

The Highland Council

Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee
5 August 2015

Agenda Item	9
Report No	SRC/034/15

Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Update

Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure

Summary

This report invites Members to approve the projects delivered through the Scottish Government funding for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets for the Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee, as set out in **Appendix 1**.

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 Highland Council Road Safety Unit works with schools to produce a School Travel Plan (STP) which focusses on the journey to/from school, and demonstrates the school's all-round commitment to develop Safer Routes to School (SRTS) and achieve a modal shift towards active travel.
- 1.3 Further information on SRTS 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. By enabling a modal shift to active travel, this will support the Council's Carbon CLEVER initiative by reducing carbon emissions.

2. Funding

- 2.1 The CWSS programme has a budget of £349,000 for 2015/16 that 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 STP, schools can normally bid for up to £30,000 of CWSS funding that is approved by Members at Area Committees. A small grant funding element also exists in the scheme which allows projects up to the value of £3,000 to be approved by the Road Safety Unit, allowing immediate implementation of these small projects.

3. CWSS Update

Appendix 1 details the funding applications to be approved by the Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee on 5 August 2015.

4. Resource Implications

4.1 Resource

The projects listed in **Appendix 1** will be funded from the CWSS budget 2015/16 or will be carried forward to 2016/17.

4.2 Climate Change/Carbon Clever

The modal shift from cars to cycling and walking will have a positive contribution to reducing carbon emissions. This supports the Council's Carbon CLEVER initiative which has the target of a carbon neutral Inverness in a low carbon Highlands by 2025.

4.3 Legal, Equality, Risk, Gaelic and Rural

There are no legal, equality, risk, Gaelic or rural implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

Members are invited to approve the CWSS/SRTS projects detailed in **Appendix 1**.

Members are invited to note that the Road Safety Unit will continue to work with schools to develop further SRTS Projects for future years.

Designation: Director of Development and Infrastructure

Date: 30 June 2015

Report Author: Lisa MacKellaich (Road Safety Officer)

Appendix 1

School	Purpose	SRTS Estimated Contribution	Additional Information	Cycling Element
Bridgend Primary School	Improved Crossing points	£28,600	Improved Crossing points on Caplich Road and Averon Rd/Ardross Rd/Ardross Place junction to enhance safety on the pupils routes to school. These works are subject to consultation.	
Avoch Primary School	Upgrade rustic footpath to tarmac	£12,000	To improve the walking link to school.	✓
Portree Primary School	Cycle Storage	£10,000	To encourage active travel to Portree Primary School.	✓
Achiltibuie Primary School	Cycle Storage	£5,000	To encourage active travel to Achiltibuie Primary School.	✓