

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Environment and Infrastructure Committee****Wednesday 21 March 2018****ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY FOR PERTH AND KINROSS****Report by Executive Director (Environment)**

Perth and Kinross Council has always taken a proactive approach to active travel. It has been identified that there are significant opportunities for Perth and Kinross to expand their Active Travel Network and promote active travel. The Scottish Government has directed large levels of funding towards active travel, with a doubling of funding to £80m from 2018-19. The funding is available to help make Scotland's towns and cities friendlier and safer spaces for pedestrians and cyclists.

Having an Active Travel Strategy for Perth and Kinross will help Perth & Kinross Council, and our partners, to access the available match funding. The improvements in infrastructure for walkers and cyclists will provide economic and environmental benefits to Perth and Kinross through a reduction in motorised vehicles, and improve air quality.

1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 All local authorities in Scotland have been encouraged by the Scottish Government to develop an Active Travel Strategy, detailing their approach to increasing the number of active journeys.
- 1.2 Perth & Kinross Council and its partners have taken steps to reduce the number of motorised journeys, by encouraging residents and visitors to undertake journeys by foot or bike. Projects that have been undertaken in Perth and Kinross include the Safer routes to Schools projects by providing footway improvements, and Cycle Schemes which include improving access to Inveralmond Industrial Estate and the expansion of the Green Route Network.
- 1.3 It is recognised that not everyone is able to walk or cycle, but they will also benefit from the improved infrastructure for those that can. For many journeys, motorised methods will remain essential for the main part of the journey. However, there are opportunities to encourage the use of Park & Choose sites, where drivers can park their vehicle and then, stride or cycle the final leg of their journey.
- 1.4 The strategy, detailed in Appendix 1, seeks to identify where improvements and additional infrastructure can be provided to enhance and promote active travel within Perth and Kinross.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The Active Travel Strategy has been developed to encourage more people to travel more actively, more often, either for utility journeys or for leisure. The strategy seeks to promote active travel across all parts of Perth and Kinross, its city, towns, villages and rural areas for all people, whether they are residents of, or visitors to, Perth and Kinross, regardless of income or disability, and whatever other transport choices they have available to them. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide an aspirational direction for this area of work.
- 2.2 To encourage Active Travel, measures such as building infrastructure or other interventions that encourage a behavioural change are required. Improving information so that members of the public are aware of where the active travel infrastructure is located will be needed. This will include the erection of signage and providing maps.
- 2.3 To ensure that the Active Travel Network is Connected, Comfortable and Convenient, *Active Travel Strategy Guidance (Sustrans, July 2014)*, there may be a need to introduce traffic calming measures to reduce the speeds of motorised vehicles; so that residents and visitors feel safe using the network. Other measures such as segregating cyclists and motorised vehicles may help residents and visitors feel safe and encourage them to use the Active Travel Network, in areas where there are high numbers of motorised vehicles.
- 2.4 It is proposed that Perth & Kinross Council will work towards achieving Cycling Scotland's Cycle Friendly status, for Pullar House, 2 High Street and Friarton Depot. There is also an opportunity for schools to be encouraged to gain Cycling Scotland's Cycle Friendly status.
- 2.5 For the Active Travel Strategy to be successful, an Action Plan has been developed with short to long term action points to help focus the delivery of the Active Travel Strategy. The actions in the strategy range from undertaking audits of the existing infrastructure, to reviewing other strategy documents to ensure that their outcomes help achieve a more active travel within Perth and Kinross. Action Points have been developed include:
- The reallocation of road space to enable active travel
 - Development of the Gold Routes identified in the Perth City Plan to key locations such as the railway station, the river and the harbour, PH²O and Perth College UHI, creating attractive routes
 - Continue to promote walking and cycling through the Curriculum for Excellence
 - Continue to support the I Bike Officer in the promotion of cycling in Perth and Kinross
- 2.6 To enable Perth & Kinross Council to undertake the proposals identified in the Active Travel Strategy resources and funding will be required. The Scottish Government has directed record levels of funding towards active travel with a doubling of funding to £80m from 2018-19. The funding is available to help

make our towns and cities friendlier and safer spaces for pedestrians and cyclists. Perth & Kinross Council can make use of this by match funding projects with the capital that is available from the Scottish Government.

