

## **The Highland Council**

### **Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee**

**14 May 2014**

#### **Millburn Road Active Travel Corridor**

#### **Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure**

Agenda Item	10
Report No	PDI 7/14

#### **Summary**

This report seeks approval for £50,000 from the Development and Infrastructure Capital Programme as a contribution to the Millburn Road Active Travel Corridor. The report further seeks approval for £50,000 of the £1million Carbon CLEVER allowance for 2014/15 for LED Street Lighting along the Millburn Road Active Travel corridor.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Scottish Household Survey – Local Authority Analysis indicates that 62% of all journeys within the Highland region are less than 5 km. A significant proportion of overall trips are however made by car (over 60%), with cycling representing only a 2% overall mode share.
- 1.2 Walking and cycling are capable of substituting for private car travel over shorter distances (less than 5 km) and have significant benefits to personal health as well as reducing carbon emissions, air pollution and congestion. Creating high quality walking and cycling routes will provide the necessary infrastructure to allow greater uptake of active travel and contribute to reducing the carbon emissions of the region.
- 1.3 The Highland Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions. The Council has a commitment in its Programme that it will maintain its commitment to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration and work with everyone to achieve a Carbon CLEVER Highlands by 2025 (a carbon neutral Inverness in a low carbon Highlands).
- 1.4 Over the next 10 years, the Development and Infrastructure Service will, as part of the Council's Capital Programme, deliver £8m of investment in a range of Town and Countryside Regeneration projects which support sustainable economic growth, tourism, natural built and cultural assets. Investment in Green Networks & Core Paths has been approved by Highland Council. In addition, The Highland Council has allocated £1million p.a. from 2014/15 to projects which support the Carbon CLEVER initiative.

## **2. Millburn Road Active Travel Corridor**

- 2.1 The proposed Millburn Road Active Travel Corridor would provide cycling and walking infrastructure from the new Inverness Campus and the recently constructed A9 overbridge in the East, through the Raigmore Housing Estate to Millburn Road, where it would continue to the city centre. The total cost of this project is £733,000.
- 2.2 Funding for this project has been secured from a number of sources including the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Sustrans, HITRANS, as well as contributions from developers through planning consents, and £250,000 from the Carbon CLEVER capital budget allocation for 2014/15. Currently the total budget available is £683,000 leaving a shortfall of £50,000
- 2.3 It is suggested that £50,000 is allocated from the Capital Programme. This will ensure that the project is fully resourced and a high quality walking and cycling route is delivered. This fund is for the provision of green networks along the A96, of which Millburn Road is a key link to from the city centre.

## **3. LED Street Lighting**

- 3.1 The existing street lighting on Millburn Road is traditional low pressure sodium units. The proposed Active Travel Corridor will require the repositioning of the existing lighting columns. The Council is, where possible, amending street lighting to provide LED units. These lighting units require less maintenance, use less energy, and as such have lower running costs and associated carbon emissions.
- 3.2 It is suggested that LED street lighting is installed on both sides of the Millburn Road covered by the cycleway. The cost of this installation has been calculated at £50,000. It is suggested that this could be funded from the Carbon CLEVER budget allowance for 2014/15.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Resource Implications**

The Development and Infrastructure Capital Programme has £100K allocated for the development of green networks/core paths of which £50K can be allocated to this project. The Carbon CLEVER initiative has a capital budget allowance of £1million p.a. from 2014/15. For 2014/15, £250,000 has been allocated to date. This report proposes a further £50,000 is allocated from this budget for LED street lighting along Millburn Road.

### **Legal Implications**

The Council has a legal duty to assist Scotland achieve its national carbon emission reduction targets as set out by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

### Equalities Implications

The installation of a high quality infrastructure for cycling and walking will remove barriers to cycling and enable a wider group of people to cycle on a regular basis.

### Carbon CLEVER Implications

The creation of an east west cycle corridor will make a significant contribution to the Carbon CLEVER initiative by enabling more people to travel in an active manner. The introduction of energy efficient LED street lighting along Millburn Road will also reduce carbon emissions and contribute to achieving the target of a carbon neutral Inverness.

### Risk Implications

As with any capital contract project, there will be a financial risk due to the level of unknowns which could materialise, however a contingency of £28,000 has been allowed for in the overall project costs of £733k. There is little risk associated with installing LED street lighting as it is a proven technology. The high quality of the light provided by the LEDs will improve road safety along the route.

### Gaelic Implications

No Gaelic implications have been identified at this time.

## **Recommendation**

Members are asked to approve:

- a contribution of £50,000 from the Capital Programme for the Millburn Road Active Travel Corridor; and
- £50,000 allocation from the Carbon CLEVER capital budget for 2014/15 for the installation of LED street lighting along the Active Travel Corridor.

Designation: Director of Development and Infrastructure

Date: 1 May 2014

Author: Stephen Carr, Principal Policy Officer – Climate Change