

The Highland Council

City of Inverness Area Committee – 12 August 2013

Agenda Item	11
Report No	CIA/52/13

Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Programme

Report by Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Summary

This report invites Members to approve the Safer Routes to School projects for Glenurquhart Primary School and Smithton Primary School as detailed in **Appendix A**.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Cycling Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) Programme is funded directly by the Scottish Government. The programme aims to encourage sustainable and active travel to school by improving safety and removing barriers to walking and cycling. It also aims to encourage more people to think about their travel decisions.
- 1.2 The Council's Road Safety Team works with schools to produce a School Travel Plan which focusses on the journey to/from school and demonstrates the school's all-round commitment to develop safer routes to schools and achieve a modal shift on the school run. School Travel Plans seek to:
 - Encourage pupils, parents and staff to think about travel choices and choose alternatives to the car when coming to school
 - Encourage 'active' travel like walking and cycling
 - Measure change and shifts in travel behaviour
 - Make the routes to school safer for pupils
- 1.3 Further information on Highland Councils Safer Routes to School Programme can be found at www.highland.gov.uk/srts
- 1.4 This report supports the Programme for the Highland Council to provide more safe cycle tracks and "walk to school" pathways where appropriate, and will encourage healthier and greener methods of travel.

2. Funding

- 2.1 The CWSS Programme has a budget of **£237,000** for 2013/14 which is provided by the Scottish Government. The terms and conditions of the grant include a request to consider a minimum spend of 36% (and preferably 50%) on cycling related projects.
- 2.2 Through the development of the School Travel Plan, schools can normally bid for up to £30,000 of CWSS funding in any one year to implement measures that will

improve safety on routes to school and encourage active travel. If their funding bid is successful these schemes are project managed by the Road Safety Team. In certain circumstances, for example extended lengths of footpath or difficult ground conditions, bids in excess of £30,000 can be considered, and in these situations the reasons for the additional costs are highlighted to Members.

- 2.3 A Small Grant Funding element exists in the scheme which allows projects up to the value of £3,000 to be approved directly by the Road Safety Team allowing immediate implementation of these small projects.

3. Projects for Approval

- 3.1 A funding application from Glenurquhart Primary School, which has been worked up by the Road Safety Team based on the School Travel Plan is set out in **Appendix A**.

- 3.2 The costs detailed are estimated at present and if the proposals are approved the schemes will be put out to tender and implemented on a priority basis to allocate the funding available.

- 3.3 A funding application from Smithton Primary School, has also been worked up by the Road Safety Team based on the School Travel Plan is also set out in **Appendix A**.

- 3.4 This project involves utilising a former agricultural accommodation bridge over the railway for pedestrian access to the school. This will provide a short link for cycling and walking to the school from a neighbouring housing estate which is otherwise remote from the school on the opposite side of the Inverness to Perth railway line. The scheme will require planning consent, a bridge agreement with Network Rail, landownership agreement with the Housing Estate and its current estimated cost is £25k. The scheme is subject to all consents being obtained for the works.

- 3.5 Small Grant Funding already allocated from the 2013/14 budget to Schools for small projects amounts to a total of £12,413. The following applications have been received and approved for the Inverness area:-

- Balloch Primary, Cycle Training Markings, £175
- Glenurquhart Primary, 20's plenty scheme re-fresh, £177
- Merkinch Primary, Footprints & Stop, Look, Listen Markings, £433
- Dalneigh Primary, Hi Viz Vests, £73
- Culduthel After School Club, hi Viz Vests, £78
- Duncan Forbes Primary, 2 Park Smart Banners & Hi Viz Vests, £377
- Stratherrick Primary, Hi Viz Vests, £106

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1 The projects listed in **Appendix A** will be funded from the Cycling Walking and Safer Streets Programme which has a budget of £237,000 for 2013/14 totally funded by the Scottish Government to be used on Safer Routes to School

projects.

- 4.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 4.3 There are no equality implications arising from this report.
- 4.4 The modal shift from cars to cycling and walking will have a positive contribution to reducing carbon emissions.
- 4.5 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are invited to approve the Safer Routes to School project for Glenurquhart Primary School and Smithton Primary School as detailed in **Appendix A**.

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Date: 6 August 2013

Report Author: Lisa MacKellaich (Road Safety Officer)

Appendix A

School	Purpose	SRTS Estimated Contribution	Additional information	Cycling Element
Glenurquhart Primary	Zebra Crossing on A831	£7,500	<p>Total scheme cost estimated at £15,000.</p> <p>Ward 13 (Aird and Loch Ness) have agreed to contribute £7,500 to this project.</p> <p>Detailed scheme subject to consultation.</p>	
Smithton Primary	<p>Footpath over disused Railway Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 65m length of new footpath linking Burnside Drive with the existing footpath to Kenneth Place, including surfacing of path over disused railway bridge. • Remove existing fencing and replace with weldmesh panel fencing 2.4 m high in vicinity of railway bridge • Surfacing , topsoiling and seeding 	£15,000	<p>Scheme Estimate total : £25,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With scheme likely to be developed in 2013/14 and delivered in 2014/15 a £5k contribution may be available from Ward 20, Inverness South and also a £5k contribution from Ward 18, Culloden & Ardersier. • Scheme subject to planning consent, legal bridge agreement with Network Rail and landownership agreement. 	