

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 23 FEBRUARY 2021**

**ANGUS ACTIVE & SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL STRATEGY**

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks approval of the Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy and Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Action Plan 2020-24; and provides details of the pipeline of Active Travel projects being progressed across Angus.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approves the Angus Active Travel Strategy, included in Appendices 1 & 2 of this report;
- (ii) approves the Angus Active Action Plan 2020-24, included in Appendix 3 of this report;
- (iii) approved the appointment of Active Travel Champions, as detailed in this report;
- (iv) notes the pipeline of Active Travel projects being progressed, including external funding received, successful external funding applications and expression of interest for external funding submitted for Active Travel projects;
- (v) agrees that updates on the progress of the pipeline of Active Travel projects, which are reviewed by under the remit of the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group, are reported to future committees, including at key milestones where approvals or internal funding commitments may be required.

**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 (LOIP) 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 Reference is made to Article 14 of the minute of the Communities Committee on 15 November 2016, which approved the current Angus Active Travel Strategy (reference Report No. 410/16). The committee also confirmed the appointment of Councillor Jeanette Gaul as Active Travel Champion and agreed to receive biennial reports on the implementation of the strategy commencing 2017.
- 3.2 Reference is made to Article 6 of the minute of the Communities Committee on 24 November 2020, which approved the revised remit of the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group to include Active and Sustainable Travel (Report No. 285/20).
- 3.3 Reference is made to a number of reports referring to the Spaces for People fund (Report Nos. 217/20 & 285/20), as detailed in section 4.6.1 of this report.
- 3.4 Reference is made to Article 15 of the minute of the Special Arrangement Committee on 23 June 2020, which approved the programme of projects to be undertaken during financial year 2020/21 from the Cycling, Walking, Safer Streets fund (reference Report No. 180/20).
- 3.5 Reference is made to Article 13 of the minute of Angus Council of 5 November 2020, which approved the Public Bodies Duty Report that included details of the of the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places fund (reference Report No. 270/20).
- 3.6 Reference is made to Article 5 of the minute of the Policy & Resources Committee on 9 October 2018, which noted the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge fund (reference Report No. 309/18, Schedule 1).
- 3.7 Reference is made to Article 4 of the minute of the Communities Committee on 14 January 2020, which noted the Broughty Ferry to Monifieth Active Travel Project (reference Report No. 02/20, Schedule 2).
- 3.8 Reference is made to Article 8 of the minute of the Special Arrangement Committee on 28 April 2020, which approved the procurement authority for the Arbroath: A Place for Everyone project (reference Report No. 135/20).

### 4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 A new Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy (the 'Strategy') and an Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Action Plan 2020-24 (the 'Action Plan') have been developed, which are included in **Appendices 1 & 2** and **Appendix 3** respectfully. These documents were developed and drafted in 2019/20. The Strategy and Action Plan been delayed in being reported to committee for approval during 2020 due to impacts of COVID pandemic, largely resulting the priority of officer time dealing with urgent and emergent issues, given to securing funding and delivering Spaces for People interventions, which are detailed in section 4.6.1 of this report, and in developing and delivering the pipeline of Active Travel project, which are detailed in sections 4.6.2 to 4.6.10 of this report.
- 4.2 The Strategy is consistent with the policy context nationally, regionally and locally, which highlights:
- Active and sustainable travel can make a big contribution to policy outcomes for health, the environment and social inclusion;
  - More people walking, cycling and using sustainable travel will help achieve many outcomes of Angus' LOIP; and
  - The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 promotes co-design and delivery.
- 4.3 The Strategy notes that many projects are underway in Angus to promote active and sustainable travel outcomes, which are being led by a variety of public, private and third-sector organisations.

- 4.4 The Action Plan sits alongside and compliments the Strategy. The main themes of these actions are identified as follows:
- Delivering New Infrastructure & Services
  - Maintaining Existing Infrastructure
  - Supportive Measures Associated with Infrastructure
  - Governance
  - Communication
  - Walking, Cycling and Sustainable Travel Initiatives
  - Resources
  - Monitoring and Evaluation

4.5 The Action Plan will be adopted, linked and adapted by the Road Safety MOWG in its proposed action plan for 2021/22, which is presented to this committee in a separate report (reference Report No 44/21).

