



## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

### ACTIVE TRAVEL RELATED FUNDING 2023/24

### REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

#### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Panel of the funding provision being made available for active travel related schemes for financial year 2023/24. This funding has come from the Scottish Government for Cycling Walking and Safer Routes (CWSR) and through Sustrans (Scotland) for Places for Everyone (PfE) and Paths for All for Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP); and the progress on the development of a new Active Travel Plan for 2023-28.

#### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Panel notes the contents of the report and makes recommendation to the Council Executive to:

1. Approve the allocation £1,185,000 funding for CWSR for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix 1;
2. To note the reservice list of projects, as set out in Appendix 2; and
3. To approve £166,300 for SCSP 2023/24 as set out in the report including the proposed direct award of £60,000 to Sustrans (Scotland) for the support of an I-Bike officer and £38,656 to Love to Ride for the management of the online platform to encourage behavioural change.

#### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>I Council Values</b>   | Focusing on our customers' needs: being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership. |
| <b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b> | The delivery of these projects will contribute to improved road safety and encourage active travel.                             |
| <b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>   | None.   |
| <b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>  | None.   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>           | The projects will support Outcome no. 4 – We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.   |
| <b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b> | The projects will be funded through the various grant funding streams including match funding from Sustrans through Places for Everyone funding for the CWSR projects. |
| <b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>                         | None.  |
| <b>VIII Other consultations</b>                          | Financial Management Unit and Corporate Procurement Unit. Consultation on individual projects will be carried out during their development.                            |

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D.1 Background**

Various funding streams are available to local authorities to encourage active travel through engagement with communities and improvements to path networks.

The Scottish Government has been providing funding for CWSR since 2002/03. Some of this funding has been used to match funding from Sustrans for active travel projects. Officers have also been proactive in obtaining grant funding through other grant streams such as Smarter Choices and Smarter Places through Paths for All.

### **D.2 CWSR Funding**

On 31 March 2023, the Council received notification from Transport Scotland of the grant allocation of £1,185,000 towards CWSR projects for 2023/24.

The conditions of the grant funding stipulate that it must be spent by 31 March 2024. Officers have identified a list of projects where it is anticipated design will be progressed, some to construction, over the coming year. The list of projects is set out in Appendix 1.

The list of proposed projects for 2023/24 are identified in Appendix 1 with varying stages in the delivery process from design to construction. Appendix 2 identifies projects that could be constructed, if there are any delays associated with consultation, land purchase etc. to projects in Appendix 1. Having the construction of these projects in reserve will help officers manage the programme and ensure that the full grant award is achieved.

### **D.3 Places for Everyone Funding**

Sustrans has approved funding to progress the design of:

- the cyclepath link from Stoneyburn to Fauldhouse, including the bridge crossing over the A706 (£14,533); and
- key links to Bathgate Town Centre as part of the Bathgate Meadows Nature Park project (£112,000).

Funding has also been made available for the development of a new Active Travel Plan for 2023-28 (£65,039).

## D.4 SCSP Funding

The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme, administered by Paths for All, has been running since 2015/16 and supports local authorities in Scotland to encourage more active and sustainable travel choices. The funding is awarded to local authorities to encourage less car use and more journeys by foot, bicycle, public transport and car share. It is supported by Transport Scotland and allocated on a population basis to local authorities.

Submission to Paths for All for the 2023/24 allocation of £166,300 has been made. Identifying the following initiatives and schemes: I-Bike project, Love to Ride, Livingston Signing Strategy, Parksmart and other education initiatives. However, Paths for All are awaiting confirmation from Transport Scotland on funding approval.

### I-Bike Project

West Lothian has benefited from having an I-Bike officer over recent years and the appointment of I-Bike officers is linked directly to Sustrans (Scotland) staffing. The continuation of this appointment will provide a further 12 months of direct engagement to encourage, promote and develop active travel initiatives within a number of our primary and secondary schools.

The I-Bike officer works with Education and Community Health Development Put Your West Foot Forward to support and seek to increase walking, cycling and scooting activity, and promoting active travel journeys to schools.

The I-Bike project benefits from the experience and knowledge of the Sustrans organisation, which has a proven record of engagement and experience in delivering support in all areas of cycling. The effectiveness of the resource is assessed annually through the grant process.

### Love to Ride

Love to Ride is an online platform aimed at encouraging more people to cycle by:

- Making it easy and fun for existing riders to encourage their friends, co-workers and community to ride.
- Supporting and encouraging new riders to overcome their barriers and start enjoying the benefits of riding.

The grant funding will be used to continue to provide a local project management resource to deliver a programme of cycling behaviour changes through business and community engagement.

### Signing Strategy for Walking and Cycling Network

Over recent years funding has been used to upgrade signage on the path network in Livingston on the Alderstone Path between Livingston North and Livingston South railway stations. Last year the Railway Path and Nell Burn Path had the majority of signs upgraded, the remaining sign upgrades are to be completed this year. Further routes are to be assessed to identify what will be included in this year's funding.

### Education Driven Projects

The following initiatives are led by the Education Development team.

### Parksmart Initiative

Parksmart aims to educate & encourage parents/carers and young people about the benefits of walking/cycling to school. It also raises awareness when children are driven to school of how to park safely in and around school areas. This programme will target early learning and childcare centres, primary schools and special educational needs schools.

### Other Initiatives

Other initiatives being explored under SCSP funding, covering all education centres, are:

- Walk to School Week/Year in conjunction with Living Streets Scotland.
- Walking bus where senior year pupils become walking bus leaders and set up a walk to and from school group.
- Discover and make interesting walking and cycling paths in the local community. This may include information boards about local history, nature and artwork displays, orienteering trails or sculptures.
- Bike maintenance sheds which encourage new skills, waste reduction and promotion of active travel.

