

Item: 9

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 2 April 2019.

Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To provide an update on progress with the Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan and consider staffing resource to progress the Community Links Programme.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That, in July 2018, when considering the Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan, the Council approved a project list as the basis of a three year programme for potential applications to the Community Links Programme, operated by Sustrans.

2.2.

That, during 2018 to 2019, notable progress has been made with the Arcadia Community Park, Papdale, Kirkwall, and Stromness Place Plan projects, as well as the THI Places and Spaces and World Heritage Site Active Travel Plan.

2.3.

That the projects referred to above have been progressed on a fully funded basis or at no additional cost to the Council.

2.4.

That Development and Marine Planning officers have been committed to carrying out the necessary feasibility study on projects identified in the project list, to determine which are eligible for funding and achievable for delivery during the current financial year and beyond until 2021, with further projects also having been identified.

2.5.

The updated project list, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, which will continue to be used as the basis for the remainder of the three year programme for potential applications to the Community Links Programme.

2.6.

The proposed three year project plan, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, outlining potential applications to the Community Links Programme, and that further projects may be identified, with the possibility that not all projects will be delivered.

2.7.

That progressing the projects has been prioritised over core planning work, causing a strain on Development and Marine Planning staff resources.

2.8.

That funding of up to £50,000 is available from the Smarter Choices Smarter Places fund towards creation of a temporary Programme Manager post, for up to one year, to progress the Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan, subject to the Council contributing 25% of costs, as detailed in section 4 of this report.

2.9.

That the funding referred to above has been awarded by Smarter Choices Smarter Places subject to Council approval of its financial contribution.

It is recommended:

2.10.

That a dedicated full time temporary post of Programme Manager, for one year, be established to progress the Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan and associated marketing campaign, subject to the necessary funding being identified within existing Development and Infrastructure budgets.

3. Background

3.1.

The Scottish Government's Active Travel budget was doubled, from £40,000,000 to £80,000,000 per annum, from 2018 until 2021. This represents enhanced opportunities for potentially cost-neutral projects to the Council to deliver projects that make the County's towns, villages and rural settlements friendlier and safer places for people to walk and cycle.

3.2.

The Places for Everyone, formerly known as the Community Links Programme is a grant scheme, funded by Transport Scotland and operated by Sustans, that provides funding for the creation of infrastructure that makes it easier for people to walk and cycle for everyday journeys.

3.3.

The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Programme is a grant scheme, operated by Paths for All, to support behaviour change initiatives to increase active and sustainable travel.

3.4.

The Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan was developed to respond to these funding opportunities and was presented to the Committee in June 2018

4. Programme Manager Post and Marketing Campaign

4.1.

The Development and Marine Planning Team does not have sufficient capacity to progress the Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan alongside existing core planning work.

4.2.

It was originally intended to utilise a portion of the Development and Marine Planning revenue budget to meet the match funding requirements in 2018 to 2019. However, delays with finalising the Job Description and unforeseen service pressures resulted in the available resource being lost. There is no such capacity in 2019 to 2020 budgets to meet the costs and, as noted in the previous report, continuation of the programme would need to be evaluated subject to the identification of funding.

4.3.

It would be necessary to recruit an officer on a temporary basis to implement the project list, involving management of the project list, making applications for grant funding, delivery of projects including the undertaking of community engagement and to identify additional sources of external funding to deliver capital projects. This will also involve delivery of a marketing campaign for the Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan.

4.4

Funding of up to £50,000 has been awarded to the Council from the Smarter Choices Smarter Places Programme, towards the creation of a Programme Manager post for a period of one year. This offer of funding is subject to the Council making a 50% contribution, 25% of which can be staff time resulting in a funding pot of £75,000 to spend. The actual cost of the post will be £47,100, which will leave £27,900 to undertake a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the Sustainable Travel Programme and for other costs associated with the programme (travel, subsistence, administration etc).

4.5.

