



route to access new funding for this project (and other active travel infrastructure projects) would be through the Transport Scotland PFE programme.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Mid Argyll Kintyre and the Islands members:

Welcome the progress made to date.

Support the continuation of the project and the submission of a new PFE funding application for design stages 3-4 (Developed & Technical Design) to complete the design work required.





4.5.7.

authorities and although the project has been funded for design stages 0-2 there is no guarantee that the project will be awarded PFE funding for 2024/25 to deliver design stages 3-4. It is expected that 2024/25 funding awards will be confirmed in Quarter 1 2024/25.

4.6.2. If the project is awarded additional funding for 2024/25 further discussion with the owners of the Corran B&B will be a priority.

4.6.3. If the project is not awarded 2024/25 PFE funding, Members have the options of allocating Council funding or the project will require to be paused awaiting funding or terminated.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1. A concept design for a new active travel route between the Lochgilphead Front Green and the Crinan Canal has been produced for consultation. The results from the consultation show that 59% of respondents were supportive of the concept design.

5.2. External funding from PFE has been sought for 2024/25 to progress the concept design through the design stages 3-4. However, award of this funding is not guaranteed.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. **Policy** Completion of this project will support the Council's SOA outcomes 2: We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth and 5: People live active, healthier and independent lives. The project also supports achievement of the Scottish Government's objectives set out in the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) and Let's Get Scotland Walking - The National Walking Strategy.

6.2. **Financial** The design and land purchase will be funded by external competitive funding applications. The Council has not contributed any funding to design costs. There is strong evidence that people who are more active, for example by walking or cycling, have improved physical and mental health and are less likely to require social care services in later life which could result in a future saving to the Council or HSCP.

6.3. **Legal** Continued input will be required from Legal Services to support any land purchase.

6.4. **HR** None.

6.5. **Fairer Scotland Duty:**

### 6.5.1 Equalities

Completion of this project will provide enhanced opportunities for all between Lochgilphead and the Crinan

