

DATA LABEL: OFFICIAL - PUBLIC



## COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

### ACTIVE TRAVEL RELATED FUNDING 2025/26

#### REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

##### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council Executive of the funding provision being made available for active travel related schemes for financial year 2025/26. This funding has come from the Scottish Government Active Travel Tier 1 General Capital Grant (Direct Award), Scottish Government People and Place (Direct Award), SEStran People and Place (Grant) and Scottish Government Active Travel Tier 2 award.

##### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council Executive approves :

1. the allocation £1,319,000 funding for Tier 1 projects for 2025/26;
2. the Local Authority Direct Award (LADA) funding direct allocation of £145,979.42 from People and Place;
3. the allocation of £85,500 funding from Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund, Tier 2;
4. the allocation of £121,900 SEStran People and Place grant funding; and
5. the proposed list of accessibility schemes listed in Appendix 1.

##### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I      Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs: being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
<b>II     Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	The delivery of these projects will contribute to improved road safety and encourage active travel. Schemes promoted under The Equality Act 2010.
<b>III    Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None.

<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None.
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	The projects will support Outcome no. 4 – We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.
<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	The projects will be funded through the various direct award and grant funding streams from Transport Scotland and SEStran.
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	N/A
<b>VIII Other consultations</b>	Financial Management Unit and Corporate Procurement Unit. Consultation on individual projects will be carried out during their development. Disability West Lothian Access Group.

## **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.

Since 2002/03 Scottish Government has been providing funding for Cycling Walking and Safer Routes which was allocated following submission of a bid application from the council. In 2024, the mechanism for funding changed and a bid submission is no longer required with money received as a direct award from Transport Scotland.

In addition to the Active Travel Infrastructure Fund, Tier 1 funding, a second direct award for 2025/26 was made to the council from the Scottish Government under the People and Place Programme. Officers have also been proactive in obtaining grant funding through other streams such as the People and Place programme from SEStran. SEStran have funded, (through Walk Wheel Cycle Trust formerly SUStrans) a Behavioural Change Officer who will produce a behavioural change action plan.

The council received additional support from Walk Wheel Cycle Trust following successful recruitment of an embedded officer to focus on the delivery of active travel schemes. This post is a 10 month post from June 2025 to March 2026. The embedded officer currently in post and has also secured additional technical support from Walk Wheel Cycle Trust to assist in project delivery.

### **D.2 Tier 1 General Capital Grant Funding – Scottish Government**

On 25 March 2025, the council received notification from Transport Scotland of grant allocation funding of £1,319,000. Replacement of the previously titled 'Cycling Walking and Safer Routes' (CWSR) funding, it is intended to support the design, development and delivery of Active Travel Projects within West Lothian for 2025/26.

The conditions of the grant funding stipulates that funding must be spent by 31 March 2026, however this does not mean the physical completion of a project, but the authority must demonstrate a project(s) for which the money has been allocated against and evidence the project is progressing.

Officers identified several projects to which the £1.319 million funding has been allocated to progress through various stages from detailed design to construction.

Those projects are:

- Cycle link along the B7066 (Whitburn) from Armadale Road to Polkemmet Roundabout to construction; (£990,000);
- A904 - Duntarvie and Abercorn Junction Upgrades construction, as outlined in Section 7.1.4 of the Active Travel Plan 2024-29 (£150,000);
- Dixon Terrace, Whitburn Cycleway design progression (£129,000); and
- Removing Barriers to Accessibility, various locations (£50,000).

The Edinburgh Road Bathgate cycle lane construction (£900,000) was included in the 2024/25 report, however additional design, consultation and Traffic Regulation Order processes have delayed this scheme, with construction now anticipated in 2026/27.

In addition, as part of the development of the new 2024-29 Active Travel Plan, a number of schemes were identified through both the public and stakeholder consultations using an extensive mapping exercise. Schemes were split between smaller community projects and major projects.

Minor schemes set out within 7.1.4 of the Active Travel Plan are currently being progressed from feasibility through to detailed design. These schemes range from public transport, wayfinding and active travel safety improvements.

Officers have identified locations as part of the 'Removing Barriers to Accessibility' noted above. The list of proposed locations is identified in Appendix 1, however it should be noted that detailed assessment of each location and consultation with the Disability West Lothian Access Group is still required.