As a condition of this award of grant funding, £20,000 will require to be spent on a marketing campaign to support the Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan.

The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness of the work and its associated benefits.

4.6.

A breakdown of the project costs and funding contributions are shown below.

Programme Manager	£47,100
Marketing Campaign	£20,000
Travel, Subsistence, Administration	£ 7,900
Total	£75,000
Funding contributions:	
SCSP Grant Award	£50,000
OIC Contribution	£25,000
Total	£75,000

4.7.

Obtaining a grant award of £50,000 will be predicated on existing staff within Development and Marine Planning supporting the delivery of the sustainable travel projects through their day to day work, and assisting the Programme Manager, as estimated below:

- Planning Manager supervision and guidance (0.1 FTE) – £5,840.
- Policy Planner work on related projects (0.2 FTE) – £8,800.
- Planning Technician GIS support (0.1 FTE) – £3,650.
- Assistant Planner online support (0.1 FTE) – £3,260.
- Planning Policy Support Officer (0.15 FTE) - £4,035.

4.8.

Further consideration of the Programme Manager post beyond 2019 to 2020, together with the potential for grant support to continue delivery of the programme will be reviewed during the year.

5. Proposed Infrastructure Projects

5.1.

Attached as Appendix 1 to this report is the current list of potential walking and cycling infrastructure projects. This list has been updated since the June 2018 report. This list is not exhaustive, and further opportunities may be identified. It should also be noted that not all projects will necessarily be delivered.

5.2.

This list has been developed with the Sustainable Transport officer group with representation from Transportation, Planning, Roads, Access, Engineering, Capital Programme, Road Safety, Education and Tourism. The officer group will also continue to work with Community Planning partners and the Empowering Communities project team to ensure a 'joined up' approach.

6. Human Resource Implications

6.1.

Committee approval for a temporary one year post is not required as this can be established under the Chief Executive's authority to approve temporary posts of up to 2 years in duration, however this report is necessary to establish the £25,000 funding contribution from the Council.

6.2.

A job description for the Programme Manager post to progress the Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan has been created and evaluated at G10.

6.3.

Recruitment to the post will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Recruitment Policy and Procedure and taking account of any individuals who may be suitable under the Council's Redeployment Policy.

7. Equalities Impact

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

8. Links to Council Plan

8.1.

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority theme of Connected Communities.

8.2.

The proposals in this report relate directly to the following priorities:

- Priority 1.6 – Implement the Orkney Outdoor Access Strategy Action Plan and develop Active Travel Programme activity including sourcing external funding for improvements to core path and (where affordable) other path and cycle networks.
- Priority 1.7 – Revised Kirkwall Urban Design Framework, incorporating the Your Kirkwall Action Plan.

8.3.

The proposals in this report have been developed with due regard to Orkney's isles communities.

9. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities of Strong Communities and Living Well.

10. Financial Implications

10.1.

The report sets out a basis upon which a programme of Community Links projects can be developed by utilising a number of funding streams to maximise the benefit to the wider community.

10.2.

All projects listed in the sustainable transport project development plan will be considered in the context of existing programmes of asset replacement, improvement works and maintenance to the roads network and associated infrastructure that are funded through Service revenue budgets and the Council's capital programme.

10.3.

Each supporting business case will demonstrate how the project is at least "cost neutral" to the Council in financial terms

10.4.

In some cases, it may be appropriate to seek approval through the capital asset management planning process to add a proposed development to the Council's Capital Programme. In this event, the Capital Project Appraisal process will be followed with the associated governance determined by the Policy and Resources Committee.

10.5.

Clause 7.1.2 of the Financial Regulations, allows for 'the Head of Finance, after consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener and the Chief Executive, to approve any capital expenditure he/she considers is in the interest of the Council and which is fully funded'.

10.6.

