

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 15 JUNE 2010

SUBJECT: URBAN FREEDOM (ELGIN) ACTIVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The committee are asked to approve the action plan 2010/11 (**APPENDIX A**) for delivering active travel infrastructure improvements in Elgin as part of the 'Urban Freedom' sustainable travel town project.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the functions of the Council as the Roads Authority

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the action plan (APPENDIX A) for active travel infrastructure improvements in Elgin.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Continued funding for the 'Urban Freedom' sustainable travel town project was approved at the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee on the 20 April 2010. The project is in the 2nd year of a 3-year programme funded by European grant with Council capital match-funding. The Council is contracted to complete the programme of works for which the grant award was made.

3.2 In consultation with the public and the multi-agency steering group key active travel routes for cycling and walking have been identified within Elgin that are suitable for upgrading.

3.3 Three route areas within Elgin have been identified for improvement during the current capital plan; Elgin Town Centre to Elgin Rail Station, Elgin Rail Station to New Elgin Primary School and Elgin South West – routes connecting with Elgin High School (**APPENDIX B**).

3.4 Additional funding has been sought from Sustrans to assist in delivering enhanced Elgin South West routes.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement / Service Improvement Plan

Promote development and use of sustainable transport (*national outcome 1*) reducing congestion and increasing safer travel.

Promote use of healthier forms of transport (*national outcome 6*) encouraging people to be more active and contributing to a reduction in levels of obesity.

Improve the accessibility of amenities and services (*national outcome 10*) across Moray.

Promote and protect the built and natural environment (*national outcome 12*) and reduce the levels of consumption and production of energy.

(b) Policy and Legal

The proposed measures will assist in delivering positive outcomes for sustainable travel as detailed in the Local and National Transport Strategies.

The proposed measures will contribute towards meeting the council's statutory duties; 'Duties of public bodies relating to climate change', as detailed in part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The capital allocation from The Moray Council for financial year 2010/11 to the 'Urban Freedom' project is £216k.

(d) Consultations

Extensive public consultation has been carried out to help identify the areas for active travel infrastructure improvement. This has been achieved via public festival events and engagement through the active travel audit for Elgin.

The multi-agency 'Urban Freedom' steering group have been consulted on the proposals for active travel infrastructure.

Reni Milburn Principal Development Officer) has been consulted and agrees with the contents of the report.

Alasdair MacEachan, Senior Solicitor has been consulted and agrees with the contents of the report.

Lorraine Paisey, Principal Accountant has been consulted and agrees with the financial implications of the report.

5. CONCLUSION

ITEM:

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- 5.1 **That the Committee considers the recommendations set out in section 2 of the report with regard to the proposed active travel infrastructure improvements within Elgin.**

Author of Report: Chris Thompson, School Travel Co-ordinator

Background Papers:

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