

Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cyclepath Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report updates Members of the progress made since the previous report to the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee on 17 September 2020 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. Roads and Infrastructure Services commenced construction of the section of the route linking Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn in March 2020. This work was interrupted by Covid-19, which has resulted in further knock-on delays to the completion of this section. As the Geilston Burn is a key winter fish breeding ground, SEPA require that we pause work involving the Geilston Burn during the winter breeding season. It is expected work involving the Geilston Burn will recommence in March 2021. This delay will not impact on the final completion date for the whole cyclepath.
- 1.3. At time of writing, the Council is finalising details for the award of contract for the completion of the required design stages for the identified preferred route for phase 1 (Helensburgh to Cardross) and phase 2 (Cardross to Dumbarton) of the cyclepath. This work will develop the designs to a constructible standard that, once we have secured the necessary land, will enable the construction of the cycle path.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:
 - 2.1.1. Discuss the progress made towards award of the contract for the completion of the design work required for the cyclepath.
 - 2.1.2. Note the unavoidable delay to completion of the section of cyclepath in Cardross due to the requirement from SEPA to avoid any work affecting the Geilston Burn during the winter fish breeding season.

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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 17 September 2020 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 17 September 2020.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:
- 4.1.1. Discuss the progress made towards award of the contract for the completion of the design work required for the cyclepath.
- 4.1.2. Note the unavoidable delay to completion of the section of cyclepath in Cardross due to the requirement from SEPA to avoid any work affecting the Geilston Burn during the winter fish breeding season.

5.0 DETAIL

Finances

- 5.1. At time of writing a total of £300,000 2020/21 Transport Scotland Places for Everyone funding, managed by Sustrans, has been secured to progress the design of the remainder of the route linking Colgrain, Helensburgh to Geilston Burn, Cardross and Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton. It should be noted that this funding covers 100% of the cost of these design works.
- 5.2. £213,083 committed funding is available to the construction of the Cardross to Geilston Burn section of the route currently under construction. This consists of £25,000 2020/21 funding from SPT, £91,921 Cycling Walking and Safer Routes funding and £96,162 Transport Scotland 2020/21 funding from the Places for People fund managed by Sustrans. This funding covers all forecast project costs in 2020/21 and again there is no match funding required by the council.
- 5.3. Officers are working with colleagues in Roads Operations to confirm an updated spend for the work completed prior to work being halted in November as reported under 5.8.
- 5.4. An application has been submitted to SPT's 2021-22 Capital Programme for £100,000 to support completion of the section of route in Cardross and the completion of the necessary design work for the remainder of the route by summer 2021. It is planned a further 2021-22 funding application will be submitted to the Places for Everyone fund when this opens for applications, expected to be in early 2021.

Design

- 5.5. **Phase 1: Colgrain, Helensburgh to Geilston Burn, Cardross.** At time of writing, the Council is working to finalise award of contract for the completion of the Developed Design (stage 3) and Technical Design (stage 4) engineering investigation and design development for the new preferred phase 1 route, as instructed by this Committee in June 2019. Once completed in summer 2021, this will complete the design stages required prior to land acquisition and construction.
- 5.6. **Phase 2: Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton.** At time of writing, the Council is working to finalise award of contract for the completion of the Developed Design (stage 3) and Technical Design (stage 4) engineering investigation and design development for the preferred phase 2 route, as instructed by this Committee in June 2019. Once completed, this will complete the design stages required prior to land acquisition and construction. Once completed in summer 2021, this will complete the design stages required prior to land acquisition and construction.
- 5.7. **Helensburgh Town.** It is planned to submit a funding application to Transport Scotland's Places for People fund managed by Sustrans for funding in

2021/22 to undertake a high quality community engagement to identify demand for and a potential route(s) of the Cyclepath from the western edge of Helensburgh into the heart of the town. Officers continue to assemble evidence to demonstrate the need for this community engagement to Sustrans.

Construction

- 5.8. Roads and Infrastructure Services commenced construction of the 285m section of the route within Cardross linking Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn in March 2020. This work was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in a 4 month delay to the programme. Due to this delay, we have been unable to complete the construction prior to the winter fish breeding season in the Geilston Burn. As the Geilston Burn is a highly important fish breeding ground for the upper Clyde area, providing some of the most genetically diverse stocks in the region, SEPA have instructed that no work involving the Geilston Burn may take place during the fish breeding season. This means that work requires to be suspended until after the fish breeding season, expected to be March 2021.
- 5.9. Officers are working with suppliers, contractors and colleagues in the Roads and Infrastructure Service to schedule the remaining necessary work for spring 2021. It is anticipated that a revised completion date of June 2021 is considered to be robust. This delay will not impact on the final completion date for the whole cyclepath.

Programme

- 5.10. **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.
- 5.11. **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. This will provide a safe alternative to having to use a private car to travel between these communities and help lower Argyll and Bute's carbon footprint. Funding for these works has been secured from our key active travel partners with further bids being progressed to enable the construction of further sections of the cycleway following detailed design work and as and when land purchases have been concluded.

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 design, construction and land purchase will be funded by external grant funding applications. The council have not contributed any funding to design or capital costs. 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. Fairer Scotland Duty:**
- 6.5.1 Equalities Completion of this project will provide opportunities for all in the Helensburgh – Cardross – Dumbarton corridor to travel more sustainably and actively by walking, wheeling and cycling.
- 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty The route has been designed to be DDA compliant and will provide a safe and accessible route for those with mobility aids including wheelchairs and parents/guardians with a child's pram or buggy.
- 6.5.3 Islands There are no adverse impacts.
- 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.

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