

**Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cyclepath Update**

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**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 December 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. The 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 was awarded to WSP UK Ltd on 01 December 2020 with the design work planned for completion in summer 2021. This work will develop the designs to a constructible standard that, once we have secured the necessary land, will enable the construction of the cyclepath.
- 1.3. Further to the instruction by members on 17 December 2020 that Officers should look at the options in relation to land acquisition to allow the completion of the section of the route from Geilston Burn to Murrays Crossing at the earliest opportunity, contact has been made with the relevant landowner and their land agent and negotiations are ongoing.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:
  - 2.1.1. Welcome the community engagement planned for late-March/early-April 2021 to inform the designs currently being developed.
  - 2.1.2. Discuss the future programme for the completion of the design work required for the cyclepath.

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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 December 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 December 2020.

### 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:
- 4.1.1. Welcome the community engagement planned for late-March/early-April 2021 to inform the designs currently being developed.
- 4.1.2. Discuss the future programme for the completion of the design work required for the cyclepath.

### 5.0 DETAIL

#### Finances

- 5.1. At time of writing a total of £300,000 2020/21 Transport Scotland Places for Everyone funding, administered 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. This competitively secured funding covers 100% of the cost of these design works.
- 5.2. £196,921 2020/21 funding is available to support the Cardross to Geilston Burn section of the route currently under construction. This consists of £105,000 2020/21 funding from SPT 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 from the Council.

- 5.3. Officers are working with colleagues in Roads and Infrastructure Services to confirm an updated programme and spend for the remaining work required to complete this section of the cyclepath by summer 2021.
- 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.

### **Land Acquisition**

- 5.5. Further to the instruction by members on 17 December 2020 that Officers should look at the options in relation to land acquisition to allow the completion of the section of the route from Geilston Burn to Murrays Crossing at the earliest opportunity, contact has been made with the relevant landowner and negotiations are ongoing at the time of writing.

### **Design**

- 5.6. **Phase 1: Colgrain, Helensburgh to Geilston Burn, Cardross.** The Council has awarded contract to WSP UK Ltd 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. This work includes significant engagement with relevant landowners to inform the designs.
- 5.7. **Phase 2: Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton.** The Council has awarded contract to WSP UK Ltd 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 in summer 2021, this will complete the design stages required prior to land acquisition and construction. This work includes significant engagement with relevant landowners to inform the designs.
- 5.8. **Helensburgh Town.** It is planned to submit a funding application to Transport Scotland's Places for People fund, administered 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 have continued to engage with Helensburgh Community Council in relation to this element of the project and continue to assemble evidence to demonstrate the need for this community engagement to Sustrans.
- 5.9. **Community engagement.** A key element of the contract awarded to WSP UK Ltd for the development of the designs for the route linking Moss Road, Colgrain to Cardross and Cardross to Dumbarton is to undertake community engagement to inform the designs. It is planned this engagement will be undertaken in late March/early April 2021. Due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic this consultation

will be online. Officers will work with local community groups and the council's media team to promote the engagement to enable wide participation.

- 5.10. **Cardross Community Action Network (CardrossCAN) Petition.** An online petition was received on 02 February 2021 from the Cardross CAN community group in support of the completion of the cyclepath linking Helensburgh – Cardross – Dumbarton. The petition provides further evidence of the importance of completing the cyclepath for the local communities and visitors. The petition will be used as evidence of community support as part of future external competitive funding applications for the construction of the cyclepath.

## Construction

- 5.11. Officers are working with suppliers, contractors and colleagues in the Roads and Infrastructure Service to schedule the remaining necessary work to complete the construction of the 285m section of the route within Cardross linking Cardross Station to the Geilston Burn by summer 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.
- 5.12. Should the land acquisition negotiations in relation to the section of land necessary to complete the path between the Geilston Burn and Murray's Crossing be successful, this section of the route will require an additional construction period. It is planned that the construction of the section of path to complete the route between the Geilston Burn and Murrays Crossing will be undertaken as promptly as possible following conclusion of land acquisition and securing of the necessary funding.

## Programme

- 5.13. **Appendix 1** is the CardrossCAN public petition sent to the Chief Executive on 02 February 2021.
- 5.14. **Appendix 2** 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.
- 5.15. **Appendix 3** provides an update on Land Negotiations for Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cyclepath. **[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: CardrossCAN Community Petition, received 02 February 2021**  
**Appendix 2: Helensburgh, Cardross & Dumbarton Cyclepath Programme**  
**Appendix 3: Update on Land Negotiations for Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cyclepath [EXEMPT]**