### **D.3 People and Place Local Authority Direct Award (LADA)**

On 17 April 2025 an additional award from Transport Scotland for the amount of £145,979.42 under the People and Place programme was awarded to the council. The intended use for the funding was for Active Travel Strategies and maintenance of current infrastructure. The areas identified are as follows;

- Play on the way initiative for school children to encourage them to walk to school;
- Appoint staff to assist the AST Coordinator;
- Bike purchase and storage;
- Community Groups small project support;
- Production of new active travel maps through Spokes;
- Supporting Local Groups who promote active travel;
- Provision of interactive bus time information signs; and
- Vegetation Clearance and cut back of existing active travel routes

### **D.4 Tier 2 General Capital Grant Funding – Scottish Government**

An additional award from Transport Scotland was received 18 November 2025, following a successful funding application for design funding under the Active Travel Infrastructure Fund. Officers identified two schemes which scored well under the Active Travel Plan to progress the designs for. These are :

- Threemiletown to Uphall; and
- Uphall to Uphall Station.

Initial feasibility studies were completed in 2021, hence the design funding will aim to update and progress these designs.

Funding of up to £85,500 has been awarded in total, split between both schemes, which is to be utilised by end of March 2026. Officers are working with colleagues in procurement to appoint an external consultant to progress the design work, and a further bid for design funding will be required in 2026/27 to complete the designs.

#### **D.5 People and Place Funding (SEStran)**

In May 2025 an award letter was received from SEStran offering the council a grant of £121,900 to be used for interventions under the 'Encouraging Active Travel: Young People', People and Place Programme.

The aims are to support more young people to travel actively in settings out with the school by delivering tailored support packages to nurseries, youth groups and schools.

Using this funding, officers will deliver tailored support education packages for progression of interventions over a three year period, although it is fully understood that funding is only on a yearly basis and future years cannot be guaranteed. The plan is based on Engage, Adopt and Sustain model. Officers have identified the following areas for investment:

- People costs;
- Inveralmond Cluster Initiative 25/26 - Year 1 ENGAGE;
- St Kentigern's Cluster Initiative 25/26 - Year 2 ADOPT;
- ParkSmart Initiative;
- Cycle Promotion kits;
- COP Legacy; and
- Park smart;

To educate and encourage parents, carers and young people about the benefits of walking/cycling to school but if parents or carers must drive, then the Parksmart initiative raises awareness of how to park considerately and safely in and around school areas. As part of the education program schools can have banners made to be displayed inside & outside the school to encourage active travel.

#### Cycle Promotion Kits

To support schools in raising awareness of making active journeys and doing so safely. Training will be provided to staff to deliver the Bikeability programme and will receive a cycle promotion kit.

#### Active Travel Co-ordinator Post within Education

Funding will be used to support a two day release co-ordinator post to run the 3 year Primary & Secondary Cluster initiatives that include community consultations using Place Standard Framework. AST Co Ordinator will oversee the other projects including management of funds and reporting to Transport Department regarding spend.

One day AST Support Officer to support delivery of the Primary and Secondary cluster initiatives.

### COP Legacy

Following Health and Wellbeing conferences in the past three years, schools came away with ideas on how they could develop their learning & improve health and wellbeing including ways to involve their local community. Below are ideas linked to promoting healthier active travel lifestyles for the Education sector.

- Walk to School Week/Year in conjunction with Living Streets Scotland - walking challenge is a great way to encourage families with young children to commit to healthy travel throughout childhood - and hopefully for life!
- West Lothian Walk Ways – schools and families share in either a digital book format or hard copy leaflet format their favourite walks around the local area.
- Walking bus where senior year pupils become walking bus leaders & set up a walk to & from school group.
- Discover & make interesting walking & cycling paths in the local community. This may include information boards about local history. Nature & artwork displays, orienteering trails, sculptures etc.
- Bike maintenance sheds – to encourage new skills, waste reduction & promotion of active travel.
- Creation of wild flower & biodiversity patches/animal watch hides in local greenspaces.
- Community food growing area in local greenspace.
- Engagement with John Muir Award
- Geocache activities
- Engagement with Cycle Friendly Schools Award
- Bike fleets to be used by pupils and families in the local communities
- Steps to Success active travel projects
- Winter Wanderings initiatives to encourage active travel during the winter months
- Bike/scooter racks
- Bike storage and maintenance cabins
- Outdoor Active Travel learning hub spaces

### Inveralmond Cluster Initiative 25/26 - Year 1 ENGAGE

6 Primary schools and 1 high school to have new bikes, bike storage and resources to support the following initiatives outlined in the Primary & Secondary Engage overview

### St Kentigern's Cluster Initiative 25/26 - Year 2 ADOPT

To support infrastructure projects from priorities identified during AST Focus Group discussions and Place Standard from year 24/25.

## D.7 CONCLUSION

The report sets out proposals for the various active travel related funding in relation to the projects to be undertaken using the funding streams available.

