

Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cycleway Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report updates Members of the progress made since the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee on 20 December 2018 in relation to the delivery of Argyll and Bute Council's long-standing commitment to the provision of a dedicated, high quality walking and cycle route linking Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton.
- 1.2. The construction of a further 285m long section of the route, linking Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn, is now planned for summer 2019. This section will be routed via Geilston Park [unadopted road], Cardross Playing Fields and Cardross Park.
- 1.3. Following the provision of updated design drawings and updated land acquisition requests to landowners on the route of Phase 1 (Moss Road, Colgrain to Cardross), instructions have been given to the Council's Estates Team to progress the necessary land negotiations. Negotiations have been continuing between the Council and landowners in order to progress the necessary land acquisition.
- 1.4. To ensure the time necessary to progress land negotiations is available, it is proposed that the submission of a recommendation in relation to the need for a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to this Committee for Phase 1 of the project will remain as 20 June 2019. Should this Committee be minded to recommend the need for a CPO, the CPO will require to be submitted for approval by full Council.
- 1.5. The contract for a design contractor to progress the design of Phase 2, linking Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton, has been tendered and awarded to WSP UK Ltd. This contract requires initial designs to be prepared for summer 2019 with detailed plans developed for spring 2020. A public consultation to support identification of the preferred route will be undertaken in late spring 2019.

Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cycleway Update

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. This report updates Members of the progress made since the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee on 20 December 2018 in relation to the delivery of Argyll and Bute Council's long-standing commitment to the provision of a dedicated, high quality walking and cycle route linking Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton.
- 2.2. Full details of the project, including previous progress is available in the project update reports previously presented to this Committee, most recently on 20 December 2018.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:
 - 3.1.1. Note the appointment of a design contractor to progress the route identification and design development for the phase of the route from Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton.
 - 3.1.2. Note the intention to hold a public consultation event to support identification of the preferred route from Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton.
 - 3.1.3. Note the continued commitment to construct the approx. 285m section of the route along Geilston Park [unadopted road] and through the Cardross Playing Fields and Cardross Park, now planned for 2019/20.

4.0 DETAIL

Finances

- 4.1. At time of writing a total of £140,000 committed funding is available to the project, this consists of £50,000 Section 75 monies, £20,000 committed 2018/19 funding from SPT (downturned from £100,000), £20,000 committed 2018/19 construction funding from SUSTRANS (downturned from £100,000) and £50,000 committed 2018/19 SUSTRANS design funding for outline phase 2 designs.

- 4.2. Funding applications for 2019/20 have been submitted to SPT (£100,000) and SUSTRANS (£100,000) to support the construction of further section(s) of the route in 2019/20. A second application to SUSTRANS (£50,000) has been submitted to allow the detailed design of the section of route from Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton to be progressed.

Phase 1: Helensburgh to Cardross

- 4.3. In 2019/20 it is planned to construct a 285m section of the route within Cardross from Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn. This section will route via Geilston Park [unadopted road], Cardross Playing Fields and Cardross Park. As previously reported to this Committee, this work had been planned for Oct/Nov 2018. However, this timescale has now slipped to summer 2019. The delay is due to an inability to access the land required this financial year due to other works being undertaken by Network Rail. Meanwhile work is ongoing between the Legal Service and the landowner's solicitor to finalise the legal agreement with the landowner. The Strategic Transportation Team is working with the Roads Service to ensure that the section of the cycleway is delivered in 2019/20.
- 4.4. Following provision of the updated drawings and land acquisition offers to relevant landowners for Phase 1 (Cardross to Helensburgh), the Council has been in active negotiations with landowners to seek to progress to a negotiated settlement to acquire the necessary land.
- 4.5. To ensure the necessary time to progress land negotiations is available it is planned that the submission of a recommendation to this Committee in relation to the need for a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for Phase 1 of the route (Cardross to Helensburgh) will be made on 20 June 2019. Should this Committee be minded to recommend the need for a CPO, the CPO will require to be submitted for approved by full Council.

