



West Lothian
Council

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

ACTIVE & SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED PROGRAMME 2013/14 - 2014/15

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed programme of schemes to be funded from the Council's budget for Active & Sustainable Travel Infrastructure Improvements.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive approve:

1. the Active & Sustainable Travel Infrastructure Improvements programme for 2013/14 and 2014/15 to progress the schemes identified in Appendix 1 in relation to their design or implementation as noted; and
2. that officers seek external funding opportunities to assist in the delivery of the schemes.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focusing on our customers' needs;• Making best use of our resources; and• Working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Policy: The programme contributes to improved road safety and increased travel choices.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The schemes will contribute to single outcome agreement: 6 – “We live longer, healthier lives”. 9 – “We live our lives free from crime, disorder or danger”. 10 – “We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the services

we need”.

14 – “We reduce the local and global environment impact of our consumption and production”.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)

The design work and schemes in the 2013/14 – 2014/15 programme will be funded from the Roads and Related Capital Assets budget allocation for Active & Sustainable Travel Infrastructure Improvements budget (£200,000). The construction of the “shelf ready” schemes will depend on external funding being sourced.

VII Consideration at PDSP

At its meeting on 19 September 2013 the Environment PDSP noted the terms of the report and referred it to the Council Executive for approval.

VIII Other consultations

Consultation with ward members and members of the public will be carried out during the design stage of individual schemes.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Background

In January 2013, the Council approved the five year asset management and general services capital programme for 2013/14 to 2017/18. This included an allocation of £100,000 per annum for active & sustainable travel infrastructure improvements.

This funding has been provided to explore and delivering options to encourage more active and sustainable travel. To help achieve this, consideration has to be given to how improvements can be made to influence a change in modal shift from the car to active travel through walking and cycling and the use of other forms of transport. It is therefore necessary to identify key routes to improve links between communities to places of employment, schools and other social areas.

With the budget available, it is important that alternative sourcing of external funding is explored to maximise the budget approved. Officers have previously been successful in securing partnership funding from Sustrans and SEStran and will actively pursue similar funding streams such as Paths for All, Scottish Canals etc. over the next year to supplement the available funding.

The programme will create a pool of “shelf ready” schemes by utilising the budget available. It is hoped that by having a pool of “shelf ready” schemes which have detailed designs, costs, planning and land ownership matters concluded, external funders will be more attracted to schemes in West Lothian.

Proposed Programme 2013/14 to 2014/15

Projects have been identified, by officers, for the first two years of the programme that can be delivered, or the design of which can be progressed. Projects which are likely to provide the best opportunity to secure partnership funding from external parties are also being recommended. Appendix 1 shows the schemes recommended.

The Active & Sustainable Travel Infrastructure Improvements programme offers a mix of schemes that should benefit those wishing to use alternative modes of transport to travel to work, schools and other key community areas. It will strengthen linkages to bus and rail networks.

The estimated cost shown in the appendix against each scheme is indicative at this time and may change as the scheme is developed. This will be closely monitored and reported as part of the council's capital monitoring procedures.

Appendix 2 shows the list of schemes for further consideration during the period 2015/16 to 2017/18.

An update report on the progress of the programme will be prepared next year once discussions with external funding partners have been completed.

E. CONCLUSION

To help encourage a modal shift from people taking their car to their place of employment, children to school or other social activities it is important that the improvements are made to the road and footway/cycleway infrastructure in West Lothian.

In particular, improvements must be made to provide missing links in the network and improve accessibility to bus and rail.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1 - 2013/14 and 2014/15 Programme
Appendix 2 – List of Schemes For Future Consideration

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Date of meeting: 1 October 2013

Scheme	Settlement	Ward	Cost Estimate 2013/14	Cost Estimate 2014/15	Comment	Officer Recommendation
Armadale Railway Station – Bus Stop Provision	Armadale	8	£25,000	-	Numerous requests from residents at the new housing development off roundabout	Deliver improvement in 2013/14.
B8084, Tippethill - Bus Stop Provision.	Whitburn	7	£5,000	-	Concerns have been raised by a number of people visiting Tippethill Hospital of the lack of bus stop and footpath facilities. The proposed scheme will provide a safe solution to this issue.	Design to be progressed to resolve land ownership issues. Thereafter, external funding can be sought. (Estimated construction cost £60,000).
Bus stop information survey and accessibility assessment.	All	All	£10,000	-	Carry out assessment of network within West Lothian to collate information on existing network and assess accessibility requirements.	Proceed with collation of information.
Fauldhouse to Longridge - Provision of Cyclepath	Fauldhouse	6	£10,000	£40,000	Provision of a link between Fauldhouse and Longridge along the B7010. It will provide a safe of road route between both communities linking into the path constructed by Ecosse Regeneration.	Design to be progressed to resolve land ownership issues. Thereafter, external funding can be sought. (Estimated construction cost £80,000).
Improved Access to Bus Travel – West Lothian wide	All	All	£20,000	-	Provision of improved access to transport network.	Implement improvements over first year of programme.
Links to canal towpath, Broxburn at Greendykes Road, School Road, Lychgate Lane, Parkwood, Badger Brook and Queens Road.	Broxburn	2	£10,000	£30,000	Provision of links to the Union Canal towpath at key locations within the Broxburn area will benefit recreational cyclists linking the surrounding residential areas on a safe and traffic-free route.	Design to be progressed so that external funding can be sought. (Estimated construction cost £200,000).

