

HELENSBURGH, CARDROSS AND DUMBARTON CYCLEPATH UPDATE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report updates Members of the progress made since the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee on 19 September 2019 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. Cardross Trust and the Council have signed the legal agreement to allow the construction of the 285m section of the route, linking Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn. All agreements with relevant landowners are now in place for the construction of this section of the cyclepath. This section will be routed via Geilston Park [unadopted road], Cardross Playing Fields and Cardross Park.
- 1.3. Roads and Amenity Service Officers have confirmed that the construction of the section of the route linking Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn can be accommodated within the Roads and Amenity Services work plan for spring 2020.
- 1.4. Sustrans confirmed on 25 October 2019 that they will provide match funding in 2019/20 to enable the construction of the planned section of route linking Cardross Station and the Geilston Burn.
- 1.5. Sustrans confirmed on 25 October 2019 that they will provide funding in 2019/20 for engineering investigation and design development for the alternative Phase 1 route, as directed by this Committee on 20 June 2019, and for phase 2 (Cardross to Dumbarton), which will be progressed in line with the decisions made by this Committee on 20 June 2019.
- 1.6. The funding Sustrans have provided for 2019/20 is for Developed Design (stage 3) of their 7-stage process. Prior to construction (stage 5), Sustrans will require us to complete Engineering Design (stage 4). Due to the delay in Sustrans award of 2019/20 design funding, the earliest Engineering Design could be undertaken will be 2020/21.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:

- i. Note the conclusion of the legal agreement in terms of land between the Council and the Cardross Trust for the Cardross to Geilston Burn section of the route.
- ii. Note and welcome the confirmation from Sustrans of the award of 2019/20 funding of £100,000 for construction of the route linking Cardross Station and the Geilston Burn, and the additional £160,000 Sustrans funding to progress the design of the remainder of the route linking Colgrain, Helensburgh to Geilston Burn, Cardross and Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton.
- iii. Note and welcome the commitment from Roads and Amenity Service to undertake construction of the section of the cyclepath linking Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn in spring 2020 in line with the conditions of grant award from SPT and Sustrans.

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 This report updates Members of the progress made since the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee on 19 September 2019 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.
- 3.2 Full details of the project, including previous progress is available in the project update reports previously presented to this Committee, most recently on 19 September 2019.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:
- i. Note the conclusion of the legal agreement in terms of land between the Council and the Cardross Trust for the Cardross to Geilston Burn section of the route.
 - ii. Note and welcome the confirmation from Sustrans of the award of 2019/20 funding of £100,000 for construction of the route linking Cardross Station and the Geilston Burn, and the additional £160,000 Sustrans funding to progress the design of the remainder of the route linking Colgrain, Helensburgh to Geilston Burn, Cardross and Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton.
 - iii. Note and welcome the commitment from Roads and Amenity Service to undertake construction of the section of the cyclepath linking Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn in spring 2020 in line with the conditions of grant award from SPT and Sustrans.

5.0 DETAIL

5.1 Finances

- 5.2 At time of writing a total of £200,000 committed funding is available to the construction of the Cardross to Geilston Burn section of the route planned for spring 2020. This consists of £100,000 2019/20 funding from SPT and £100,000 Sustrans Places for Everyone 2019/20 funding.
- 5.3 A further £160,000 Sustrans funding Places for Everyone funding is available progress the design of the remainder of the route linking Colgrain, Helensburgh to Geilston Burn, Cardross and Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton.
- 5.4 Additionally, £50,000 Section 75 monies remains available in relation to the still to be identified Hermitage Academy/Waitrose to Helensburgh Town Centre section of the route.

5.5 Design Progress

- 5.6 Phase 1: Colgrain, Helensburgh to Geilston Burn, Cardross. On 25 October Sustrans confirmed 2019/20 funding for Developed Design (stage 3) for engineering investigation and design development for the alternative phase 1 route, as instructed by this Committee in June 2019. At time of writing the tender to contract a design consultant to develop the design for the alternative route is currently being finalised for procurement.
- 5.7 Phase 2: Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton. On 25 October Sustrans confirmed 2019/20 funding for Developed Design (stage 3) for engineering investigation and design development for the alternative phase 1 route, as instructed by this Committee in June 2019. At time of writing the tender to contract a design consultant to develop the design for the alternative route is currently being finalised for procurement.
- 5.8 Sustrans have introduced a 7-stage process for the development, construction and monitoring of new active travel routes. Stages 1-4 are design development, stage 5 is land acquisition & construction, with stages 6 & 7 being in-use monitoring and operation. Relevant to the current work, the funding awarded for 2019/20 by Sustrans is for stage 3 (Developed Design), with stage 4 (Engineering Design) required to be completed prior to commencing stage 5 (land acquisition and construction). Due to the delay in Sustrans awarding 2019/20 funding the earliest that stage 4 (Engineering Design) could be undertaken would be 2020/21.
- 5.9 Helensburgh Town: Community engagement is planned to identify demand for and a potential route of the Cyclepath from the western edge of Helensburgh (adjacent to Waitrose) into the heart of the town. While Sustrans provisionally indicated in July that they would provide funding in 2019/20 to enable this community engagement to be undertaken, due to the delay in confirming 2019/20 funding Sustrans have now confirmed that this funding will not be awarded in 2019/20 and the Council will require to reapply for funding to undertake this community engagement in 2020/21.

Delivery of Phase 1: Helensburgh to Cardross

- 5.10 Preparations are underway for the construction of a 285m section of the route within Cardross from Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn in 2019/20. This section will route via Geilston Park [unadopted road], Cardross Playing Fields and Cardross Park.
- 5.11 The Council and the Cardross Trust have finalised the land agreement necessary to allow the construction of the 285m section of the route, linking Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn through Cardross Playing Fields and Cardross Park.
- 5.12 The conclusion of the land agreement with Cardross Trust means that the Council have the necessary landowner agreements in place for the construction of the section of route linking Cardross Station and the Geilston Burn.
- 5.13 Sustrans confirmed £100,000 construction funding for 2019/20 on 25 October, matched against £100,000 SPT 2019/20 funding. These funding agreements require the construction to be completed in spring 2020.
- 5.14 Roads and Amenity Service Officers have confirmed that the construction of the 285m section of the cyclepath linking Cardross Station and the Geilston Burn, including a bridge over the Geilston Burn can be accommodated within the Roads and Amenity Services 2019/20 workplan. At present officers are working to tender the design and built contract for the bridge over the Geilston Burn, and finalise the construction plan in order to commence construction in early 2020.

Delivery Programme

- 5.15 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 Cyclepath, Phase 2: Cardross to Dumbarton and Helensburgh: Hermitage Academy to Town Centre.
- 5.16 Appendix 2 provides an update on Land Negotiations for Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cyclepath, Phase 1 (previously planned Route Option 1, adjacent to the A814). **[EXEMPT]**

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Completion of the Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cyclepath 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.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Policy

Completion of this project will support the Council's SOA 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 Legal

Continued input will be required from Legal Services to support contractual agreements and land purchase including a CPO should this be deemed necessary.

7.4 HR

None.

7.5 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.

7.6 Risk

There is a reputational risk to the Council if the project is not completed within a reasonable timeframe

7.7 Customer Services

None.

Pippa Milne, Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth

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