

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

ACTIVE TRAVEL RELATED GRANT FUNDING 2020/21

REPORT BY OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Council Executive of:

- additional funding from the Scottish Government for Cycling Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) for financial year 2020/21;
- other funding provision for active travel related schemes (Places for Everyone (PfE); and Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP); and
- Spaces for People (SfP) funding being made available through Sustrans (Scotland) to implement temporary measures to make essential travel and exercise safer during Covid-19.

The report also seeks approval for the allocation of funding for the various proposed projects relating to the above.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Executive notes the contents of the report and approves:

1. The allocation of the additional funding of £502,000 for CWSS for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 1 and notes the re-phasing of the CWSS project as a result of the potential impacts of Covid-19.
2. The allocation of £163,000 for SCSP, as set out in the report and the proposed direct award to Sustrans of (Scotland) £59,035 for the support of an I Bike officer for 2020/21.
3. The allocation funding of £601,500 for SfP, as set out in Appendix 2.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The delivery of these projects will contribute to improved road safety and encourage active travel.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None

IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The project will contribute to outcomes: “We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.”
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The projects will be funded through the various grant funding streams including match funding from Sustrans through Places for Everyone funding for the CWSS projects.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	The report was circulated to the Environment PDSP members in advance of the Council Executive meeting for comments.
VIII	Other consultations	The Financial Management Unit has been consulted and is satisfied with the contents of the report. Consultation on individual projects will be carried out during their development.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Various funding streams are available to local authorities to encourage active travel through engagement with communities and improvements to path networks.

The Scottish Government has been providing funding for CWSS since 2002/03. Some of this funding has been used to match funding from Sustrans for active travel projects. Officers have also been proactive in obtaining grant funding through other grant streams such as Smarter Choices and Smarter Places (through Paths for All).

Recently, as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak, £30 million has been made available by the Scottish Government, through Sustrans (Scotland), to make it safer for people who choose to walk, cycle or wheel for essential trips and exercise during Covid-19. The funding aims to enable statutory bodies to implement measures focused on protecting public health, supporting physical distancing and preventing a second wave of the outbreak.

D.2 CWSS Funding

On 6 February 2020, Scottish Government increased funding for CWSS from £245,000 to £299,000 for 2020/21. The total budget of £595,000 for CWSS projects was approved by Council on 28 February 2020, as part of the Capital Programme update report for 2020/21 to 2027/28.

The Scottish Government made a further announcement on 27 February 2020 that it would provide an additional £502,000 in grant funding to West Lothian Council for CWSS projects for 2020/21. The 2020/21 CWSS funding now totals £801,000 and increases the total allocated budget for 2020/21 to £1.097 million.

The conditions of the grant funding stipulate that it must be spent by 31 March 2021. Officers have identified a list of projects that they anticipate can be completed over the coming year, which is set out in Appendix 1.

However, due to the potential impact of Covid-19 on the ability to deliver projects successfully within the timescales, it is proposed that the budget allocation for 2020/21 be set at £801,000, the total of the grant funding, with the remaining £296,000 re-phased to 2021/22.

The estimated value of the proposed projects for 2020/21(Appendix 1) includes an over-programming of around £253,000. This will help officers to manage the delivery of projects, for example if there are any delays associated with consultation, land purchase etc., to ensure that the full grant can be claimed.

All proposed projects meet the funding requirements by providing a safer environment and encourage active travel.

Scheme Identification / Consultation

The proposed projects were initially identified through consultation with communities during the Whitburn Charrette process, the Stoneyburn Regeneration Plan 2017-27 and the Council's Active Travel Plan. Further consultation will be carried out during the development of each project.

During the development of the Armadale to Whitburn cyclepath project in 2019 an online survey was conducted to seek public opinion. The survey contributed valuable feedback and suggestions for future projects. It is proposed that similar surveys will be carried out for the projects listed in Appendix 1.

External Funding Opportunities

As in previous years, officers have developed the delivery programme to maximise CWSS funding and have been successful in using it as match funding for other available external funding streams, such as Sustrans (Scotland) Places for Everyone funding.

Funding Awarded

Officers have once again taken this match funding approach, receiving 50% match funding through Places for Everyone towards the construction of the Armadale to Whitburn Cyclepath. This project was due to commence on site in March 2020, but has been suspended in line with Scottish Government guidance on Covid-19 that all non-essential works must cease. Works will commence once these restrictions are relaxed.