Scheme	Settlement	Ward	Cost Estimate 2013/14	Cost Estimate 2014/15	Comment	Officer Recommendation
Riddochhill Blackburn to Wester Inch Bathgate - Upgrade path	Blackburn /Bathgate	7/8	£10,000	-	Provision of an upgraded link between Blackburn and Wester Inch. It will link the community of Blackburn to the NCR75 and the communities and employment sites along it. It will also provide a link from Bathgate to St Kenitgern's Academy in Blackburn.	Design to be progressed to resolve issues for cyclists crossing the bridge over the M8 and land issues. Thereafter, external funding can be sought. (Estimated construction cost £200,000).
Starlaw West roundabout and Boghall roundabout - Provision of Cyclepath	Bathgate	8	£10,000	-	Provision of a more direct route for cyclists using the NCR75 link between Livingston and Bathgate. It will encourage cyclist not wishing to use the more onerous route via Seafield Law and Easter Inch Moss.	Design to be progressed to resolve issues for cyclists crossing the bridges over the M8. Thereafter, external funding can be sought. (Estimated construction cost £250,000).
Link to canal towpath at Golf Course Road and Braehead Park	Linlithgow	1		£10,000	Provision of a link to the Union Canal towpath which will improve links between residential areas to Linlithgow railway station and the town centre. The improvements to the cyclepath will benefit rail commuters wishing to use bike/train to areas between Edinburgh and Glasgow. It will also benefit recreational cyclists linking the surrounding residential areas on a safe and traffic-free route.	Design to be progressed to resolve land ownership issues. Thereafter, external funding can be sought. (Estimated construction cost £60,000).
Meadowhead Grove, Addiewell – Link to Railway Station	Addiewell	6		£10,000	Upgrade path to link the community of Addiewell to the railway station.	Design to be progressed so external funding can be sought. (Estimated construction cost £150,000).
Polbeth and West Calder –	West Calder	6		£5,000	Upgrade route to school between communities	Design to be progressed so

Scheme	Settlement	Ward	Cost Estimate 2013/14	Cost Estimate 2014/15	Comment	Officer Recommendation
Upgrade Path					of Polbeth and West Calder which will avoid busy A71.	external funding can be sought. (Estimated construction cost £200,000).
Provision of bus stops and footpath link to Oakbank Industrial Estate	Livingston	5		£5,000	The proposed scheme will provide a much needed link for people commuting by bus to their workplace in Oakbank Ind. Estate.	Design to be progressed so external funding can be sought. (Estimated construction cost £100,000).
			£100,000	£100,000		

Scheme	Settlement	Ward	Comment	Officer Recommendation
A705 Seafield to Easter Breich and Simpson Parkway - Upgrade path	Seafield	7	This is an existing right of way that would benefit from upgrading. It would link the community of Seafield to the west side of Livingston and in particular Kirkton Campus.	Retain on list for future funding consideration. (Estimated cost £500,000).
Cellars Lane Linlithgow - Upgrade path	Linlithgow	1	Provision of an upgraded path between Falkirk Road and the A706 Armadale Road which links the south west to the north west of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge area. It also forms a route to schools. The path is a hard beaten path and requires to be upgraded to full adoptable standard to ensure its safe usage. The footpath is not owned by the Council and negotiations will be required with land owners.	Retain on list for future funding consideration. (Estimated cost £80,000).
Craigengar Avenue, Uphall – Upgrade Path	Uphall	2	Provide connection between residential areas within Uphall and NCN75.	Retain on list for future funding consideration. (Estimated cost £70,000).
Limefield Glen Walkway – Upgrade Path	Polbeth	6	Upgrade route over Harwood Water to provide a link between Polbeth to Livingston Greenway network at Alba Campus.	Retain on list for future funding consideration. (Estimated cost £250,000).
Middleton, Uphall – Upgrade Path	Uphall	2	Provide a link from the residential area to Uphall.	Retain on list for future funding consideration. (Estimated cost £70,000).
Route improvements Balbaride, Bathgate to Kettilstoun Mains Linlithgow	Bathgate /Torphichen /Linlithgow	1/8/9	On road route improvements identified along the B792 and A706 from Bathgate, through the community at Torphichen, to Linlithgow.	Retain on list for future funding consideration. (Estimated cost not known at this time).
Route improvements Bellsquarry, Livingston to Guildyhaugh, Bathgate	Livingston/ Calders /Bathgate	4/6/7	On road route improvements identified along the A71 and B792 from Bellsquarry, Livingston, through the communities at Polbeth, West Calder, Addiewell and Blackburn, to Bathgate.	Retain on list for future funding consideration. (Estimated cost not known at this time).
Route improvements West Port to Springfield Linlithgow	Linlithgow	1	On road route improvements identified along the High Street to Springfield, Linlithgow.	Retain on list for future funding consideration. (Estimated cost not known at this time).