
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

11 June 2019

Cabinet

Title: Active Travel and Transport External Funding 2019/20

Purpose: To seek approval for the acceptance of grant offers to allow the implementation of projects to improve active travel, green networks and transport.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to:

- a) Approve the acceptance and expenditure of the successful grant offers as detailed at Appendix 2;
- b) Approve the acceptance and expenditure of the outstanding grant offers and additional awards identified if successful; and
- c) Receive a further report on the proposed projects and associated funding applications for 2020/21.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In January 2019, the Cabinet approved a number of active travel and transport projects across North Ayrshire and the submission of associated funding applications to enable their implementation. The projects identified emerged from the priorities of the Local Transport Strategy, Outdoor Access Strategy and Core Paths Plan and were informed by workshops with Elected Members and in consultation with Council Services and the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum.
- 1.2 Funding applications are required on an annual basis in support of an annual capital and revenue budget. In excess of £1 million of external funding has typically been secured on an annual basis. Offers of funding totalling £2,056,000 have been received to date for the active travel and transport projects. These are presented in Appendix Two to the report.

2. Background

- 2.1 National priorities for transport and active travel are identified by the Scottish Government's National Transport Strategy, Strategic Transport Projects Review, Cycling Action Plan for Scotland and National Walking Strategy. These inform the Government and Transport Scotland's funding priorities for transport and active travel. This funding is then disbursed through a range of programmes including: Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Capital Programme, Smarter Choices Smarter Places and Sustrans Scotland's Community Links. These programmes are open to applications

from Local Authorities on an annual basis to enable them to implement transport and active travel priorities at a local level.

- 2.2 The national priorities are translated into a local perspective through the Local Transport Strategy, Outdoor Access Strategy and Core Paths Plan. The North Ayrshire Local Transport Strategy 2015-20 provides the vision for an integrated transport network for North Ayrshire. The Outdoor Access Strategy, North Ayrshire Naturally Active and the North Ayrshire Core Paths Plan outline the Council's strategic approach to active travel including outdoor access and green infrastructure. These documents identify key priorities and flagship actions for transport and active travel at a local level. These are detailed in the Appendix One alongside potential sources of funding for their delivery.
- 2.3 The Inclusive Growth Diagnostic identified transport as a barrier to inclusive growth at a local level. In particular it was identified as a limiting factor to and preventing people from accessing employment and training opportunities. A number of contributing factors were identified including the: frequency of transport; connections between transport modes; cost; and shift patterns exacerbating transport constraints. The provision of high-quality opportunities for active travel and public transport for everyday journeys is therefore vital to local communities, inclusive growth and supporting modal shift to sustainable travel.
- 2.4 A limited capital and revenue budget is available therefore funding applications are required on an annual basis to implement active travel and transport priorities. Existing budgets are utilised alongside the annual Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets grant allocation from Transport Scotland as match funding to maximise the level of resources available. Funding is also secured from other Council Services towards specific projects. Potential projects are informed by a range of factors including the: strategic priorities for active travel and transport; key issues for the local area; projects fit with funders' priorities; potential benefits to be derived from the project; budget availability; ability to secure match funding; and deliverability of the project.
- 2.5 Potential projects for which funding would be sought were identified from the Local Transport Strategy, Outdoor Access Strategy and Core Paths Plan. These were further prioritised through workshops with Elected Members and in consultation with a range of Council Services and the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum. The outcome of this process was reported to Cabinet on 15 January 2019 which approved a range of projects across North Ayrshire and the submission of funding applications to enable their implementation.
- 2.6 Offers of funding totalling £2,056,000 have been received to date. This includes the annual Cycling Walking and Safer Streets Grant of £222,000 in 2019/20. The funding applications submitted and offers of funding are presented in Appendix Two. This is provided by Locality Planning area and includes a summary of the project, its estimated cost, and the funding secured to date. A number of the projects are being delivered in partnership with Place Services. This is detailed within the project overview section. The projects require to be delivered in the current financial year unless otherwise stated and will assist in achieving the Council's objectives in terms of: economic growth; transport; active travel; tourism; and the development of the Central Scotland Green Network. The outcome of remaining applications is still unknown, and it is envisaged that decisions will be received in July 2019.