Funding Pending

Last financial year, Sustrans (Scotland) awarded 100% funding for the design of Whitburn Town Walk Improvements Phase 2, Stoneyburn Links - Bents to A706 and Capstan Walk, Linlithgow. Final designs have still to be approved, but it is anticipated that these projects could be constructed during 2020/21 with 50% of the construction costs being funded through Places for Everyone.

Officers have also made a bid for 100% funding for the design of the Blackburn Corridor, Wester Inch to Whitehill Industrial Estate and Edinburgh Road - Guildyhaugh to Bathgate Railway Station. A decision on whether the bids have been successful was due to be announced in April/May 2020, however, there has been a delay in final approval for the funding from Scottish Government. If successful, it is anticipated that these projects will progress to construction with a view to be completed by 31 March 2021.

D.3 SCSP Funding

The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme has been running since 2015/16 and supports local authorities in Scotland to encourage more active and sustainable travel choices.

The funding is awarded to local authorities to encourage less car use and more journeys by foot, bicycle, public transport and car share. It is supported by Transport Scotland and allocated on a population basis to local authorities. This year West Lothian Council received £163,000.

On 9 June 2017, Council Executive approved a programme of initiatives that included the continuation of Love to Ride and two new initiatives of an I-Bike officer and a signing strategy for walking and cycling network.

Love to Ride

Love to Ride is an online platform aimed at encouraging more people to cycle by:

- making it easy and fun for existing riders to encourage their friends, co-workers and community to ride.
- supporting and encouraging new riders to overcome their barriers and start enjoying the benefits of riding.

The grant funding will be used to provide a project management resource to deliver a programme of cycling behaviour changes through business and community engagement.

The Love to Ride West Lothian programme will link into existing initiatives, events and local services to boost their reach, engagement and effectiveness. The existing lovetoride.net/westlothian web platform has 538 participants and 35 organisations registered.

I-Bike Project

The provision of an I-Bike officer is unique to Sustrans (Scotland). The support will be provided for a period of up to 12 months for direct engagement with a number of primary and secondary schools within an area to encourage, promote and develop active travel initiatives.

The I-Bike officer works with Education and Community Health Development Put Your West Foot Forward to support and seek to increase walking, cycling and scooting activity, and promoting active travel journeys to schools.

The I-Bike project benefits from the experience and knowledge of the Sustrans organisation, which has a proven record of engagement and experience in delivering support in all areas of cycling.

The effectiveness of the resource is assessed annually through the grant process. The I-Bike Report 2020, covering initiatives in 2018/2019, shows that the project is achieving its aims to get more pupils traveling actively, with a 4.2% increase in pupils travelling to school by an active mode and a 2.8% decrease in pupils traveling to school by car.

Signing Strategy For Walking And Cycling Network

Last year the SCSP funding was used to review signage on the path network in Livingston between Livingston North and Livingston South railway stations.

Consultants provided a report recommending what signage needs updating, renewed or added to improve the directional signage between the stations. This report will be used to allow officers to prepare a package of works for implementation

Funding Breakdown

The SCSP award of £163,000 will be allocated as follows:

- I Bike Project - £59,035
- Love to Ride - £40,948
- Sign scheme for Livingston - £15,000

The remaining £48,019 funding allocation has still to be agreed with Paths for All officers. However, it is proposed to use this to implement improvements on the path network under the capital works programme for 2020/21.

D.4 Spaces for People (SfP) Funding

SfP funding aims to enable statutory bodies to implement measures focused on protecting public health, supporting physical distancing and preventing a second wave of the outbreak.

Following the announcement of the SfP initiative the council undertook a community engagement on-line survey. This included a press release and Facebook / Twitter posts. The survey sought the views of the community to allow an informed judgement to be made of what was important to them and where their concerns lay in relation to social distancing and using the path network. The survey, which was open for comments between 15 May and 22 May, received 470 responses from all over West Lothian with 89.7% supporting the introduction of temporary measures.

Within the survey the people were asked:

- Whether they had exercised less more or the same during the period of lockdown
- To prioritise a range of measure being considered by the council; and
- Asked for their local ideas.

