

Sustrans Community Links Funding – Dunoon Esplanade Upgrades

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from members to progress with a project to upgrade Dunoon Esplanade using £250,000 of Sustrans Community Links funding which has been secured by the Strategic Transportation Team. The aim of this project is to try encourage increased levels of walking and cycling within Dunoon by improving the condition of this popular local route. The proposals detailed within this report represent the first phase of works and it is proposed to apply for further funding from Sustrans to upgrade other strategic routes in Dunoon which were previously identified in the Hitrans Active Travel Audit undertaken in 2010.
- 1.2 Argyll and Bute Council have been successful in securing £250,000 from the Sustrans 2014/15 Community Links Programme to upgrade Dunoon Esplanade between Dunoon Pier and Kirn. The proposed works will consist of some footway widening at the former ferry vehicle marshalling area to provide a 4m wide shared use path, removal of historic bus shelters which will be gifted to local museums and resurfacing of the esplanade between the town centre and Kirn.
- 1.3 Footway widening is also proposed adjacent to the swimming pool by removing the current bus layby which creates a pinch point. A dedicated bus shelter will be installed here in agreement with the Councils Public Transport Officer. Details of the proposed project are included in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.4 When completed, this project will provide improved facilities for walking and cycling within Dunoon and will also complement the CHORD regeneration works.
- 1.5 This project will be managed by the Council's Strategic Transportation Team via Cycling Scotland consultancy with input from Roads Services and the CHORD Project Manager. All works must be completed by the 31st March 2015 to be eligible for Sustrans funding.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the proposals to upgrade Dunoon Esplanade following Argyll and Bute Council securing £250,000 of Sustrans funding from their 2014/15 Community Links Programme.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This report seeks approval from local members to proceed with the proposed works which require to be completed by 31st March 2015 to be eligible for funding.

4.0 DETAILS

- 4.1 Sustrans Community Links Programme provides annual grant funding for the creation of walking and cycling infrastructure for everyday journeys. To date the Strategic Transportation Team have been successful in securing a total of £985,000 of Sustrans Community Links funding from their 2014/15 programme of which £250,000 has been allocated to upgrade Dunoon Esplanade between the pier and Kirn.
- 4.2 Funding requires to be spent by 31st March 2015 and also requires to be 50% match funded. Argyll and Bute Council have secured funding for Dunoon by using the investment already committed to the local CHORD programme as match funding.
- 4.3 Dunoon esplanade is identified as a priority route within the Hitrans Active Travel Audit undertaken in 2010. This report recommended that resurfacing and widening were undertaken within the area proposed. It is intended that the proposed works will be the first phase of wider improvements to walking and cycle routes within Dunoon and it is intended to submit future funding bids to Sustrans for other priority routes identified within the Hitrans Active Travel Audit which is in the process of being refreshed by Halcrow on behalf of Hitrans.
- 4.4 The proposed works include widening the footway adjacent to the former ferry vehicle marshalling area to 4m wide and removing the three historic bus shelters in this area which obstruct the footway and are difficult to maintain. It is intended that these stops will be given to local transport museums who have expressed an interest in them.

- 4.5 It is proposed to resurface the esplanade between the town centre and Kirn and this will include the removal of the existing slabbed area to create a uniform surface. The existing esplanade is in need of resurfacing as can be seen from the photographs included in Appendix 2. It is also proposed to roll red stone chips into the new asphalt so that this route can be easily identified as a shared use route. Details of the proposed route are indicated in the route plan included in Appendix 1.
- 4.6 As part of the proposed works it is intended to remove the bus layby opposite the leisure centre which currently creates a pinch point. A shelter will be installed in this location and bus services will continue to operate as normal by stopping in the carriageway. This has been agreed with the Council's Public Transport Officer and local bus operators.
- 4.5 Two new access points will also be created from Alexandra Parade onto the esplanade to improve access to this facility as presented in drawing 706/10/04/0005 Rev A which is included in Appendix 1.
- 4.6 As the works are within the adopted carriageway and there will be no requirement for third party land it is considered that the project can be completed by the 31st March 2015 however, timescales are a considerable risk to the project given the weather dependent nature of the works.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report seeks approval from members to progress with the proposed upgrade of Dunoon Esplanade between the Dunoon pier and Kirn using £250,000 of Sustrans Community Links funding secured by the Council's Strategic Transportation Team. All works must be completed by 31st March 2015 to be eligible for grant funding.
- 5.2 When completed, this project will provide improved opportunities for walking and cycling within Dunoon and will compliment the regeneration works proposed as part of CHORD. It is intended that these works will be the first phase of a wider scheme to update a number of routes within Dunoon which were identified in the Hitrans Active Travel Audit which was undertaken in 2010.
- 5.3 Following approval from local members it is intended to progress works with works in January 2015 following completion of a tender process and appointment of a contractor.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 6.1 | Policy | The delivery of this project is consistent with local, regional and national transportation policy to encourage increased levels of walking and cycling. |
| 6.2 | Financial | The project is grant funded by Sustrans and the Council's committed investment through the CHORD works is considered match funding. |
| 6.3 | Legal | None |

6.4	HR	None
6.5	Equalities	None
6.6	Risk	Works require to be completed by 31 st March 2015 to be eligible for funding. Weather dependent nature of works make funding deadlines a risk to this project.
6.7	Customer Services	None

Pippa Milne Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure

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For further information contact: Jonathan Welch, Transport Planner, Tel:01546604329

Appendix 1 – Proposed layout plans

Appendix 2 – Photographs of existing esplanade surfacing

Appendix 1: Layout Plans

Appendix 2: Photographs of Existing Esplanade Surfacing