- 2.7 It is proposed that potential projects for 2020/21 will be identified through a similar process to that previously undertaken. A further report will be submitted to Cabinet thereafter to obtain approval for the projects and the future submission of associated funding applications.

3. Proposals

3.1 The Cabinet is invited to agree to:-

- a) Approve the acceptance and expenditure of the successful grant offers as detailed at Appendix 2;
- b) Approve the acceptance and expenditure of the outstanding grant offers and additional awards identified if successful; and
- c) Receive a further report on the proposed projects and associated funding applications for 2020/21.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	The costs associated with implementing the projects outlined in Appendix 1 will be met from a combination of the: external grant funding offers detailed; £50,000 Capital Allocation for the Access Path Network Programme and contributions from other Council Services. No additional Council funding is required for these projects.
Human Resources:	Two of the temporary Officer posts and one of the embedded Officer posts within the Active Travel and Transport Team will be funded through the Smarter Choices Smarter Places grant funding.
Legal:	There are no legal implications arising from this report. Where necessary traffic orders, path creation agreements and other legal agreements will be promoted.
Equality/Socio-economic Duty:	The projects will improve access to public transport and provide increased opportunities and improved access for all ages and abilities to the Council owned path networks in North Ayrshire.
Children and Young People:	The projects will improve access to the outdoors and the opportunities for active travel and physical activity for children and young people. Targeted behaviour change activities will be delivered for children and young people through the Travel Smart Project.
Environmental & Sustainability:	The projects will provide increased opportunities for sustainable and active travel including cycling and walking. This in turn will promote modal shift which will improve health and well-being of communities, reduce the use of private cars and improve the air quality within North Ayrshire in accordance with the Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.
Key Priorities:	<p>The implementation of the projects will contribute to the delivery of a wide range of the Council's strategic objectives. This will contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan's vision of a North Ayrshire that is fair for all and the mission to improve well-being and equity. This will assist in achieving the priority outcomes that North Ayrshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has active and strong communities; • Has an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy; • Residents and communities enjoy good life-long health; • Is well-connected with effective infrastructure; • Is a sustainable environment; • Is a vibrant, welcoming and attractive environment;
Community Benefits:	The potential for the inclusion of Community Benefit clauses will be investigated on a project by project basis through the procurement process. A number of the projects will be delivered through the Green Network Training Programme in partnership with East Ayrshire Woodlands which offers community benefits through the provision of training placements to local young unemployed people.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The projects were informed by the priorities identified in the Local Transport Strategy, Outdoor Access Strategy and Core Paths Plan. These documents were developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders including local communities, agencies and partner organisations. The projects were also informed by workshops with Elected Members, consultation with Council Services and the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum, and analysis against a range of factors. Public consultation on the details of the projects, for example in relation to scheme design and specification, will be undertaken on a project by project basis.

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For further information please contact **Louise Kirk, Active Travel and Transport Manager**, on **01294 324766**.

Background Papers

North Ayrshire Core Path Plan
North Ayrshire Council Plan
North Ayrshire Local Transport Strategy
North Ayrshire Naturally Active

Appendix 1 - Active Travel and Transport Priorities

The table below outlines the key priorities and flagship actions identified for active travel and transport by the local strategies and the potential sources of funding for delivery.