The projects submitted in the bid were a composition of suggestions brought forward by both community and council officers and packaged under the following themes:

1. Localised footway widening at pinch points/parking suspension.
2. Loaning Parking and on street parking suspension
3. Introduction of walker / cycle friendly zones on rural roads (reduced speed limits to 40mph)
4. Advisory/temporary cycle lanes.
5. Introduce temporary 20mph areas within towns and villages.
6. Introduce temporary physical distancing signage
7. Strategic clearance works to widen footpaths and cycle tracks.
8. Public Transport - physical distancing measures at bus stops.
9. Introduce pedestrian phases at controlled crossing points

Each package of measures within this application seeks to create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclist by enabling physical distancing to be achieved and encouraging continuing active travel.

The locations that have been identified will enable safer journeys for those travelling for essential shopping, services and places of work.

The current lockdown situation in terms of peoples' movements and available space is not the norm and as lockdown measures are relaxed there will become space pressures in our towns and villages. Pressure points will arise as people get out and about more. Peoples' perception of available space is likely to change based on their own views of personal risk.

Bus stop social distancing measure will allow more space to be made available to those using the bus network and will reduce pressure on narrow footways.

The general reduction in speed limits in our towns and villages, along with localised footway widening and removal of parking, will aid in making our town and village centres safer for pedestrian and cyclists where road widths are narrow and restrictive to free movement (and space).

Increasing pedestrian green time for pedestrians and cyclists at key traffic signal / crossing facilities will reduce the number of users congregating in areas with limited footway width.

The opportunity is being taken within the bid to promote wider walker and cycling friendly rural areas. By doing so, some protection will be given to those that live and exercise in our rural communities.

Funding Award

Officers received a letter, dated 4 June 2020, confirming the Sustrans' decision to approve funding award of £601,550 for various measures in West Lothian (attached).

E. CONCLUSION

This report notes the additional funding of £502,000 being provided by the Scottish Government and the revised phasing of the expenditure for CWSS projects due to the potential impacts of Covid-19.

The report also sets out proposals for the various active travel related funding in relation to the projects to be undertaken in 2020/21.

The provision of an I Bike officer to promote cycling among school pupils is a service unique to Sustrans. As such, it is necessary that the provision of the I Bike service is given as a direct award to Sustrans, to a maximum value of £59,035 for 2020/21, noting that the total aggregated spend to date would then amount to £236,070.

The additional funding being provided for CWSS, SCSP, SfP and subsequent match funding will contribute to the delivery of improved infrastructure within West Lothian and encourage active travel.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Asset Management Strategy and General Services Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2027/28 – Report by Head of Finance and Property Services to Council 28 February 2020

Procurement Arrangements – Implementation Of Sustrans I Bike Project - Report By Head Of Corporate Services to Council Executive on 23 October 2018

Smarter Choices Programme And Active Travel Progress - Report By Head Of Operational Services to Council Executive 6 June 2017

Adoption of West Lothian Active Travel Plan 2016-2021 - Report by Head of Operational Services to Council Executive 26 April 2016

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix 1: List of Proposed CWSS Projects
 Appendix 2: List of Proposed SfP Projects
 Letter of SfP Funding Award

Contact Person: *Ronald Fisher, Design Engineer Manager, Tel: 01506 284597, email: Ronnie.fisher@westlothian.gov.uk*

Jim Jack, Head of Operational Services

Date of meeting: 23 June 2020

Appendix 1: List of Proposed CWSS Projects

Project	Estimate Outturn Project Cost	Places for Everyone Funding (Awarded)	Places for Everyone Funding (Bid submitted and Pending)	CWSS Funding Contribution
B8084 Armadale to Whitburn Cyclepath	£635,500	£317,750		£317,750
Blackburn Corridor Cyclepath	£206,837		£106,474	£100,363
Capstan Walk, Linlithgow - Cyclist and Pedestrian Imp.	£122,200		£35,375	£65,250
Edinburgh Road, Guildyhaugh to Bathgate Railway Station Segregated Cyclepath	£160,000		£84,000	£76,000
Stoneyburn Links - Bents to Fauldhouse Cyclepath The construction costs for two phases of works: Bents to A706 £350,000 A706 to Fauldhouse £900,500 (includes bridge over A706)	£1,368,000		£738,500	£629,500
Stoneyburn Links – B7015 to A706 C28	£422,000		£224,750	£197,250
Wester Inch to Whitehill Industrial Estate Cyclepath	£195,125		£99,750	£95,375
Whitburn Town Walk Improvements Phase 2	£552,500		£287,875	£264,625
Total =	£3,662,162	£317,750	£1,576,724	£1,746,113

