the progress update in achieving the outcomes of the LTS and ATAP.

Director of Environment

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BACKGROUND PAPERS East Renfrewshire Council Local Transport Strategy.

KEY WORDS An update on the Local Transport Strategy Key Words – Update, Local, Transport, Strategy, Active, Travel, Action, Plan

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APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF 2015/16 PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO THE LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

PROJECT	FUNDING	SUMMARY
Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements	£350,000 from SPT	This funding provided the following improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of 8 pedestrian crossing facilities to puffin crossings • Installation of signals and pedestrian crossing facilities at junction of East Kilbride Road/Field Road, Busby • Funding contribution towards the creation of the Newton Mearns Active Travel Network
Bus Infrastructure Improvements	£150,000 from SPT	Shillford Mill Road was upgraded to a standard to be used by the 395 bus service, which allows for extended coverage and safer operation of the service. 24 bus stops were also upgraded with raised kerbs to improve accessibility for the mobility impaired in Barrhead and Neilston, and at the new Eastwood Health and Care Centre.
Barrhead Park and Ride Extension Feasibility	£15,000 from SPT	A feasibility study, including ground investigations, topographical survey and design were carried out to establish a preferred option for increasing the capacity of the existing park and ride facility at Barrhead Railway Station.
Go Newton Mearns Sustainable Travel Project	£84,189 from Paths for All/Transport Scotland	A resident engagement project was carried out targeting over 5,300 households in Newton Mearns through a personalised travel planning approach with accompanying events and promotional materials.
Newton Mearns Active Travel Network	£329,644 from Sustrans Community Links	A new shared use path network was created linking Barrhead Road to Eastwood High School and Crookfur Primary School, including improved links to St Cadoc's Primary School. The new network includes: 2 new bridges, a new toucan crossing of Barrhead Road, improved crossing of Crookfur Road, permanent pedestrian and cycle counters and installation of solar waymarking studs.
Strategic Cycle Signage	£11,587 from Sustrans Community Links	Working with Ayrshire Roads Alliance, Glasgow City Council and South Lanarkshire Council, signage has been designed which will allow National Cycle Network routes to be established through East Renfrewshire linking Pollok Park to Kilmarnock and also linking East Kilbride to our A77 route. There is currently no existing National Cycle Network in East Renfrewshire and this is likely to be implemented in 2016/17.
Play on Pedals	£2,500 from Cycling Scotland	The grant was used to procure balance bikes for nursery schools across East Renfrewshire to allow them to participate in Cycling Scotland's "Play on Pedals" initiative. Eaglesham, Calderwood Lodge, Thornliebank and Mearns nursery classes are currently delivering the scheme.
Bikeability Cycle Training Delivery	£18,112 from Cycling Scotland	This grant is used to provide training and mentoring support for the delivery of on-road bikeability level 2 cycle training with coverage of 100% of our Primary Schools.

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APPENDIX B – ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN

Action	Delivery Update
Infrastructure	
1. Design and implement a signage strategy to establish the strategic cycle network.	Working with Ayrshire Roads Alliance, Glasgow City Council and South Lanarkshire Council, signage has been designed which will allow National Cycle Network routes to be established through East Renfrewshire linking Pollok Park to Kilmarnock and also linking East Kilbride to our A77 route. There is currently no existing National Cycle Network in East Renfrewshire and this is likely to be implemented in 2016/17. This will sign Strategic Cycle Corridor 2.
2. Carry out feasibility and technical design for 5 strategic cycle corridors.	As part of our strategic signage we are currently focussing on Strategic Cycle Corridor 2 and seeking to identify improvements which will complement this.
3. Deliver infrastructure improvements on strategic cycle corridors in line with the availability of funding.	As part of our proposed improvements to Strategic Cycle Corridor 2 we have been awarded provisional funding from Sustrans to reconfigure Davieland Road to improve facilities for both pedestrians and cyclists. Detailed design is currently being finalised with a view to implementing the project in 2017/18.
4. East Renfrewshire Council will work with key partners to route the National Cycle Network through East Renfrewshire.	We have proactively engaged with Sustrans and neighbouring authorities to identify possible routing of the National Cycle Network in East Renfrewshire. Signage has been designed to be implemented in Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, Glasgow and East Renfrewshire which will establish NCN routes from Pollock Park to Kilmarnock and East Kilbride to our A77 route. This is in agreement with Sustrans and when implemented will see the NCN routed through East Renfrewshire for the first time.
5. Design and implement a cycle network in Newton Mearns in 2015/16.	We been successfully awarded funding from Sustrans Community Links to carry out a Spatial Mapping exercise for Newton Mearns to examine current and potential active travel routes and facilities in the area. It is hoped that this will build on the new Shared Use Network and provide a plan for future infrastructure improvements in the area.
6. Identify and deliver local cycle networks providing signed links throughout the key urban areas of Barrhead, Clarkston, Giffnock, Newton Mearns and Thornliebank.	In 2016/17 we are focussing on Newton Mearns through the spatial mapping exercise and it is envisaged that this will be replicated in other communities over the coming years.

