

Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton Cyclepath Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report updates Members on the progress made since the previous report to the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee on 25 March 2020, in relation to the delivery of Argyll and Bute Council's long-standing commitment to the provision of a dedicated, high quality walking and cycle route linking Helensburgh, Cardross and Dumbarton.
- 1.2. Developed design work is ongoing for the outstanding sections of the route linking Colgrain to the Geilston Burn and Ferry Road to Dumbarton. To date this work has focused on necessary environmental surveys and assessment, design development including road crossings, and initial site investigations. WSP have contacted all identified landowners affected by the route to gain their input to support the design development. Wider community engagement is planned for June 2021, following the landowner engagement and completion of the design options development.
- 1.3. Further to the instruction by this Committee on 17 December 2020 that Officers explore options in relation to land acquisition to allow the completion of the section of the route from Geilston Burn to Murrays Crossing at the earliest opportunity; contact has been made with the relevant landowner's land agent. At the time of writing, Officers are seeking engagement to commence detailed negotiations.
- 1.4. The necessary permissions to recommence construction work at the Geilston Burn have been secured from SEPA. Work is planned to recommence in late May, with the new permanent bridge being constructed between June and August and the programme anticipating completion of this section of the route in September 2021.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Helensburgh and Lomond members:
 - 2.1.1. Welcome the recommencement of the construction of the section linking Cardross Railway Station to the Geilston Burn, Cardross.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND AREA
COMMITTEE**

**DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH**

17 JUNE 2021

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1. This report updates Members of the progress made since the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee on 25 March 2020 in relation to the delivery of Argyll and Bute Council's long-standing commitment to the provision of a dedicated,

construction costs. As the Places for Everyone funding is not currently confirmed, Officers are working to explore other funding options to ensure the current funding shortfall of £40,000 against the estimated construction costs can be fully covered in 2021/22.

Design

- 5.3. Transport Scotland's Places for Everyone funding programme, administered by Sustrans, is structured around 8 project stages with gateways which require approval from the Sustrans Project Board at the end of Stage 2 (Concept Design) and Stage 4 (Technical Design) to progress to the next stage. The project stages are (0) Strategic Definition, (1) Preparation and Brief, (2) Concept Design, (3) Developed Design, (4) Technical Design, (5) Construction, (6) Handover & Close Out and (7) In Use.
- 5.4. **Developed design** (stage 3) work is ongoing for the outstanding section of the route linking Colgrain to Geilston Burn, Cardross and Ferry Road, Cardross to Dumbarton. Work to date has focused on environmental surveys and assessment, design detail options development including road crossings, and initial site investigations. WSP have contacted all identified landowners affected by the route to gain their input to support the design development. Wider community engagement is planned for June 2021, following the landowner engagement and completion of the design options development.
- 5.5. **Technical Design** (stage 4) engineering investigation and design finalization is planned to be progressed following completion of the develop design stage. It is expected that the technical design will take approximately 3 months to complete following confirmation of 2021/22 Places for Everyone funding.
- 5.6. Once completed, the Developed Design and Technical Design will complete the design stages required prior to land acquisition and construction.
- 5.7. **Landowner engagement.** The ongoing design work includes significant engagement with relevant landowners to inform the designs. This includes confirming land ownership details, gaining landowner agreement to undertake the necessary surveys and to engage with landowners to gain their input to the design process in order to consider their comments when developing the designs.
- 5.8. **Community engagement.** A key element of the contract awarded to WSP UK Ltd for the development of the designs for the route linking Moss Road, Colgrain to Cardross and Cardross to Dumbarton is to undertake community engagement to inform the designs. It now is planned this engagement will be undertaken in June 2021. Due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic this consultation will be online via the Council's website. Officers will work with local community groups and the council's media team to promote the engagement to enable wide participation.
- 5.9. **Helensburgh Town.** It is planned to submit a funding application to Transport Scotland's Places for Everyone fund, administered by Sustrans, for funding