Phase 2: Cardross to Dumbarton

- 4.6. The £50,000 funding application for 2018/19 approved by SUSTRANS has allowed the Council to engage WSP as external design consultants to progress outline design for the section of the route linking Cardross with Dumbarton in spring 2019. Utilising external consultancy assets for this work will ensure that this does not impact on internal Council resources required for and focused on progressing and delivering the Phase 1 Helensburgh to Cardross section of the cycleway.
- 4.7. The contract to engage an external design consultant for Phase 2 was awarded to WSP UK Ltd on 22 February 2019. This contract will support initial designs to be prepared for summer 2019 with detailed plans developed for spring 2020. A key component of this contract is for the design team to engage with landowners throughout the design process in order to identify landowner concerns at the earliest stage and to develop a design which, as far as reasonable, manages landowner concerns. A public engagement event will be held in late spring 2019 to allow residents, other members of the public and the Community Council to input to the selection of the preferred route for this section of the cycleway.

Helensburgh: Hermitage Academy to Town Centre

- 4.8. An application has been submitted to Sustrans for funding in 2019/20 to allow the Council to engage external consultants to lead the community consultation to identify the preferred route(s) and design for the cycleway within Helensburgh. Utilising external consultancy assets for this work will ensure that this does not impact on internal Council resources required to and focused on progressing and delivering the Phase 1 Helensburgh to Cardross section of the cycleway.

Delivery Programme

- 4.9. As detailed in 4.4, full design drawings for Phase 1 have been delivered by the Roads Service Design Team. The delivery of these drawings has enabled the Council's Estates Team to seek to progress land acquisition with the relevant landowners by providing copies of the drawings and update land purchase offers to the relevant landowners.
- 4.10. As detailed in the report to this Committee on 20 December 2018, submission of a recommendation to this Committee in relation to the need for a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for Phase 1 of the project is planned on 20 June 2019. Should this Committee be minded to recommend the need for a CPO, this will require to be submitted to full Council for approval. This timescale is compatible with the programme and final delivery date of the project.
- 4.11. Appendix 1 provides an outline programme of the key stages and forecast timescales for each section of the Phase 1: Helensburgh to Cardross section of the cycleway, Phase 2: Cardross to Dumbarton and Helensburgh: Hermitage Academy to Town Centre.
- 4.12. Appendix 2 provides an update on Land Negotiations for Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cycleway. **[EXEMPT]**

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1. Completion of the Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cycleway will provide a dedicated, high quality, accessible walking and cycle route linking Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton. This route will provide opportunities for all in the Helensburgh – Cardross – Dumbarton corridor to travel more sustainably and actively by walking and cycling.
- 5.2. Construction of the phase of work
- 5.3. The active negotiations being undertaken with relevant landowners in Phase 1 and the appointment of a design consultant for develop Phase 2 of the project both demonstrate continued progress with this project.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Policy SOA

Completion of this project will support the Council's outcomes 2: We have infrastructure that supports

sustainable growth and 5: People live active, healthier and independent lives. The project also supports achievement of the Scottish Government's objectives set out in the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) and Let's Get Scotland Walking - The National Walking Strategy.

- 6.2. Financial** The construction and land purchase will be funded by grant fund awards from SPT and Sustrans. There is evidence to indicate that people who are more active, for example by walking or cycling, are less likely to require social care services in later life which could result in a future saving to the Council although the value of this would be difficult to quantify.
- 6.3. Legal Services to** Continued input will be required from Legal support contractual agreements and land purchase including a CPO should this be deemed necessary.
- 6.4. HR** None.
- 6.5. Equalities** Completion of this project will provide opportunities for all in the Helensburgh – Cardross – Dumbarton corridor to travel more sustainably and actively by walking and cycling. The route has been designed to be DDA compliant and will provide a safe route removed from the A814 accessible to those with mobility aids including wheelchairs and to parents/guardians with a child's pram or buggy.
- 6.6. Risk** There is a reputational risk to the Council if the project is not completed within a reasonable timeframe
- 6.7. Customer Services** None.

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, Pippa Milne
Policy Lead Councillor Aileen Morton**

For further information contact: Colin Young
Strategic Transportation Delivery Officer
Colin.Young@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Tel: 01546 604275

**Appendix 1: Helensburgh, Cardross & Dumbarton Cycleway Programme
Appendix 2: Update on Land Negotiations for Helensburgh, Cardross and
Dumbarton Cycleway [EXEMPT]**