

## The Highland Council

### Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee - 23 September 2015

Agenda Item	15.
Report No	NBS 24/15

#### 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 Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey 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 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](http://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 Committee's. 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 Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee on 23 August 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: There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 4.3 Equality: There are no equality implications arising from this report.
- 4.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever Implications: 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.
- 4.5 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: 7 September 2015

Report Author: Lisa MacKellaich (Road Safety Officer)

## Appendix 1

School	Purpose	SRTS Estimated Contribution	Additional Information	Cycling Element
Auldearn Primary School	Build out and pavement widening at existing pedestrian crossing, lining and creation of ramp to access the cycle storage.	£30,000	To encourage active travel to Auldearn Primary School, make usage of existing cycle storage easier and reduce school gate parking.	✓
Nairn Academy	Create new access, footpath and close existing access point to existing cycle storage.	£10,000	To make the existing cycle storage more accessible and safety for pupils to access.	✓
Newtonmore Primary	Build out, standing area, footpath	£25,000	To improve safety on walking routes to school.  Subject to consultation.	
Grantown Grammar	Cycle Storage	£6,486	To encourage active travel to Grantown Grammar.	✓