The cost of employing a dedicated temporary 1 year Programme Manager post, along with associated Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan Marketing Campaign, is estimated at £100,000 (including in kind costs for existing staff as detailed in section 4.7) for the 2019 to 2020 financial year. It will be eligible for 50%

grant funding from SCSP with funding confirmed subject to Council approval. There is no capacity within the Development and Marine Planning budget in 2019 to 2020 to contribute toward the position. A funding gap of £25,000 representing a 25% contribution remains to be confirmed from within the Council.

10.7.

The policy of presumption against new commitments applies when considered new burdens, and both the Planning and wider Development and Infrastructure Service are obliged to give due consideration to identifying compensatory savings in the first instance. If this is not achievable, given for example that we are at the start of a new financial year, then it may be appropriate to make a spending recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee.

11. Legal Aspects

If grant assistance is to be provided to the Council through the Community Links Programme, the Council will require to adhere to the grant funding conditions associated with such assistance.

12. Contact Officers

Gavin Barr, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, extension 2301,
Email gavin.barr@orkney.gov.uk

Roddy Mackay, Head of Development, Planning and Regulatory Services, extension 2530, Email rodny.mackay@orkney.gov.uk

Stuart West, Planning Manager, Development and Marine Planning, extension 2816,
Email stuart.west@orkney.gov.uk

Michael Harvey, Policy Planner, Development and Marine Planning, extension 2814,
Email michael.harvey@orkney.gov.uk

13. Appendix

Appendix 1: Project list.

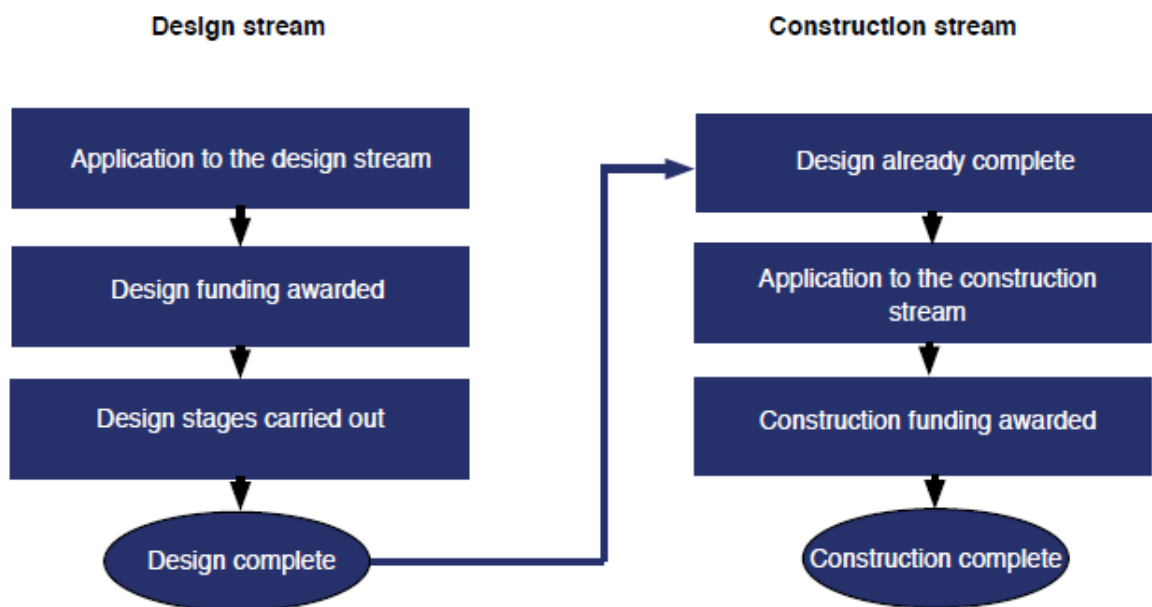
Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment.

Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT LIST 2018 – 21

ISSUE: 2 APRIL 2019

- 1.1 This paper contains the list of projects which currently make up the Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan.
- 1.2 This list forms the basis of a three-year programme for potential applications to Sustrans Community Links Programme (2018-21). The list is not exhaustive, and further opportunities may be identified. It should also be noted that not all projects will necessarily be delivered.
- 1.3 Feasibility of the deliverability of each project is carried out on an ongoing basis by the Sustainable Transport Officer Team. This process results in the prioritisation of projects to be taken forward for funding applications, in line with the delegation established by the Council.
- 1.4 Sustrans Community Links Programme has two separate funding streams. Design stream applications must be approved before an application can be made to the Construction stream. (Please see Sustrans Community Links Guide 2018/19 attached for more detail).
- 1.5 Projects will be prioritised for funding applications where they have reached the necessary level of maturity and meet Sustrans eligibility criteria. This will also be subject to the staff resources available.
- 1.6 Please note that community groups can get in touch to discuss projects they wish to take forward and the Sustainable Transport Officer Group will provide guidance and advice as required.



KIRKWALL	Project	Project stage	Status
Your Kirkwall Delivering against 1.6 of Council Plan	Town Centre Waterfront		
	Orkney Heritage App		
	Peedie Sea Town Park (incorporating east shoreline path feasibility study)		
	Parking		
	Pickaquoy Road improvements		
	Wideford Hill path network		
	Hatston industrial estate action plan		
	Coastal Path		
	Papdale East Park incorporating foot and cycle network improvements	Design	
	Bignold Park		
	Arcadia Park	Design and construction	
	Kirkwall Wayfinder Signage Strategy		
	Pickaquoy Active Travel Network		
	Kirkwall Active Travel Audit Proposals		
To assist and enhance Council projects in Kirkwall	Weyland site (Housing development)		
	Sulisquoy site (Care Home and Housing development)		
	20mph zones in housing areas		
	KTHI Places & Spaces	Construction	
	Kirkwall Harbour Front Public Art/Interpretation/Seating	Design and Construction	

STROMNESS	Project	Project stage	Status
Delivering against 1.7 of Council Plan	Stromness Place Plan	Community Engagement	
	Copland's Dock core path improvements & connection to Brig o' Waithe bus stop		

ORKNEY-WIDE	Project	Project status	Status
Connected Rural Communities (Delivering against 1.7 of Council Plan Footpath/cycleway improvements across Orkney)	Community Engagement initiative. Outcomes to inform the Sustainable Settlement Strategy of the Local Development Plan and identify a list of community aspirations for future funding bids across Orkney.		
	Dounby, Finstown and St Margaret's Hope Place Plans		

	Stromness to Kirkwall Cycle route		
World Heritage Site	Access Strategy to WHS	Feasibility	
	Projects and initiatives as set out in Council approved Masterplans and Development Briefs		
	North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme		
	Substantive improvements to existing access infrastructure		

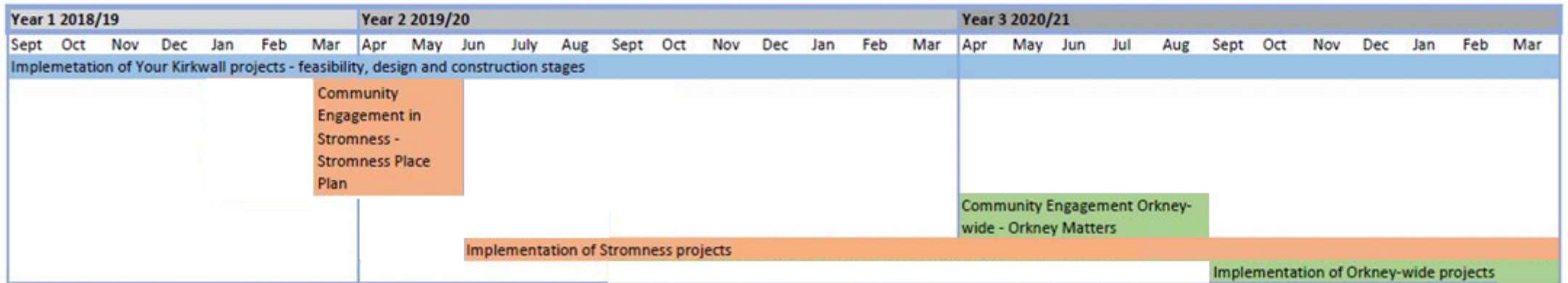
Community, 3rd sector and private sector led projects

