



**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 6 MAY 2014**

SUBJECT: RIVER LOSSIE CYCLEWAY - ELGIN

**BY: ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1. To inform the Committee of the successful application for funding from Sustrans and to outline the project plan for the design and construction.
- 1.2. This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III G (16) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the functions of the Council as Roads Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1. It is recommended that Committee:-

- (i) notes that the application for match funding was successful;
- (ii) agrees the outline project plan and procurement;
- (iii) authorises appropriate officers to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with SUSTRANS related to the grant funding and all steps to deliver of the project.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Moray Council on 5 February 2014 (Para 9 of the Minute refers) approved submitting an application for funding from Sustrans under the Community Links Programme. The Council also agreed to commit £250,000 from the Elgin Common Good Fund and £75,000 from the River Lossie Trust, together with "in kind" contributions as match funding.
- 3.2. An application was submitted and following a presentation of the proposals to representatives from Sustrans, approval of their grant funding offer for 2014/15 and 2015/16 was received on 4 April 2014. The offer is profiled such that £400,000 will be in the current financial year, with the remaining £245,000 in 2015/16.

- 3.3. The Sustrans grant is fixed for each year, but the match funding has some flexibility in the annual spend to take account of progress.
- 3.4. Parts of the proposed route already have planning approval under the flood alleviation scheme and an application will be prepared and submitted for the remaining sections.
- 3.5. In general terms Morrison Construction will progress sections within or substantially within the flood scheme so as not to delay the flood scheme construction works. These are elements that are either already contracted as part of the flood scheme, require relatively simple modification of the scheme or are part of Morrison Construction's £30,000 "in-kind" contribution (i.e., carried out at no cost to the Council). The following sections of the work would be included: -
- Old Mills Road to the River Lossie crossing point (excluding the crossing);
 - Diverting the National Cycle Route from the old flood bank to the new one between the Leisure Centre and Cooper Park;
 - From the Cathedral to Pansport Road including the road crossing facility; and
 - From Linkwood Industrial Estate to the temporary bridge over the Tyock Burn.
- 3.6. Balfour Beatty, recently procured as civil engineering framework contractor, through competitive tendering under EU Regulations, would carry out the remaining works once planning permission and land access is obtained. Under the terms of the framework, Balfour Beatty would be asked to undertake the remaining sections as follows: -
- River Lossie Crossing at Morrision Playing Fields to the existing Leisure Centre bridge;
 - Repairs to existing surfaces comprising parts of the Route;
 - Pansport to Linkwood Industrial Estate;
 - Temporary flood scheme bridge to Elginshill Road; and
 - Signage and miscellaneous cycling facilities.
- 3.7. Formal agreements with the landowners are being sought and survey work is to be carried out at specific locations enabling the detailed design to progress.
- 3.8. An initial Project Plan outlining the proposals for taking the project forward is at **APPENDIX A**.

- 3.9. The Project Plan identifies how the success of this scheme relies on the promotion, branding and signing strategy in order to ensure the route form a key part of the wider active travel network in Elgin.
- 3.10. There will be structured stakeholder consultations throughout the development of the project and a communications and engagement strategy will be developed.
- 3.11. The design will aim to take account of all abilities and it is considered that the outline design can facilitate this objective.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Moray 2023 A Plan for the Future/ Service Plan

- (i) Safe, active travel contributes to adults living healthier, sustainable independent lives safeguarded from harm, a growing and diverse economy and safer communities.

(b) Policy and Legal

Sustrans require that a Memorandum of Understanding is signed by the Council in relation to the grant.

(c) Financial implications

There are no financial implications for the Council's General Fund arising from this report. The Council has agreed to funding of up to £250,000 from Elgin Common Good for the project. In their capacity as trustees for the River Lossie Trust the Council has also agreed to fund £75,000 in total across the two years of the project. All other Council contributions are "in kind" only.

(d) Risk Implications

Key risks are identified in the attached Project Plan. The principal measure to reduce the Council's exposure to financial risk, i.e., overspending, is through having robust project management and cost management in place. A risk register with mitigation measures and allowances for residual cost and time risks will be prepared.

(e) Staffing Implications

Design, project management and supervision will be carried out by existing staff.

(f) Property

Most land affected is either in the Council's control or has already been the subject of compensation through the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme. Now that grant has been secured negotiations with

landowners, who were consulted earlier, will proceed with the aim of reaching agreement quickly. Until then there remains a risk at some locations.

(g) Equalities

The design of this facility will ensure accessibility for users of all abilities.

(h) Consultations

Don Toonen, Equal Opportunities Officer has been consulted and has no comments on the report.

Lorraine Paisey, Principal Accountant has been consulted and comments have been included in the financial implications.

Alasdair McEachan, Legal Services Manager has been consulted and comments included in the report.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Obtaining funding from Sustrans enables this project to progress and provides a key initiative to the development of active travel in Elgin.**
- 5.2 Critical to the success of this initiative will be the branding, signing and promotion of the facility and maximising the links to the various parts of the town.**
- 5.3 Works to deliver the project will progress, initially through the flood scheme, followed once planning approval is obtained, by the remainder carried out by Balfour Beatty.**
- 5.4 Communications and stakeholder engagement is fundamental to the success of the project.**
- 5.5 Sound project management is required to manage the key risks.**

Author of Report: Frank Knight, Senior Engineer
Background