

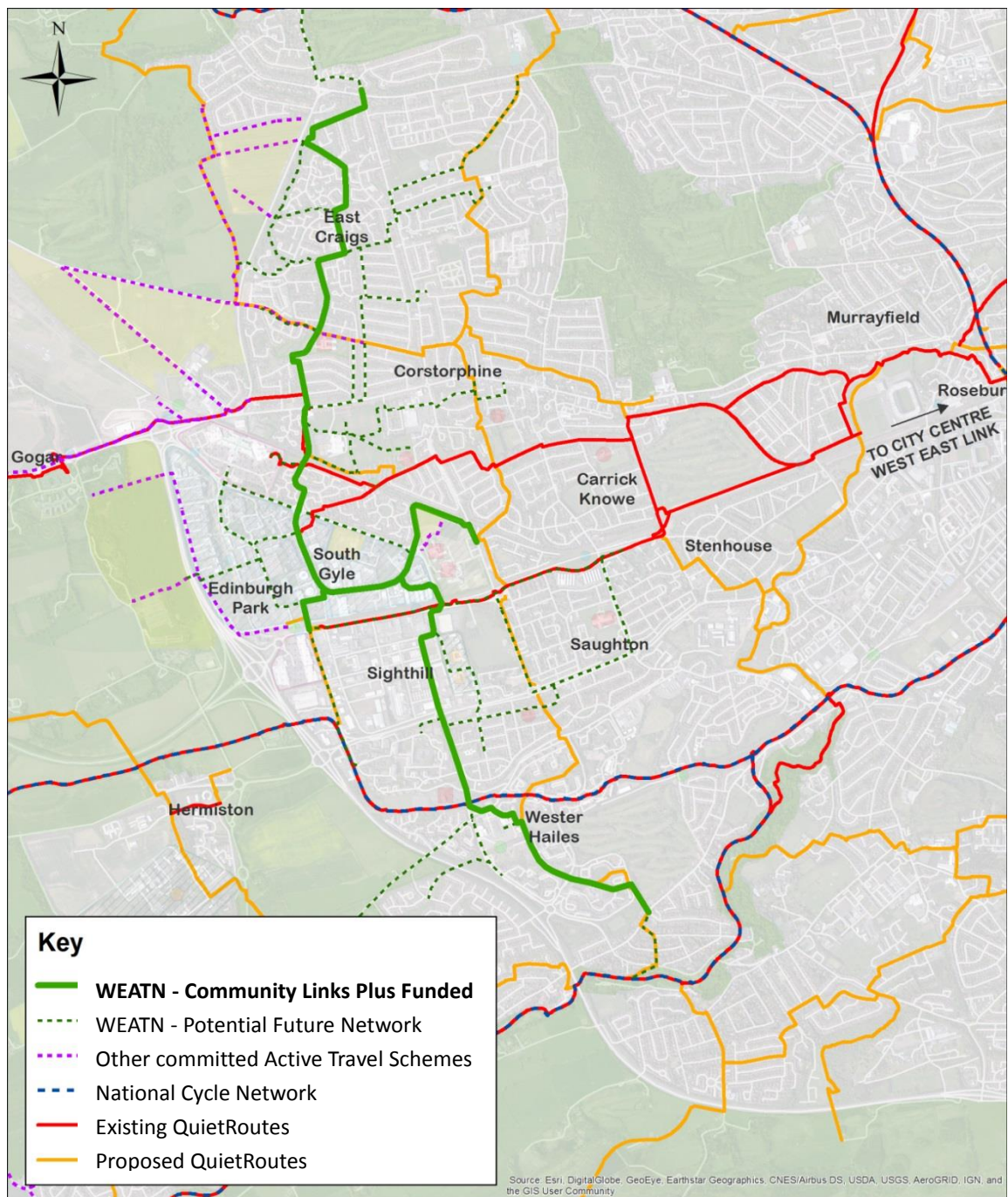


# West Edinburgh Active Travel Network

2017 Community Links PLUS

City of Edinburgh Council

# The West Edinburgh Active Travel Network



## Table of Contents

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Community Links PLUS competition results .....                               | 1 |
| 2. | The West Edinburgh Active Travel Network – Creating a Place for People ..... | 1 |
| 3. | Project Description .....  | 1 |
| 4. | Project Objectives .....   | 2 |
| 5. | Project Outputs .....  | 2 |
| 6. | Community and Stakeholder Engagement .....                                   | 2 |
| 7. | ‘Smarter Choices’ .....  | 3 |

## 1. Community Links PLUS competition results

Two innovative City of Edinburgh Council active travel projects have been awarded millions of pounds in funding as part of the Community Links Plus competition, run by Sustrans Scotland and funded by the Scottish Government. Community Links Plus aims to fund inspirational examples of high-quality infrastructure to restore the balance of Scotland’s streets in favour of people walking and cycling. Now in its second year, it awards pioneering and innovative proposals for the creation of better places and spaces for people to live, walk and cycle in for everyday journeys.

The West Edinburgh Active Travel Network (WEATN) and Meadows to George Street proposals were among five Scottish schemes named as winners of the competition on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017, including schemes in Glasgow, Stirling and Inverness. After an intensive three-stage process, Edinburgh’s projects will be awarded a grant of up to 50% of their total outlined project costs. This was £8.1 million for WEATN.