The Tier 1 funding is welcomed and allows the continuation of a number of important projects and initiatives linked to encouraging active travel within West Lothian improving the environment and reducing our carbon footprint.

The People and Place awards from both Transport Scotland and SEStran allows the council to deliver many projects identified within the new Active Travel Plan as a result of the consultations and to allow for significant investment in active travel across West Lothian.

In addition to the equipment and resources, although an IBike officer is currently in post funded by the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly Sustrans, funding will ensure additional training can be provided to educate staff to widen the reach in delivering cycle proficiency and maintenance.

It is recommended that the Council Executive approve the funding from Transport Scotland and SEStran to be allocated against the projects and behavioural change activities outlined within the report.

## E. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: One

- Appendix 1 – Accessibility Schemes to be assessed

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13 January 2026

## APPENDIX 1 - Accessibility Schemes to be assessed

Ref No.	Location	Ward	Details	Cost Est.	Benefit	Comments
1	Hill Crescent, Bathgate	8	Dropped kerb access to car park.	£1,500	Street	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
2	Lenzie Avenue, Livingston	3	Dropped kerb at end of path adjacent to around area of 178-190 Lenzie Avenue.	£1,500	Individual	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
3	Ecclesmachan Road Uphall	2	Dropped kerbs at access for 19 Ecclesmachan Road and another at entrance of Thomson Court just off Ecclesmachan Road.	£6,000	Wider Community	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
4	Birniehill Crescent Bathgate	8	Dropped kerb at 4 Birniehill Crescent.	£1,500	Individual	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
5	Langside Gardens Polbeth		Dropped kerb heading NE to car park at 81-91 Landside Gardens.	£1,500	Street	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
6	Glenside Court Armadale	9	Dropped kerb at Engine Lane opposite Acredale Car Park entrance.	£1,500	Street	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
7	Huron Avenue Livingston	4	Dropped kerb approximately 25 metres north of 78 Granby Avenue, Howden.	£1,500	Street	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
8	Woodend Walk Armadale	9	Dropped kerb to car park in Woodend Walk.	£1,500	Street	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
9	Huron Avenue Livingston	4	Dropped kerbs for the footpath between 176 and 177 Huron Ave, and the kerb to be dropped on the grass area outside 7 Huron Ave with footpath.	£3,000	Street	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
10	Lovells Glen Linlithgow	1	Alteration to dropped kerb at the south side of the junction at Avonmill Road on Mill Road, Linlithgow.	£2,500	Wider Community	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
11	Puir Wives Brae Bathgate	8	Dropped kerb at the egress from Kirkton park on Puir Wives Brae.	£1,500	Wider Community	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
12	Leishman Court Blackridge	9	Dropped kerb opposite the opening to the Old Quarry Road that leads to the cycle path.	£1,500	Wider Community	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
13	Croft Place Livingston	3	Dropped kerb at end of cul de sac housing 1-6 Croft Place towards path.	£1,500	Street	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG

14	Whinbank Livingston	4	Dropped kerb between 2 disabled bays as customer near 73 Whinbank.	£1,500	Individual	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
15	Leven Walk Craigshill	5	Dropped kerb from parking area between garages near 81 Leven Walk.	£1,500	Street	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
16	Whitemoss Road & Main Street Kirknewton	5	Dropped kerbs on Whitemoss Road & Main Street.	£3,000	Wider Community	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
17	Deanswood Park Livingston	3	Dropped kerb for footpath crossing the road between Number 35 and 161 Deanswood Park	£1,500	Street	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
18	Kenmore Avenue Deans	3	Dropped kerb for access to disabled bays.	£3,000	Individual	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
19	Ash Grove, Blackburn	7	Dropped kerb outside Blackburn Library outside car park.	£1,500	Wider Community	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
20	Darwin Street, Craigshill	3	Handrail on set of steps on public footpath leading from properties to road.	£1,000	Street	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
21	Ramsay Court Craigshill	4	Handrail to access the underpass.	£4,500	Wider Community	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
22	The Green Room Kirknewton	5	Consideration of handrail for 3 steps at the Green Room, Kirknewton.	£1,500	Wider Community	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
23	Rear of Pharmacy Kirknewton	5	Handrail opposite existing handrail to rear of pharmacy.	£1,200	Wider Community	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
24	East Bankton Place Livingston	3	Existing staggered barriers to be extended to increase distance between them.	£1,500	Wider Community	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
25	Kenmore Avenue Livingston	3	Handrail to car park near 91 Kenmore Avenue.	£1,000	Individual	To be assessed by officers and approved by DWLAG
<b>Cost Estimate for Measures</b>				<b>£49,200</b>		