Strategy	Key Priorities	Flagship Actions	Potential Sources Of Funding
Local Transport Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Growth; Improving accessibility and connectivity to help reduce inequality; and Reducing the negative impact of transport on communities, businesses and the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen links to Glasgow and Regional Centres; Increase the accessibility and awareness of the i3 Enterprise Area; Improve Ardrossan Harbour and Ferry Terminal; and Develop Community Transport in North Ayrshire. 	Ayrshire Growth Deal Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) Capital Programme Transport Scotland
Outdoor Access Strategy (includes strategic approach to active travel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Travel is an attractive and viable option for everyday journeys; An attractive, safe, accessible and quality destination for active travel; A high quality information, education and interpretation programme for active travel; Opportunities are integrated into wider regeneration programmes; and Path networks have improved and are well maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of the Travel Smart Project; Development of Active Travel Hubs; Implementation of the Irvine Cycle Friendly Town; Local delivery of the National Walking and Cycling Network (NWCN); and Upgrade of National Cycle Network (NCN) Routes 7, 73 and 753. 	Ayrshire Growth Deal Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund (CSGN) Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) SPT Sustrans Transport Scotland
Core Paths Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of the basic framework of paths for everyday journeys across North Ayrshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of the Core Path Network; Greening of the Core Path Network; and Local delivery of the National Walking and Cycling Network (NWCN). 	Ayrshire Growth Deal CSGN Development Fund Coastal Communities Fund ERDF SPT Capital Programme Sustrans Transport Scotland

Appendix 2 - Active Travel and Transport Funding Applications and Offers

The references in the table to match funding from the Active Travel and Transport Budget include the Cycling Walking and Safer Streets grant allocation. The following projects will benefit all or multiple of Locality Planning areas

Project Overview	Contributes to the	Locality Planning Areas	Estimated Cost	Funding Outcome
Bus Stop Improvements The improvement of the existing bus stop infrastructure across North Ayrshire to create a more attractive environment for passengers, encourage use of public transport and encourage modal shift.	Local Transport Strategy (LTS)	All	£100,000	£100,000 secured from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT).
Bus Route Congestion Measures The improvement of local bus routes including Route 11 through the implementation of a traffic control system to provide bus priority traffic lights in Irvine and Kilwinning. This is a partnership project with Place.	LTS	Irvine Kilwinning	£300,000 in 2019/20	£300,000 secured from SPT.
Bus Lane Feasibility A study to consider the feasibility of introducing a bus lane on the eastbound approach to Pennyburn Roundabout on the A738 Trunk Road. This aims to improve the service offered by an efficiency of the Route 11 bus service.	LTS	Irvine Kilwinning Three Towns	£25,000	Application to SPT. No award - this application was unsuccessful.
B714 Upgrade The upgrade of the single carriageway B714 to: complement the Dalry Bypass; improve the route for public and commercial transport; and improve connections to Glasgow.	LTS	Kilwinning Three Towns Garnock Valley	£300,000	Application to SPT. No award - this application was unsuccessful.
Coastal Connections The next stage of the study to investigate the potential to improve the physical connections and placemaking between Irvine and the Three Towns. This includes the production of detailed designs through stakeholder engagement.	OAS LTS	Irvine Three Towns	£50,000	Application to Sustrans' Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.
Real Time Passenger Information Investigation A study to investigate the feasibility of and preparing costings for the extension of the Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) system at bus stops.	LTS OAS	All LP Areas	£20,000	Funding application to be submitted Summer 2019.
Route Action Plan for Rural Roads A study to identify recommendations and improvements for key strategic and distributor routes where accidents have occurred to inform future road improvements.	LTS	Kilwinning Three Towns North Coast	£180,000	Application to SPT. No award - this application was unsuccessful.

		Garnock Valley		
Project Overview	Contributes to the	Locality Planning Areas	Estimated Cost	Funding Outcome
Travel Smart A range of behaviour change activities linked to path improvements. These aim to encourage active and sustainable travel and include training, travel planning and events. The match funding for this project is from Council and partner resources including in-kind contributions.	OAS LTS	All	£204,000	£204,000 secured from Paths for All £136,969 of match.
National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 753 A feasibility and design study for the creation of NCN Route 753 between Ardrossan and Gourock. This will design the upgrade of the existing sections of the route establish the feasibility of the missing sections through stakeholder engagement.	OAS LTS	North Coast and Three Towns	£400,000	Funding application to be submitted Summer 2019.

The following tables summarise the remaining proposed projects by Locality Planning area.

