
Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cyclepath Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report updates Members on the progress made since the previous report to the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee on 25 March 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. Developed design work is ongoing for the outstanding sections of the route linking Colgrain to the Geilston Burn and Ferry Road to Dumbarton. To date this work has focused on necessary environmental surveys and assessment, design development including road crossings, and initial site investigations. WSP have contacted all identified landowners affected by the route to gain their input to support the design development. Wider community engagement is planned for June 2021, following the landowner engagement and completion of the design options development.
- 1.3. Further to the instruction by this Committee on 17 December 2020 that Officers explore 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's land agent. At the time of writing, Officers are seeking engagement to commence detailed negotiations.
- 1.4. The necessary permissions to recommence construction work at the Geilston Burn have been secured from SEPA. Work is planned to recommence in late May, with the new permanent bridge being constructed between June and August and the programme anticipating completion of this section of the route in September 2021.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:
 - 2.1.1. Welcome the recommencement of the construction of the section linking Cardross Railway Station to the Geilston Burn, Cardross.

2.1.2. Note the rescheduling of the community engagement to inform the design to June 2021.

Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cyclepath Update

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. This report updates Members of the progress made since the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee on 25 March 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 25 March 2020.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:
- 4.1.1. Welcome the recommencement of the construction of the section linking Cardross Railway Station to the Geilston Burn, Cardross.
- 4.1.2. Note the rescheduling of the community engagement to inform the design to June 2021.

5.0 DETAIL

Finances

- 5.1. **Design.** At time of writing, the Council is awaiting confirmation of 2021/22 Transport Scotland Places for Everyone funding, administered by Sustrans. This competitive challenge funding is required to progress the design of the remainder of the route linking Colgrain, Helensburgh to Geilston Burn, Cardross and Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton.
- 5.2. **Construction (Cardross Rail Station to Geilston Burn).** Estimated construction costs in 2021/22 are £140,000. Strathclyde partnership for Transport (SPT) has confirmed £100,000 2021/22 capital funding to support the delivery of the Cardross to Geilston Burn section of the route currently under construction. At time of writing, the Council is awaiting confirmation of 2021/22 Transport Scotland Places for Everyone funding, administered by Sustrans. This competitive challenge funding is required to cover the full forecast

construction costs. As the Places for Everyone funding is not currently confirmed, Officers are working to explore other funding options to ensure the current funding shortfall of £40,000 against the estimated construction costs can be fully covered in 2021/22.

Design

- 5.3. Transport Scotland's Places for Everyone funding programme, administered by Sustrans, is structured around 8 project stages with gateways which require approval from the Sustrans Project Board at the end of Stage 2 (Concept Design) and Stage 4 (Technical Design) to progress to the next stage. The project stages are (0) Strategic Definition, (1) Preparation and Brief, (2) Concept Design, (3) Developed Design, (4) Technical Design, (5) Construction, (6) Handover & Close Out and (7) In Use.
- 5.4. **Developed design** (stage 3) work is ongoing for the outstanding section of the route linking Colgrain to Geilston Burn, Cardross and Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton. Work to date has focused on environmental surveys and assessment, design detail options development including road crossings, and initial site investigations. WSP have contacted all identified landowners affected by the route to gain their input to support the design development. Wider community engagement is planned for June 2021, following the landowner engagement and completion of the design options development.
- 5.5. **Technical Design** (stage 4) engineering investigation and design finalization is planned to be progressed following completion of the develop design stage. It is expected that the technical design will take approximately 3 months to complete following confirmation of 2021/22 Places for Everyone funding.
- 5.6. Once completed, the Developed Design and Technical Design will complete the design stages required prior to land acquisition and construction.
- 5.7. **Landowner engagement.** The ongoing design work includes significant engagement with relevant landowners to inform the designs. This includes confirming land ownership details, gaining landowner agreement to undertake the necessary surveys and to engage with landowners to gain their input to the design process in order to consider their comments when developing the designs.
- 5.8. **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 now is planned this engagement will be undertaken in June 2021. Due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic this consultation will be online via the Council's website. Officers will work with local community groups and the council's media team to promote the engagement to enable wide participation.
- 5.9. **Helensburgh Town.** It is planned to submit a funding application to Transport Scotland's Places for Everyone 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 centre 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. Sustrans have advised they will not be accepting applications for new funding for 2021/22 before September 2021 at the earliest. This timescale, set by Sustrans, makes it highly unlikely that it will be possible to complete the planned work in 2021/22 given the required time for procurement and the work required.

Geilston Burn to Murray's Crossing

- 5.10. On 17 December 2020, the Committee instructed Officers to 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's land agent and, at the time of writing, Officers are seeking engagement to commence detailed negotiations.
- 5.11. 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. The high level cost estimate for the construction of this section of the route is £70,000.

Construction: Cardross Station to Geilston Burn

- 5.12. SEPA have now confirmed their approval for work around the Geilston Burn to recommence, following the winter fish breeding season. The revised programme is to reinstate the temporary bridge (pipes) in the burn in late May, with construction of the permanent bridge from 01 June to 06 August 2021. Following construction of the permanent bridge, Roads Operations will undertake the final surfacing and completion of the works with all works forecast to be complete in September.

Programme

- 5.13. **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.
- 5.14. **Appendix 2** 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.

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| 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. |

Executive Director with the responsibility for Development and Economic Growth: Kirsty Flanagan

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