- 2.7 It is also recognised that there is a need for Perth & Kinross Council to undertake Travel Planning for elected members and staff, in line with the Active Travel Strategy. Actions points have been identified for Perth & Kinross Council to develop, update and implement both the Staff Travel Plan and Corporate Travel Plan. Having both of these plans will allow Perth & Kinross Council to continue to access funding to improve Air Quality.
- 2.8 Travelling actively can help improve air quality in Perth and Kinross. In Perth and Kinross, air quality monitoring is carried out to determine whether specific pollutants are likely to exceed air quality objectives. This has resulted in two Air Quality Management Areas being declared, one in Perth City, May 2006 and in Crieff, February 2014. By encouraging members of the public to switch from motorised vehicles to walking or cycling, the amount of pollutants can be reduced, thus helping improve air quality.
- 2.9 The actions identified in the Active Travel Strategy will take time to implement, but if funds are available sooner, then projects and initiatives can be delivered earlier. The actions identified have been given associated time sales from Short, Medium and Long term with a priority ranking from High, Medium and Low priority.
- 2.10 Having an Active Travel Strategy will allow Perth & Kinross Council to source match funding through sources such as Sustrans Community Links and Sustrans Community Links Plus.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Active travel can have a significant impact on the lives of local residents for public health, as well, reducing the impact of motorised travel methods on the road infrastructure.
- 3.2 There are great opportunities for Perth and Kinross to expand their Active Travel Network and promote active travel. The new Scottish Government funding is available to help make our towns and cities friendlier and safer spaces for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 3.3 It is recommended that Perth & Kinross Council adopt the Active Travel Strategy as attached in Appendix 1.

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The Active Travel Strategy relates to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement by helping to create a safe and sustainable place for the general public.
- 1.2 This Active Travel Strategy relates to Objective Numbers:
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
 - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

Corporate Plan

- 1.3 The Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 and Perth & Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013/2018 set out five strategic objectives.

The Active Travel Strategy relates to the Objective Numbers:

- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 The Action Points from the Active Travel Strategy may identify projects that will require funding to progress towards achieving more walking and cycling within Perth and Kinross. Funding for these projects will come from within the current capital programme and where identified, match funding applications.

Workforce

- 2.2 The Active Travel Strategy for Perth and Kinross will require the current workforce within Perth & Kinross Council departments to continue working on measures that will encourage Active Travel. It is not anticipated at this stage that any additional resources will be required to deliver this strategy.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no land and property, or information technology implications arising from the contents of the Active Travel Strategy.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties. The Equality Impact Assessment undertaken in relation to this report can be viewed clicking [here](#).

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:
- in the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
 - in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programmes; and
 - in a way that it considers most sustainable.

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 There are no Legal and Governance implications as a result of this Active Travel Strategy.

Risk

- 3.5 There are no significant risks associated with the implementation of this strategy.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 Various Sections within the Environment and Education Service with Actions in the Active Travel Strategy have been consulted.

External

- 4.2 Sustrans Scotland has been consulted on the Active Travel Strategy as they are co-ordinating the creation of the plans and have provided feedback.

5. Communication

- 5.1 Stakeholder engagement undertaken with a number of parties including:

- TACTRAN
- Live Active Leisure
- Centre for Inclusive Living Perth & Kinross
- Sustrans Scotland
- Cycling Scotland
- ByCycle
- Coupar Angus Cycling Hub

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Active Travel Strategy Guidance (Sustrans, July 2014)

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/files/scotland/policy/Active-Travel-Strategy-Guidance.pdf>

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Active Travel Strategy

Appendix 2 – Active Travel Strategy Action Plan.