

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 15 NOVEMBER 2016

ANGUS ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

REPORT BY HEAD OF TECHNICAL AND PROPERTY SERVICES

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to present the Angus Active Travel Strategy.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approves the Angus Active Travel Strategy as outlined in **Appendix 1**
- (ii) agrees to the appointment of Councillor Active Travel Champion
- (iii) agrees to receive biennial progress reports on its implementation commencing in 2017.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Angus is a good place to live in, work and visit
- Our communities are safe, secure and vibrant
- We have improved the health and wellbeing of our people and inequalities are reduced
- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner
- Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed
- Our carbon footprint is reduced

3. BACKGROUND

In order to achieve the national objectives with regards to cycling and walking arising from the Cycle Action Plan for Scotland and the National Walking Strategy there is a need for all Scottish Local Authorities to develop and adopt an Active Travel Strategy. From an Angus Council perspective it is also important that the various departments, organisations and groups who are currently delivering active travel initiatives in Angus are all working together with common goals and objectives.

With the support of matched funding from Sustrans, J.M.P. Consultants were engaged to consult with Key Angus Council personnel, other stakeholders, walking and cycling groups and the elected members and to draft an Angus Active Travel Strategy which also complied with the current Angus Council plans and policies. The outcome of those consultations is contained in the proposed strategy contained in **Appendix 1**.

4. CURRENT POSITION

Angus Council and its partners have a strong commitment to promoting active travel in Angus with a variety of initiatives being pursued. These initiatives include 'Angus on the Go', 'The Angus Cycle Hub', 'Steps Tay Health' and the 'Angus Walking and Cycling Festivals'. In

addition, cycling and walking is promoted in school travel plans, paths for all, planning approvals, major development plans, cycling walking and safer streets projects etc. Most of these initiatives are pursued independently by various departments / divisions / groups from within and out with the council.

Whilst each of these initiatives and projects do improve the active travel scene, their impact and take up by the community could be improved through better co-ordination with other schemes and increased involvement / consultation with the groups and individuals who are the end user.

5. PROPOSALS

The growth of Active Travel in the Angus community would give rise to health and environmental benefits, however there are a number of challenges that require to be overcome. These challenges include; social acceptance, lack of opportunity, availability of infrastructure / training, promotion of the facilities available and perceived safety issues. The Angus Active Travel Strategy in **Appendix 1** seeks to address these challenges with 38 separate actions listed in the associated action plan.

The strategy has been drawn up taking cognisance of the views of key personnel who would be charged with the delivery of Active Travel initiatives as well as the views of the end user groups who would benefit from the strategy being adopted.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the implementation of the Angus Active Travel Strategy are contained within the existing budgets. Any future projects (yet to be identified) arising as a result of the strategy who's funding cannot be met by existing budgets will be subject to separate report to committee. Adoption of this strategy will enable continued matched funding opportunities from external funding sources.

7. RISK

Failure to adopt an Active Travel Strategy could put at risk the availability of funding from external sources such as Sustrans and Tactrans and compromise the development of active travel in Angus.

8. CONSULTATION

The following organisations / groups were consulted and contributed to the development of the Angus Active Travel Strategy:

Angus Council - Community Planning
Development Planning
Planning
Children and Learning
Technical and Property Services (Roads)
Technical and Property Services (Transport)

NHS Tayside
Voluntary Action Angus
Angus Cycle Hub
Steps Tay Health Co-ordinator
Cycle Touring Club
Walking Festival Organisation
Forestry Commission
Living Streets
Tactran
Sustrans

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed on the grounds of disability, gender and age.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Active Travel Strategy for Angus