### Funding Breakdown

The SCSP award of £166,300 proposed spend for each project is:

- I - Bike Project - £60,000
- Love to Ride - £38,656
- Sign Scheme for Livingston - £9,894
- Education Driven Initiatives - £57,750

## **D.5 WLC Active Travel Plan 2023-28 Update**

Consultants were appointed in September 2022 to develop a new Active Travel Plan for the period covering 2023 to 2028.

Stakeholders will shortly be consulted to gather evidence of issues and identify opportunities for improvements that active travel could help address. The information gathered will then be assessed to inform the new ATP for 2023 to 2028.

The public consultation exercise will last 4 weeks and will use various forms of outlets including the Council's website, news outlets and social media accounts. As well as reaching out to individual members of the public, contact will be made with community councils, community groups, Disability West Lothian, Cycling Scotland and other key stakeholders.

A report will be brought to a future Panel on the response to the consultation and progress on the development of the Active Travel Plan for 2023-2028.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

The report sets out proposals for the various active travel related funding in relation to the projects to be undertaken in 2023/24.

The funding awarded by Paths for All is welcomed and allows the continuation of a number of important projects and initiatives linked to encouraging active travel within West Lothian improving the environment and reducing our carbon footprint.

The provision of an I-Bike officer to promote cycling among school pupils is a service unique to Sustrans. As in previous years, it is necessary to direct award this work to Sustrans at a value of £60,000 for 2023/24.

Likewise, the Love to Ride online platform will continue to support deliver behavioural change by encouraging people to be more active through cycling. It is also necessary to direct award this work to Love to Ride at a value of £38,656 for 2023/24.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Council Executive on 19 April 2022 - Pedestrian Crossing Programme, Various Locations, West Lothian

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1: List of Proposed CWSR Projects 2023/24

Appendix 2: Reserve List of Proposed CWSR Projects 2023/24

Contact Person: Ronald Fisher, Design Engineering Manager, Roads and Transportation,  
Tel: 07388 371855, Email: [ronnie.fisher@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:ronnie.fisher@westlothian.gov.uk)

**Jim Jack**  
**Head of Operational Services**

**6 June 2023**

## Appendix 1: List of Proposed CWSR Projects 2023/24

| Project  | Anticipated Project Stage (2023/24) | Estimated Project Costs for 2023/24 | CWSR Funding Contribution |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A89 Junction of Newhouses Road, Broxburn - Pedestrian refuge island and footway provision    | Construction                        | £30,000                             | £30,000                   |
| A705, Redmill Nursing Home, East Whitburn - Pedestrian refuge island                         | Construction                        | £10,000                             | £10,000                   |
| B8084 North Street, Armadale - Puffin Crossing   | Construction                        | £40,000                             | £40,000                   |
| Calder Park Road, Mid Calder - Dropped kerb crossing   | Construction                        | £3,000                              | £3,000                    |
| Church Street, Addiewell - Upgrade Puffin Crossing   | Construction                        | £40,000                             | £40,000                   |
| Hardhill Road, Bathgate - Puffin Crossing  | Construction                        | £40,000                             | £40,000                   |
| Kirkton South Road, Livingston - Toucan Crossing   | Construction                        | £40,000                             | £40,000                   |
| Lower Bathville at Heathervale Walk, Armadale - Upgrade belisha beacon with new LED lighting | Construction                        | £7,000                              | £7,000                    |
| Main Street, Mid Calder - Puffin Crossing  | Construction                        | £40,000                             | £40,000                   |
| Muirieston West Road, Livingston - Toucan Crossing   | Construction                        | £40,000                             | £40,000                   |
| Preston Road, Linlithgow - Puffin Crossing   | Construction                        | £40,000                             | £40,000                   |
| Removing Barriers to Accessibility   | Construction                        | £50,000                             | £50,000                   |
| Springfield Road, Linlithgow - Puffin Crossing   | Construction                        | £40,000                             | £40,000                   |
| Wester Inch to Whitehill Industrial Estate Cyclepath   | Construction                        | £399,000                            | £399,000                  |
| Whitburn Town Walk Improvements Phase 2  | Construction                        | £341,000                            | £341,000                  |
| B7066 Heartlands to Whitdale Roundabout  | Design                              | £4,000                              | £4,000                    |
| Edinburgh Road, Guildiehaugh to Bathgate Railway Station Segregated Cyclepath                | Design                              | £8,000                              | £8,000                    |
| Wester Inch to Whitehill Industrial Estate Cyclepath   | Design                              | £3,000                              | £3,000                    |
| Whitdale Roundabout Connections, Whitburn  | Design                              | £10,000                             | £10,000                   |
|  | <b>Total</b>                        | <b>£1,185,000</b>                   | <b>£1,185,000</b>         |

**Appendix 2: Reserve List of Proposed CWSR Projects 2023/24**

---

| <b>Project</b>  | <b>Anticipated Project Stage (2023/24)</b> | <b>Estimated Project Costs for 2023/24</b> | <b>CWSR Funding Contribution</b> |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| B7066 Heartlands to Whitdale Roundabout                                       | Construction                               | £529,000                                   | £529,000                         |
| Edinburgh Road, Guildiehaugh to Bathgate Railway Station Segregated Cyclepath | Construction                               | £445,000                                   | £445,000                         |
|   | <b>Total</b>                               | <b>£974,000</b>                            | <b>£974,000</b>                  |