Agenda Item	**11.**
Report No	**CS/28/15**

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

16 SEPTEMBER 2015

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 Caithness and Sutherland, 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   Highland Council Road Safety Unit work 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

3.1 **Appendix 1** details the funding applications recommended for approval by the Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee on 16 September 15.

4. 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 Legal and Equality
There are no legal or equality implications arising from this report.

4.3 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.

4.4 Risk, Gaelic and Rural
There is no adverse impact on risk, Gaelic or rural considerations arising from this report.

Recommendation

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: 23 July 2015

Report Author: Allan Bryce (Road Safety Officer)

Appendix 1

School	Purpose	SRTS Estimated Contribution	Additional Information	Cycling Element
Gledfield Primary School	Install Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) between Gledfield Primary School and Ardgay.	£8,500	To improve safety on the walking and cycling link between Gledfield Primary School and Ardgay village.	✓
Lochinver Primary School	Footpath widening and surfacing.	£15,000	Improve the footpath link to Lochinver Primary School from the village by widening and contributing to costs to resurface - to link with work proposed by the Area Roads Manager.	
Castletown Primary School	Install cycle storage.	£11,279	Install a 'Morrich' cycle shelter and racking for 20 bikes.	✓
Canisbay Primary School	Install cycle storage.	£5,186	Install a bespoke 'Garrick' cycle shelter for 10 bikes.	✓