

ANGUS COUNCIL

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE – 23 JUNE 2020

CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER ROUTES FUND – PROGRAMME OF WORKS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE

ABSTRACT

This report updates the Committee on the delivery of the programme of projects funded in 2019/20 through the Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes fund and seeks approval of the programme of projects to be funded during 2020/21.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes the amended programme of projects undertaken during 2019/20; and
- (ii) approves the programme of projects to be undertaken during financial year 2020/21, and delegates the Director of Infrastructure and Service Leader – Roads & Transportation to procure the construction works and any land negotiations required with support as necessary from the Director of Legal & Democratic Services.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

ECONOMY

- An inclusive and sustainable economy

PLACE

- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment
- A reduced carbon footprint
- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) fund is a ring-fenced capital grant from Transport Scotland and was established in 2001. The funding was initially set to run until 2011/12, however this was extended for a further three years to the end of 2014/15. Since then, further allocations have been provided on an annual basis. The allocation for 2020/21 is £512,000, which is a significant increase on the amounts in previous years.

3.2 The offer of grant letter for 2020/21 has renamed the capital grant to Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes (CWSR).

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 A programme of works to be undertaken in 2019/20 was approved by Committee on 12 November 2019 (reference Report No. 371/19). A summary of the projects undertaken at six sites during 2019/20 is attached to this report (see **Appendix 1**).

- 4.2 Projects for the 2020/21 programme were proposed by a public consultation exercise, which involved an article being published in the local press, our website and social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter). The article invited members of the public to submit ideas and suggestions on what could be done to make travel safer where they live and to encourage active travel in their area through cycling and walking. One of the sites was suggested by an elected member.
- 4.3 A panel made up of officers from the Schools & Learning, Infrastructure and Communities Directorates assessed the submitted projects against predetermined criteria of the grant and to determine the extent to which they:
- meet strategic objectives;
 - link with other walking and cycling initiatives; and
 - contribute to child safety, through for example, safer routes to schools.
- 4.4 A total of sixty-five sites were assessed. Some suggestions were discounted as they related purely to maintenance of an existing asset and not an improvement.
- 4.5 The deliverability of the projects in year 2020/21 was also used to ensure that the proposed programme and budget spend could be met. This includes consideration of land ownership, which may present a risk to the delivery of a project or a delay it beyond 2020/21. Some projects that would have ranked highly against the predetermined criteria have been deferred for delivery in the future subject to obtaining future funding for CWSR or other appropriate funding sources.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 A summary of the proposed programme at twelve sites proposed to be undertaken in 2020/21 is attached to this report (see **Appendix 2**).

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The ring-fenced capital grant allocation for 2020/21 is £512,000. The overall programme of projects, as detailed in Appendix 2, which detail the estimated costs for each project at the twelve sites, will be contained within this allocation.
- 6.2 Any additional on-going maintenance costs associated with these capital projects will require to be contained within future years revenue budgets of the directorates responsible for their upkeep.
- 6.3 The financial implications of COVID-19 are detailed in section 7 of this report. An allowance of +15% to the construction costs has been made in the programme for the costs of COVID-19 restrictions on construction.
- 6.4 The funding of CWSR projects will greatly assist the Council in meeting its aims and objectives contained in various strategies, most principally Active Travel, and full use will be made of the available allocation.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are traditional procurement and construction risks involved in the delivery of the programme, which will be managed by our professional officers. The sites selected are generally in the control or ownership of Angus Council. Where this is not the case then land negotiations do present a low risk. Where the delivery of a site may be delayed and not be deliverable in 2020/21, an alternative site will be considered as a substitute.
- 7.2 The Coronavirus pandemic places particular risk on the delivery of the programme of projects for 2020/21.
- 7.3 There are likely to be impacts on cost and time of the COVID-19 restrictions on construction. The works will only proceed when it is safe to do so and in accordance with the phased Scottish Government Route Map and Construction Recovery Plan. These impacts will be assessed with the contractor to ensure the most cost-effective means of delivery. This will include changes to working methods to allow for social distancing, staggered start, break and

finish times and increased cleaning of communal areas, and hence the programme of works and completion of individual contracts. An allowance of 15% has been made in the programme for the costs of COVID-19 restrictions on construction.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

Report No.371/19 - Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Fund – Programme of Works
Communities Committee, 12 November 2019

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List of Appendices: Appendix 1 – CWSS Projects 2019/20
 Appendix 2 – CWSS Projects 2020/21

CWSS PROJECTS – 2019/20 - £191,000

PROJECT	BUDGET £	DESCRIPTION
West Links, Arbroath (NCR1)	111,000	Footpath upgrade from chippy dust to tar
Carnoustie – Easthaven (NCR1) Cycle Path	5,000	Barrier upgrade and repositioning of chicanes – could tie in with the above
Checkiefield near Kirriemuir	22,000	New footway link and dropped kerb provision
Ashludie Park, Monifieth	32,000	Upgrade of existing footpath
Craig o Loch Road, Forfar	19,000	Safe Routes to Schools - Dropped kerb provision
Brechin Road and Hayswell Park, Arbroath	3,000	Release of Retention Monies
Total	192,000	

CWSR PROJECTS – 2020/21 - £512,000

PROJECT	BUDGET £	DESCRIPTION
Westway, Arbroath (see drawing 1 in Appendix 3)	52,250	Signalled pedestrian crossing point
Tannage Brae to Bellies Brae, Kirriemuir (see drawing 2 in Appendix 3)	17,800	Proposed footpath improvements
Pitskelly Road to Braefoot, Carnoustie (see drawing 3 in Appendix 3)	60,750	Proposed footway/cycleway
Braefoot to Stinky Brae, Carnoustie (see drawing 4 in Appendix 3)	58,900	Proposed footway/cycleway
Shanwell Road, Carnoustie (see drawing 5 in Appendix 3)	500	Shared use footway (new signage and lining)
Marine Drive, Monifieth to cyclepath (see drawing 6 in Appendix 3)	45,000	Proposed cyclepath
A937 Montrose to Hillside (see drawing 7 in Appendix 3)	3,500	Signage improvements to footway/cycleway
Monifieth High School (see drawing 8 in Appendix 3)	12,000	Improvements to footpath adjacent to school
Broomfield Cyclepath, Montrose (see drawing 9 in Appendix 3)	21,000	Proposed footpath improvements
Forfar Lochside Country Park (see drawing 10 in Appendix 3)	57,750	Upgrade existing footpath at south side of caravan park
Drumachlie Loan, Brechin (see drawing 11 in Appendix 3)	26,000	New footway either side and beneath rail bridge
Skinners Burn to Cathedral Steps, Brechin (see drawing 12 in Appendix 3)	68,000	Proposed footpath improvement
Total	423,450	
Additional anticipated cost due to COVID-19 (15%)	63,518	
Design & supervision fees	25,000	
Overall Total	511,968	

DRAWINGS (1-12) SHOWING LOCATIONS OF CWSR PROJECTS – 2020/21