The Highland Council

City of Inverness Area Committee – 12 August 2013

Agenda Item	10
Report No	CIA/43/13

Millburn Road Cycle and Pedestrian Active Travel Route

Report by Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Summary

This report invites Members to approve the construction of an Active Travel Route along Millburn Road for use by cyclists. The route is to be funded by a combination of money from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Developer contributions and HITRANS. The works are proposed to commence in October 2013 with completion during the current financial year.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Inverness Active Travel Audit dated June 2011 has been adopted as part of the Council's Local Transport Strategy and sets out the vision for the East Inverness Active Travel Corridor. This corridor which is designed for pedestrians and cyclists links the city centre of Inverness with the UHI campus at Beechwood, proposed development areas in east Inverness, Balloch and continues onwards to the Culloden Battlefield visitor attraction.
- 1.2 The purpose of the East Inverness Active Travel Corridor is to provide a safe and attractive environment for walkers and cyclists which encourages people to consider active travel as an alternative to car travel in order to reduce congestion, reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and encourage health benefits.
- 1.3 This project relates to the construction of the route from the city centre to the A9 overbridge which has recently been installed as part of the UHI Campus development at Beechwood. This includes the section along Millburn Road which is a critical section in terms of providing a safe route for cyclists segregated from vehicular traffic.

2. Funding

2.1 A three year programme of ERDF funding was received for the years 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 to a total value of £560,000 covering a number of cycle schemes throughout the Highland Council area. Of this a sum of approximately £300,000 is available to go towards this scheme together with developer contributions of £50,000 from the Campus, £23,000 in connection with the Morrison store and a grant of £15,000 from HITRANS giving a total funding package of the order of £388,000. In addition there is a possibility of

some additional funding being made available through ERDF over the next few months.

2.2 It is anticipated that the total cost of the tendered scheme may be in excess of the funds available and it is therefore envisaged that it may not be possible to complete all sections of the scheme this financial year. Any sections not completed will be undertaken at a later date when funds are available.

3. Design and details of scheme

- 3.1 WSP UK Ltd was appointed in early 2013 through the Highlands and Islands Consultancy Framework Contract to undertake feasibility study and detailed design of the route.
- 3.2 The proposals are shown on General Arrangement Sheet nos. 1 15 which are contained in **Appendix A.**
- 3.3 In order to provide a safe environment for cyclists on a dual carriageway distributor road such as Millburn Road a route segregated from vehicular traffic is required. A shared use path of suitable width serving both cyclists and pedestrians is the preferred solution. The minimum width normally provided is 3 metres although where possible the opportunity has been taken to provide additional width in the range 3.5 to 4.0 metres. Where it is physically impossible or would be disproportionately expensive to provide this width there are localised pinch points but these are not considered to detract from the overall function of the route.
- 3.4 Between Falcon Square and the signalised junction at the entrance to Morrison's supermarket there is currently a shared use path on the north side of Millburn Road. From this point it is proposed that the route will cross at the signalised crossing to the south side of Millburn Road.
- 3.5 The initial section of the route is constrained on the south side by a retaining wall below steeply rising ground. The widening will be provided by moving the kerb line into the carriageway and providing compensatory carriageway widening by reduction in width of the central reserve. Further along the widening will be provided on the south side into the open verge. Towards the junction with Victoria Drive widening to the south is not possible due to properties and two options are shown: Option A provides some widening into the carriageway with a reduced carriageway width while Option B retains the existing footway width.
- 3.6 East of the junction with Victoria Drive the existing cobbled area is to be resurfaced the single car parking space is to be removed and cyclists directed onto the service road in front of the Chieftain Hotel.
- 3.7 At the east end of the service road a raised table enables cyclists to move on to a widened path and a further raised table is situated at the crossing point of Diriebught Road. East of Diriebught Road the footway is widened within the existing verge along the frontage of the Premier Inn. Adjacent to the culvert

headwall of the Mill Burn it is proposed to realign a short section of boundary wall to enable the path to be widened. Entry is required into two small areas of land in the ownership of Premier Inn and negotiations are on-going.

- 3.8 East of the Premier Inn the path is initially widened into the carriageway with a reduction in the central reserve width and is then predominantly on the south side into the verge up to the stone wall at the boundary with Corrie Lodge. At this point the path is widened into the carriageway up to the exit radius from the roundabout. From this point up to the signalised crossing in Old Perth Road widening is proposed at the back of the path. This will involve regrading of the embankment at the back of the path and will require entry to land in the ownership of Corrie Lodge and this is currently being negotiated.
- 3.9 On the east side of Old Perth Road the path will be widened at the back with a requirement for a small retaining wall. A ramp will then take cyclists up to King Duncan's Road where advisory cycle tracks will be marked on both sides of the carriageway.
- 3.10 The route will run from King Duncan's Road onto Mackintosh Road with cyclists accommodated on the carriageway. At the end of Mackintosh Road the route will connect with the combined use path at the back of properties on Ashton Road which is being provided as part of the Campus development. This provides a connection to the A9 overbridge.

4. Implications

- 4.1 The project will be funded by a combination of ERDF grant, HITRANS grant and developer contributions.
- 4.2 There are no legal implications attached to this report.
- 4.3 There are no equality implications attached to this report.
- 4.4 The provision of facilities for cyclists will encourage a reduction in car use and lead to reduced carbon dioxide emissions.
- 4.5 Construction risks will be identified in a risk register and managed in accordance with the Construction Design and Management regulations. The completed scheme will be subject to a Road Safety Audit.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Members are invited to agree to the design of the Millburn Road Cycle and Pedestrian Active Travel Route which are contained in **Appendix A.**

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Date: 29 July 2013

Author: John Danby

Background Papers:

WSP General Arrangement Sheet nos. 1 - 15