Arran Locality Planning Area

Project Title and Summary	Contributes to the	Estimated Cost	Funding Outcome
A841 Brodick to Lochranza Ferry Link upgrade The upgrade of the bus route (A841) between Brodick ferry and Lamlash Ferry through widening of the carriageway to accommodate buses and the re-construction of areas of carriageway.	LTS	£700,000	Application to SPT. No award - this application was unsuccessful.
Arran Routes / National Cycle Network Route 73 This project was submitted to Scottish Natural Heritage's Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund as part of a wider project by the Arran Access Trust. This would construct the next section of NCN Route 73 between Brodick and Corrie.	OAS CPP LTS	£120,000	Application to the Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund in partnership with Arran Access Trust. Decision anticipated Summer / Autumn 2019.
Brodick to Lamlash Feasibility Study A study to investigate the feasibility of creating a path between Brodick and Lamlash. This would investigate a range of options including the upgrade of the existing path to provide opportunities for all abilities and multi user access.	OAS CPP LTS	£60,000	Funding application to be submitted Summer 2019.

Garnock Locality Planning Area

Project Title and Summary	Contributes to the	Estimated Cost	Funding Outcome
Dalry Station Access Improvements The widening of the footway along Bridgend to the station to improve its accessibility and promote joined up journeys to and from Dalry Station.	OAS LTS	£25,000	Application to SPT. No award - this application was unsuccessful.
Garnock Valley Active Travel Project This project would improve the links between National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 7 and Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie and local path networks. This phase would implement the designs developed for the routes in 2018/19..	OAS LTS	£350,000	Funding application to be submitted in Summer / Autumn 2019.
Kilbirnie Path Upgrades The upgrade of existing paths at Glenriddet Avenue and Lynn Drive to an all abilities and multi-user access standard.	OAS CPP	£300,000	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.
Lochshore Community Links This is the next phase of the project and would prepare detailed designs for the two proposed gateways and further detailed design of a new active travel route connecting to Glengarnock station.	OAS LTS	£50,000	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.
Lochshore Active Travel Routes This is the next phase of the project and will construct four routes providing active travel connections for local communities to and through Lochshore from Kilbirnie town linking places of employment, education and public transport.	OAS CPP	£584,650	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019. £50,000 secured from the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) Development Fund.
NCN Route 7 Implementation This project would implement the recommendations of the NCN Route 7 Kilwinning to Kilbirnie Feasibility Study on a phased basis. The submission of this application is subject to an acceptable design being developed for the route adjacent to the B780.	OAS LTS	£500,000	Funding application to be submitted in Summer / Autumn 2019.

Irvine Locality Planning Area

The wider Irvine Cycle Friendly Town (ICFT) project agreed by Cabinet in January had to be subdivided into smaller projects for submission to Sustrans Scotland's Places for Everyone programme. These are detailed below with the prefix ICFT.

Project Overview	Contributes to the	Estimated Cost	Funding Outcome
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Irvine Cycle Friendly Town Implementation The upgrade of existing paths to an all abilities and multi user access standard improving connections to housing, employment and the town centre.	OAS LTS	£250,000	£250,000 secured from SPT.
Irvine Cycle Friendly Town (ICFT): i3 Active Travel Link The construction of an all abilities and multi user access path between Tarryholme and the i3 Enterprise Area to improve active travel opportunities.	OAS LTS	£300,000	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.
ICFT: Upgrade of Long Drive Link The upgrade of the existing path adjacent to Long Drive between Shewalton Roundabout and Greenwood interchange to encourage travel to the i3 Enterprise Area.	OAS LTS ICFT	£150,000	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.
Irvine Station Interchange Improvements The development of a base Paramics model for the road network to the West of the River Irvine. This would be used to improve connections between the main bus interchange and railway station and bus journey times between High Street Irvine and the railway station.	LTS	£30,000	Application to SPT. No award - this application was unsuccessful.
Irvine Town Centre Public Realm Improvements The improvement of the bus infrastructure, interchange facilities and non-motorised user environment in High Street as part of the overall town centre regeneration.	LTS OAS	£3,680,000 across 2018/19 and 2019/20.	£530,000 secured from SPT.