4.6 The following pipeline of Active & Sustainable Travel projects are provided as an overview of the range of projects and to provide updates on the progress of the projects.

#### 4.6.1 **Spaces for People**

Angus Council successfully secured £789,000 in 2020/21 from this Sustrans administered fund. Angus Council provides staff resources to deliver the programme of interventions. The fund was to provide temporary interventions to assist in making safe spaces for physical distancing and to promote active travel during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interventions include provision of physical distancing signage in town centres, 20mph speed limits in 7 towns and 25 villages and 16 cycling shelters in 7 towns and 1 village across Angus. Direct support from Amey Consulting, which is fully funded, has assisted in the delivery of the programme of interventions.

#### 4.6.2 **Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes**

Angus Council received £512,000 in 2020/21 from this Transport Scotland administered fund. The fund is used for the purpose of undertaking a programme of works for local cycling, walking and safer routes projects to promote active travel. Angus Council provides staff resources to deliver the programme of projects.

#### 4.6.3 **Smarter Choices, Smarter Places**

Angus Council received £107,000 in 2020/21 from this Paths for All administered fund. The fund is to provide and stimulate travel modal behaviour change to more active and sustainable means through a series of campaigns in communities and schools. Angus Council provides staff resources to deliver the programme of projects.

#### 4.6.4 **Switched on towns and Cities**

Angus Council submitted a funding bid to the Switched on Towns & Places Fund, which is administered by Transport Scotland in 2018/19 for a feasibility study of potential for EV infrastructure in Arbroath, which has been completed and potential sites have narrowed down to three or four from the original ten. . We await the publication of the application process in 2021/22. Angus Council provides staff resources to deliver the programme of projects.

#### 4.6.5 **Regional Active Travel Development Fund**

Angus Council successfully secured £57,000 in 2019/20 from this Tactran administered fund. The fund was utilised to install dropped kerbs on strategic routes to Health Centres, Hospitals and Clinics. The fund was also used to carry out a feasibility study to investigate a potential active travel corridor between Arbroath and Friockheim. This has since led to an expression of interest being submitted to Sustrans for Places for Everyone funding. Angus Council provides staff resources to the programme of projects.

In 2020/21, Angus Council successfully secured £42,000 for the Sidlaws Path Network project and Arbroath to Marywell link. The fund is to investigate through a feasibility study process,

potential active travel routes at both locations. This will then lead into grant funding application bids. Angus Council provides staff resources to deliver the programme of projects.

Angus Council also successfully secured £47,000 in 2020/21 to construct a shared use footway/cycleway within Carnoustie House Grounds. Angus Council provides staff resources to deliver the project.

#### **4.6.6 Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge**

Angus Council successfully secured £306,500 in 2018 from this Energy Saving Trust Scotland administered fund. The fund along with £144,000 Angus Council match funding is to provide an EV (Electric Vehicle) charging hub at Orchardbank, Forfar. Angus Council provides staff resources to deliver the programme of projects.

#### **4.6.7 Local Authority Installation Programme (LAIP)**

Angus Council receive grant funding from Transport Scotland annually to develop and install a network of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for public use. In 2020/21, Angus Council received £75,000. Angus Council provides staff resources to deliver the programme of projects.

#### **4.6.8 Places for Everyone**

The Places for Everyone fund, which is administered by Sustrans, is to support the creation of infrastructure that makes it easier for people to walk and cycle for everyday journeys. An expression of interest for the Friockheim to Arbroath Cycle Path project has been submitted.

#### **4.6.9 Broughty Ferry to Monifieth Active Travel Project**

Angus Council are partnering with Dundee City Council on delivering this cross-boundary project to improve the coastal National Cycle Route 1 from Broughty Ferry to Monifieth, which is funded through Sustrans' Places for Everyone. The £9 million project is 100% funded by Sustrans based on offset match funding relating to Dundee City Council's Broughty Ferry Flood Protection Scheme.