7. Ensure projects to improve walking and cycling infrastructure connect and complement the existing core path and green space networks.	Continuous delivery.
8. Develop, implement and promote improved cycle facilities at priority railway station locations.	We are currently engaging with both SPT and Abellio to identify opportunities for improvements to cycling facilities at railway stations in East Renfrewshire.
9. Develop and implement an active travel hub pilot project at key bus stop locations.	We are seeking to identify an appropriate location and funding for this.
10. Develop, improve and promote the walking and cycling facilities at Rouken Glen Park, The Dams to Darnley Country Park and Whitelees Wind Farm.	Promotion of walking and cycling at these key destinations is carried out on an on-going basis through events and promotions. An example of this is the gold, silver and bronze walking and cycling routes promoted at Rouken Glen Park.
11. Work with willing community partners to identify and establish local facilities to support community cycling.	We will work with community partners as and when they come forward with proposals to support community cycling. We currently support the Neilston Development Trust with their Pedalwise project and would be keen to work with other communities.
12. Promote recreational walking and cycling routes through the provision of high quality maps and information.	4 new recreational cycling maps were published in 2015 and these are available at Council buildings and to download from the Council website. A bespoke Go Newton Mearns Active Travel Map was also produced in 2015 to support the Go Newton Mearns resident engagement project.
13. Ensure that travel plans produced for new developments are comprehensive and monitored to meet the needs of active travel.	Continuous delivery.
14. Carry out a review of urban centres to establish where walking and cycling facilities can be improved and implement improvements.	In 2016/17 this is being carried out in Newton Mearns as part of the spatial planning exercise and this will be carried out in other communities over the coming years. We have also successfully been awarded funding from Sustrans Community Links to carry out a Community Street Action Plan for Auchenback in Barrhead in line with the on-going Barrhead South Strategic Development Opportunity.
15. Work with willing employers to provide advice and support to encourage active travel.	We will work with willing employers on an on-going basis.
Behaviour Change	
16. Maintain 100% coverage of on-road cycle training at our primary schools and continue to monitor and improve the quality of training delivery.	We have maintained our 100% coverage of on-road cycling training at our primary schools in 2016 which continuously requires the recruitment and training of volunteers to support delivery.

17. Develop opportunities to deliver bikeability level 3 cycle training at our secondary schools and seek to promote cycling at an early age through our nurseries.	Bikeability level 3 is currently being implemented at 5 of our primary schools and we are seeking to encourage implementation at Secondary schools. 4 nurseries (Eaglesham, Calderwood Lodge, Thornliebank and Mearns) in East Renfrewshire are currently delivering the "Play on Pedals" initiative which was facilitated through a successful grant award from Cycling Scotland. We are seeking to extend this further in the coming years.
18. Ensure every new active travel infrastructure improvement is accompanied by promotion.	Continuous delivery. For example the new Newton Mearns shared use network was accompanied by an event and production of an active travel map.
19. Deliver a smarter choices, smarter places project in Newton Mearns in 2015/16.	Go Newton Mearns resident engagement project which targeted over 5,300 households was carried out in 2015/16.
20. Deliver smarter choices, smarter places projects across East Renfrewshire subject to funding from 2016/17	We have successfully been awarded funding for a Smarter Choices, Smarter Places project in Thornliebank in 2016/17.
21. Support the expansion of community networks by assisting local community groups to achieve improvements in active travel infrastructure and initiatives.	We will work with willing local community groups as they come forward to support their proposals to achieve local improvements in Active Travel. We are currently engaged with the Neilston Development Trust and Uplawmoor Development Trust to help them develop proposals for a new shared use link to link these communities.
22. Engage with East Renfrewshire Sustrans Volunteer Group as a forum to discuss improvements and the promotion of active travel across the area.	Our Officers attend quarterly meetings of the East Renfrewshire Sustrans Volunteer Group to discuss proposals for improvements and promotion of active travel and to update on progress with our active travel action plan.
Monitoring	
23. Carry out an annual programme of walking and cycling counts to monitor active travel usage.	A programme of pedestrian and cycle counts were carried out in September 2016 and September 2016. We are currently awaiting the results of the September 2016 count programme. In addition we have recently installed 3 permanent pedestrian and cycle counters on the new Newton Mearns active travel network which allows us to monitor activity on this route.
24. Use national data and statistics to benchmark our performance in relation to others.	National data and statistics are monitored as they become available. These however can be of limited value due to the small sample size used at the East Renfrewshire Council level.
25. Provide an annual update on progress and performance in relation to our active travel action plan.	This report provides an update on our progress with the active travel action plan and this will be reviewed on an annual basis.

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