Appendix 2: List of Proposed SfP Projects

Package 1 - Localised footway widening at pinch points/parking suspension	Cost (£)
Oliphants Bakery, High Street, Linlithgow	11,500
Tesco Express, East Main Street, East Calder	8,700
Opposite Smithy Brae, Kirknewton	5,800
Bank Street and Main Street, Mid Calder	5,800
A71 north side shops, West Calder	11,500
Back Station Road, Linlithgow	4,100
Station Road, Kirknewton (incl. footway and cycleway widening)	6,500
Total =	53,900

Package 2 - Loaning Parking and on street parking suspension	Cost
East Loanings, between St. Michael's Wynd and the 4 Mary's Pub, and West Loanings, between Lion Well Wynd and New Well Wynd, Linlithgow	4,500
Opposite Mill Road, on West Main Street, Armadale	2,900
Total =	7,400

Package 3 - Introduction of walker / cycle friendly zones on rural roads (reduced speed limits to 40mph):	Cost
Bathgate Hills (includes Linlithgow, Broxburn, Uphall, Ecclesmachan, Dechmont, Bridgend)	46,000
Faucheldean area (included limited traffic calming)	8,700
Niddry Road area, Winchburgh	2,900
Harburn area (includes West Calder, Harburn, Brucefield)	23,000
Bonnytoun Farm Road, at Oracle, Linlithgow	2,300
Total =	82,900

Package 4 – Advisory/temporary cycle lanes	Cost
East Main Street (Kilpunt roundabout westwards), Broxburn	17,300
Edinburgh Road & St.Ninian's Road, Linlithgow	30,000
Advisory cycle lanes on distributor roads, Livingston	80,000
Advisory cycle lanes, Blackridge	15,000
Total =	142,300

Appendix 2: List of Proposed SfP Projects

Package 5 - Introduce temporary 20mph areas within towns and villages	Cost
All urban and rural towns	75,000
Total =	75,000

Package 6 - Introduce temporary physical distancing signage	Cost
Six urban towns	50,000
Twenty-four rural towns	50,000
Livingston	30,000
Total =	130,000

Package 7 – Strategic clearance works to widen footpaths and cycle tracks	Cost
Clearance work on the strategic network including NCR75 and other areas to improve accessibility and ensure safety	50,000
Nellburn Path - Lochshot, Livingston	15,000
Total =	65,000

Package 8 – Public Transport - physical distancing measures at bus stops	Cost
Layby bus stops, Linlithgow (4no.)	10,000
South Bridge Street outside St David's House, Bathgate (1no.)	2,500
King Street, stops at old train station, Bathgate (3no.)	6,000
East Main Street outside Scotmid, Broxburn (1no.)	2,500
Eastbound at the CIS Centre, Whitburn Cross (1no.)	2,500
Outside the Post Office, West Calder (1no.)	2,500
Tesco Distribution Centre A89, rural Bathgate (1no.)	5,000
Main Street in Kirknewton (1no.)	5,000
Total =	36,000

Appendix 2: List of Proposed SfP Projects

Package 9 – Introduce pedestrian phases at controlled crossing points	Cost	
Installing a permanent (24/7) pedestrian phase to controlled pedestrian crossing points to prevent individuals touching existing push buttons at : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armadale Cross • Whitburn Cross • North/South Bridge in Bathgate • A89/Whitburn Road junction in Bathgate • Bathgate Academy/A89 junction • Greendykes Road/A899 junction in Broxburn • Almondvale Avenue in Livingston 	9,000	
Total =	9,000	
Total of Bid Submission 1 =		£601,500

To: Ronnie.Fisher@westlothian.gov.uk

04 June 2020

Dear Mr Fisher,

Spaces for People Funding Decision

Thank you for your application to Spaces for People. Please find below the outcome of your application.

Project Title	Decision	Funding Awarded (£)
Various Measures within West Lothian (Spaces for People)	approved	601,500

We will be in touch shortly to discuss the approved activities in your application, legal agreements and any support requests.

We also ask that you share all proposed press releases on the fund with senior communications officer, Charlotte Otter (charlotte.otter@sustrans.org.uk) prior to publication.

Sustrans have created [Space to Move](#) which maps the latest street changes across the UK. Please let us know if you would not like us to record your project on this map.

In the meantime, please email spacesforpeople@sustrans.org.uk if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Sarah Glynn (Infrastructure Officer)
Sustrans