## 2. The West Edinburgh Active Travel Network – Creating a Place for People

**WEATN** seeks to transform cycling and walking access **to** and **within** the largest business district in Edinburgh outside of the City centre. The aim is to change one of Scotland’s most significant business-parks into an exemplar, people-friendly place with high quality active travel links to surrounding communities and key destinations. Included in plans is the creation of attractive, direct and convenient cycling and walking routes linking the major business district of South Gyle / Edinburgh Park to residential areas to the north and south.

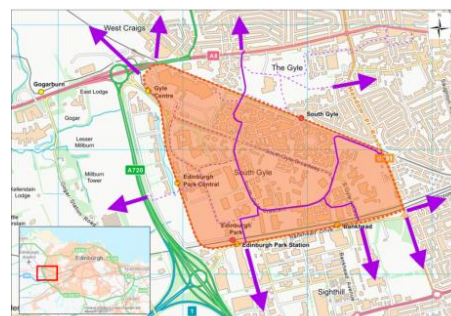
Destinations served by these routes include the Edinburgh Napier University and Heriot Watt campuses, the Gyle shopping centre and business park and existing communities including East Craigs, Broomhouse, Saughton, Sighthill and Wester Hailes.

As the fastest growing city in Scotland - and second fastest in the UK - it's critical that Edinburgh is as easy and enjoyable as possible to get around on foot, by bike and by public transport. WEATN aims to deliver the wider benefits of cycling and walking, including positive impacts on health and wellbeing, improved quality of the environment and public realm, strengthened local economies and increased road safety. Measures incorporated in the bid include an integrated approach to place-making, with community engagement, urban design, and promotion of walking and cycling. This major overhaul would help Edinburgh towards its vision of having one of the greenest, healthiest and most accessible transport systems in northern Europe by 2030.

## 3. Project Description

### The project’s two key elements:

1. **Within the core area:** Transforming active travel infrastructure and public realm within Edinburgh Park and The Gyle business district.
  - Create a people-friendly place with active travel links and new public spaces.
  - Segregated on-street cycle tracks including priority over side roads and accesses.
  - Addressing difficult junctions for active travel.
  - New and improved crossings on desire lines.
2. **To the core area:** Implementing active travel routes and upgrading key ‘gateways’ from surrounding communities to Edinburgh Park, The Gyle and other key trip generators. Creating links to the Council’s active travel ‘QuietRoutes Network’ in West Edinburgh and beyond.





- Industrial estate roadspace reallocation for segregated cycleways linking south to Wester Hailes.
- New bridge over Fife railway line, and high quality active travel route linking north to East Craigs.
- Improving links to existing CEC active travel QuiteRoutes Network which connect to the City centre and the City Centre West East Link (CCWEL).

#### 4. Project Objectives

Detailed project objectives will be developed in partnership with the local communities and stakeholders. However, initial objective themes have been developed to guide the proposal's evolution.

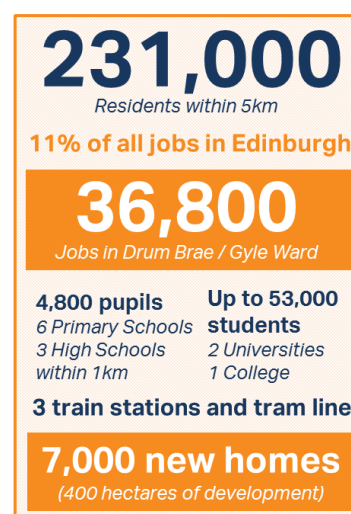
Objective Themes:

- High quality walking and cycling facilities to support active travel modal shift for every day journeys.
- Make streets and public spaces people friendly.
- Create an inclusive environment with access for all, particularly to employment opportunities.
- Support multi-modal sustainable transport.
- Reinforce and support the continued thriving business function of the area, supported by engagement with local people and employees to generate a sense of individual and corporate ownership with the area

#### 5. Project Outputs

Subject to stakeholder and public engagement, WEATN is expected to deliver:

- Around 3.3 km of on-road segregated and protected cycle lanes, including a clear and defined north-south route through Edinburgh Park and South Gyle.
- Around 8.2 km of improved shared use paths.
- 16 enhanced crossings including 13 toucans.
- Enhanced public realm area in Edinburgh Park.
- New active travel bridge over Fife Railway.
- Expanded local Workplace Travel Planning programme and new initiatives with schools.
- Further 'Smarter Choices' measures to support modal shift.



#### 6. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

In developing the Community Links Plus bid, designs have been taken through concept and feasibility stages, establishing that there is a deliverable project. These initial designs will now be considered and developed through community and stakeholder engagement.

At the bid stage there has been initial engagement with local street users, including focus groups and online interactive mapping. The design process is seeking to respond to local needs and input from users.

## 7. 'Smarter Choices'

To maximise the effectiveness of the project's infrastructure investment, a full 'Smarter Choices' marketing programme will be run in parallel. This will be informed by public engagement as the project develops. Components of the programme are likely to include

- Continuing and expanding the Workplace Travel Plan programme in the project area.
- Continued and new work with schools in and around the area.
- New signage, consistent with the QuietRoutes signage strategy and mapping, including updating google maps and streetview.
- Raising awareness of existing greenspace, local amenities and cyclable destinations in the area.
- Use of the established "On Foot By Bike" Council branding and website for marketing and promotion.