	Project
Community led	Burray (speed limits, safe routes to school)
	Orphir (safe route to school)
	Pierowall (footpath/cycleway)
	St Magnus Way
3rd Sector	OHAL redevelopment of Crafty Caravan Site

Key

	Complete
	Underway
	Not yet commenced
	Confirmed as ineligible for community links funding

Figure 1. Outline Programme Timeline 2018 – 2021





Equality Impact Assessment

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to improve the work of Orkney Islands Council by making sure it promotes equality and does not discriminate. This assessment records the likely impact of any changes to a function, policy or plan by anticipating the consequences, and making sure that any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised and positive impacts are maximised.

1. IDENTIFICATION OF FUNCTION, POLICY OR PLAN	
Name of function/policy/plan to be assessed	Sustainable Transport Project Development Plan
Service/service area responsible	Development and Infrastructure
Name of person carrying out the assessment and contact details	Michael Harvey, Policy Planner (Development and Marine Planning)
Date of assessment	25 March 2019
Is the function/policy/plan new or existing? (Please indicate also if the service is to be deleted, reduced or changed significantly)	Existing
2. INITIAL SCREENING	
What are the intended outcomes of the function/policy/plan?	Development of a list of Sustainable Transport infrastructure projects and behaviour change initiatives.
State who is, or may be affected by this function/policy/plan, and how	Users of the footpath/cycle network in Orkney
How have stakeholders been involved in the development of this function/policy/plan?	Some of the projects on the list emerged from the Your Kirkwall community engagement exercise. The project also responds directly to the Connected Communities theme of the Council Plan which has undergone public consultation.
Is there any existing data and/or research relating to equalities issues in this policy area? Please summarise.	Guidance from a variety of stakeholders is available. Projects will be designed to improve accessibility of the footpath/cycle infrastructure in Orkney.

e.g. consultations, national surveys, performance data, complaints, service user feedback, academic/consultants' reports, benchmarking (see equalities resources on OIC information portal)	
Could the function/policy have a differential impact on any of the following equality strands?	(Please provide any evidence – positive impacts/benefits, negative impacts and reasons)
1. Race: this includes ethnic or national groups, colour and nationality	No
2. Sex: a man or a woman	No
3. Sexual Orientation: whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes	No
4. Gender Reassignment: the process of transitioning from one gender to another	No
5. Pregnancy and maternity	Yes
6. Age: people of different ages	Yes
7. Religion or beliefs or none (atheists)	No
8. Caring responsibilities	No
9. Marriage and Civil Partnership	No
10. Disability: people with disabilities (whether registered or not)	Yes

3. IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
Does the analysis above identify any differential impacts which need to be addressed?	Yes
How could you minimise or remove any potential negative impacts?	The guidance available from various stakeholder groups will be used to inform the design process.
Do you have enough information to make a judgement? If no, what information do you require?	Yes

4. CONCLUSIONS AND PLANNED ACTION	
Is further work required?	Yes
What action is to be taken?	The guidance available from various stakeholder groups will be used to inform the design process
Who will undertake it?	Design Teams
When will it be done?	During the design stage of each project
How will it be monitored? (e.g. through service plans)	N/A

Signature

Date 25/05/19



Name MICHAEL HARVEY
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Please sign and date this form, keep one copy and send a copy to Corporate and Community Strategy. It should also be emailed to Corporate and Community Strategy.