

The Highland Council

Sutherland County Committee

9 February 2016

Agenda Item	9.
Report No	SCC/05/16

Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Update

Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure

Summary

This report invites Members to approve the project delivered through the Scottish Government funding for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets for the Sutherland County 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 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

Appendix 1 details the funding applications to be recommended for approval by the Sutherland County Committee on 9 February 2016.

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.

5. Recommendations

Members are invited to approve the CWSS/SRTS project 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: 12 January 2016

Report Author: Lisa MacKellaich (Road Safety Officer)

Appendix 1

School	Purpose	SRTS Estimated Contribution	Additional Information	Cycling Element
Dornoch Primary School & Dornoch Academy	To improve safety on the routes to Dornoch Primary School and Dornoch Academy.	£45,000	Completion of the SRTS works on the A949 Evelix Road including installation of a build out, gateway, lining and the creation of a footpath.	