Kilwinning Locality Planning Area

Project Title	Contributes to the	Estimated Cost	Funding Outcome
Kilwinning: West - East Small Links The upgrade of three local routes up to an all abilities and multi user access standard to improve opportunities for active travel in and around Kilwinning. This would implement the designs developed in 18/19.	OAS CPP LTS	£100,000	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.
Eglinton Park The construction of an all abilities and multi-user access path between Kilwinning and Irvine through Eglinton Park. This would implement the designs developed in 18/19.	OAS LTS ICFT	TBC	Funding application to be submitted Summer 2019.
Project Title and Summary	Contributes to the	Estimated Cost	Funding Outcome

<p>Links to Eglinton Park</p> <p>The construction of all abilities and multi-user access paths to Eglinton Country Park from Nethermains in Kilwinning and Castlepark in Irvine. This would implement the designs developed in 18/19.</p>	<p>OAS LTS ICFT</p>	<p>£400,000</p>	<p>Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.</p>
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North Coast Locality Planning Area

Project Title and Summary	Contributes to the	Estimated Cost	Funding Outcome
<p>Bus stop and queuing facilities at Cumbrae/Largs slipways</p> <p>A study into the impact of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) at the ferry slipways on the Isle of Cumbrae and at Largs. This will determine if improvements are required to support RET in future years. This is a partnership project with Place.</p>	LTS	£250,000	£250,000 secured from SPT
<p>Cumbrae Community Links</p> <p>The construction of the Cumbrae Coastal Path and the implementation of the first phase of an off-road route between the Ferry slipway and Millport.</p>	OAS CPP	£200,000	Application to SPT. No award - this application was unsuccessful. Further funding application to be submitted Summer 2019.
<p>Fairlie Community Links</p> <p>The construction of the Fairlie Coastal Path and upgrade of the route between Fairlie and West Kilbride to an all abilities and multi user access standard.</p>	OAS CPP	£400,000	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.
<p>Largs Active Travel Implementation</p> <p>This project will implement the recommendations identified in the Largs Active Travel Study to improve active travel across Largs including the: upgrade of existing paths; and installation of signage, seating and cycle parking.</p>	OAS LTS	£200,000	Funding application to be submitted Summer 2019.

Three Towns Locality Planning Area

Project Title and Summary	Contributes to the	Estimated Cost	Funding Outcome
<p>Ardrossan Harbour Placemaking</p> <p>The next phase of the redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour through the implementation of the Ardrossan Harbour Masterplan to create a multi modal terminal facility. This forms part of a £100M wider regeneration project.</p>	OAS CPP	£2,500,000 over 2019/20 and 2020/21. Part of a wider project	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.
<p>Ardrossan Harbour rail and ferry interchange</p> <p>The design and construction of improved public transport facilities and active travel links between the Harbour and Ardrossan town to support sustainable travel to the ferry terminal.</p>	LTS OAS	£250,000 Part of a wider project	£250,000 secured from SPT
<p>NCN Route 753 – Ardrossan North Shore</p> <p>The construction of an all abilities and multi user route through the Ardrossan North Shore Site. This will create an off-road alternative to the existing NCN Route 753.</p>	OAS LTS	£1,300,000 Part of a wider project	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.
<p>Saltcoats – Old Caledonian Railway Cutting</p> <p>The production of detailed designs and subsequent upgrade of the existing path between Raise Street to Canal Street to an all abilities and multi user access standard.</p>	OAS LTS	£350,000	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.
<p>Stevenston Level Crossing Study</p> <p>The project aims to establish the feasibility of a bridge as an alternative to Stevenston Level Crossing for all abilities and multi user access. The Study will investigate the feasibility of a bridge and/or other improvements for the safety and accessibility of non-motorised users.</p>	OAS CPP LTS	£60,000	Application to Places for Everyone. Decision anticipated in Summer 2019.