#### **4.6.10 Arbroath: A Place for Everyone**

Angus Council successfully secured £13.4m over 2019/20 to 2023/24 for the Arbroath: A Place for Everyone project, which is funded through Sustrans' Places for Everyone for £9.4m with match funding of £4m from Angus Council. The project will create an exemplar walking, cycling and wheeling route, accessible for all which will improve accessibility across the town.

#### **4.6.11 Sustrans Strategic Partnership for Senior Projects Officer**

Angus Council successfully secured £108,000 over three years from March 2021 for a Senior Projects Officer, which is funded through Sustrans' Strategic Partnership for 100% in year 1 with a 50% match from Angus Council of £27,000 in year 2 and year 3. The Senior Officer will facilitate a strategic approach to active travel infrastructure development to increase walking, cycling and wheeling.

4.7 In addition to the pipeline of projects described in section 4.7 above, following discussions of the Road Safety MOWG of 2 December 2020, officers agreed to actively seek funding opportunities for a project to improve active travel links, particularly for commuting, between Brechin and Montrose.

4.8 It is noted that an Active Travel Champion was not appointed in 2017 following the Angus local government election.

4.9 It is also noted that biennial reports on the implementation of the strategy of the Angus Active Travel Strategy have not provided to the committee.

4.10 The above oversights were discussed at the Road Safety MOWG on 10 February 2021. The MOWG agreed to provide the necessary oversight to ensure that update reports in the implementation of the new Strategy and Action Plan, and each project in the pipeline of projects described in section 4.7 above, are provided to the committee.

## **5. PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the new Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy and Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Action Plan 2020-24 are approved.
- 5.2 The Active Travel Champion appointee was considered by the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group on 10 February 2021. The MOWG considered that all six elected members on the group have a key role to play in ensuring the delivery of Active Travel. It is therefore proposed that all six elected members on the MOWG are appointed as Active Travel Champions (listed alphabetically): Cllr Braes; Cllr McDonald Cllr McLaren; Cllr Moore; Cllr Salmond and Cllr Stewart.
- 5.3 It is proposed that updates on the progress of the pipeline of Active Travel projects, which are reviewed by under the remit of the Road Safety Member/Officer Working Group, are reported to future committees, including at key milestones where approvals or internal funding commitments may be required.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising directly from this report.
- 6.2 There may be financial implications for the development of the delivery plans and actions from Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030, which will be reported to committee as required.
- 6.3 There may also financial implications from the reviews of Bus Transport and Winter Service, which will be reported to committee as required.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT & FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form has been completed – see **Appendix 4**.
- 7.2 The above assessment makes reference to the Equality Impact Assessment included in Appendix H of the new Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy, which is included in **Appendix 2** of this report.
- 7.3 As noted in the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form, the importance of monitoring and evaluating positive outcomes from the Strategy, Action Plan and deliverables is noted and will be undertaken.

## **8. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 On consideration of the Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy and Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Action Plan 2020-24, it is concluded that this Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy and Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Action Plan 2020-24 is likely to have no or minimal environmental effect and have notified the SEA Gateway accordingly, as required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This notification will be published by the Gateway on the Public Register maintained to that end.

**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. 285/20 – Road Safety Framework to 2030 - Communities Committee on 24 November 2020

Report No. 270/20 – Public Bodies Duty Report - Angus Council on 5 November 2020

Report No. 217/20 – COVID 19 – Response, Recovery and Renewal – Angus Council on 10 September 2020

Report No. 180/20 – Cycling Walking Safer Streets - Special Arrangement Committee on 23 June 2020

Report No. 135/20 – Procurement Authority Report – Contract for Consultant Services for Arbroath's Places for Everyone Project - Special Arrangement Committee on 28 April 2020

Report No, 02/20, Schedule 2 - Broughty Ferry to Monifieth Active Travel Project - Communities Committee on 14 January 2020

Report No. 309/18, Schedule 1 – Overview of Business Support and Investment Activities - Policy & Resources Committee on 9 October 2018

Report No. 410/16 - Angus Active Travel Strategy - Communities Committee on 15 November 2016

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**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – New Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy - Report

Appendix 2 – New Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy – Appendices to Report

Appendix 3 – Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Action Plan 2020-24

Appendix 4 - Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

## Appendix 1 – New Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy - Report





**Appendix 3 – Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Action Plan 2020-24**

**Appendix 4 - Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form**