Agenda Item	**11**
Report No	**SR/36/26**

The Highland Council

Committee: **Isle of Skye & Raasay**

Date: **30 November 2026**

Report Title: **Active Travel Update**

Report By: **Assistant Chief Executive – Place**

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 To provide Members with an update on the delivery and outcomes of the 2-year fixed term Skye & Raasay Active Travel post, funded through income available to the Skye & Raasay Members.

The report also seeks Members' support for the continuation of this post for a further two-year period in order to maintain capacity for the development, coordination and delivery of active travel projects and funding opportunities across Skye and Raasay.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

i. **Note** the update on works undertaken over the 2-year period of the post;
ii. **Note** the update to the overall Integrated Transport Team structure;
iii. **Note** the pipeline of works proposed on Skye and Raasay for future financial years;
iv. **Agree** that officers should take forward the proposed Active Travel Infrastructure Fund Tier 2 applications for 2027/28; and
v. **Agree** the proposal for future funding of a further 2-year Active Travel post.

3 Implications

3.1 **Resource** – The proposed future 2-year Active Travel post will be funded for a two-year fixed-term period and will have salary and associated expenditure implications on that basis.

Subject to agreement from Members to support this post, and to final confirmation of capital budgets available, it would be intended to continue to allocate a sum of £100,000 per year from the Active Travel budget to support this post.

It is hoped that if opportunities for additional funding (e.g. through developer contributions) are identified, that some percentage of these can be allocated towards Active Travel projects.

Although the post is for a two-year fixed term period, the ambition is for this to be extended should the Project Officer prove successful in delivering on the identified aims.

3.2 **Legal** – No legal implications have been identified.

3.3 **Risk** – The proposal to fund the post for one year from successful Active Travel Infrastructure Fund bids is contingent on the success of those bids, and on timeous release by Scottish Government of the associated funds. Additionally, given the likely multi-year nature of certain construction projects, the continued delivery of funding on an annual-only basis presents a risk to project completion.

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – No health and safety implications have been identified.

3.5 **Gaelic** – Active Travel projects taken forward through this post may require additional signage or information boards to be installed in the region. These will follow all relevant regional and national policies relating to Gaelic.

4 Impacts

4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.

4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.

4.3 This is an update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5 Skye Active Travel Post – Update

5.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on Active Travel projects undertaken over the initial 2-year period of the post, to provide an update on changes to the Integrated Transport Team structure, to provide an indicative pipeline of potential works identified on Skye & Raasay over financial years 2027/28 and 2028/29, and to propose a model for future funding of a further 2-year Active Travel post for Skye & Raasay.

5.2 The original aim of the post was to take forward initiatives as identified in the Integrated Transport Action Plan for Skye, Portree Active Travel Masterplan, and Options Appraisal for Active Travel on Skye.

All of the projects undertaken to date meet those key criteria, primarily through delivery of projects identified as part of the Skye Cycle Network (highlighted in the Integrated Transport Action Plan as requiring ongoing support), Edinbane Community Links project (as previous), and the Portree Active Travel Masterplan.

In addition, the Project Officer has provided support to colleagues in HITRANS to take forward works on the Skye Cycle Way (also identified in the Integrated Transport Action plan as requiring ongoing support), and provided support and advice to community groups with regards to Active Travel e.g. through providing support to the Broadford Hospital Path project.

5.2 Projects Undertaken to Date

Financial Year	Project	Criterion	Funding Secured
25/26	Opening up the Moll Road	Integrated Transport Action Plan	£230,000
	Old Sleat Road – Skullamus to Drumfearn	Integrated Transport Action Plan	£240,000
	Portree Mobility Hubs – Initial Summary Report	Portree Active Travel Masterplan	£25,000
26/27	A87 High Quality Active Travel Route (Stage 0-2 Design)	Portree Active Travel Masterplan	£81,000
	Edinbane Link Path	Integrated Transport Action Plan	£1,275,000
	Portree Town Centre – Replacement Signage Works	Portree Active Travel Masterplan	£40,000
	Moll Road & Old Sleat Road – Additional Signage & Placemaking Works	Integrated Transport Action Plan	£10,000
		TOTAL	**£2,980,000**

5.3 **Pipeline of Works for 2027/28 and 2028/29**

As noted under 5.5 below, should Members elect to support the continued funding of the post, the intention would be for the officer to work closely with Members to discuss local priorities, review progress, and agree the forward programme of active travel projects and interventions.

The below tables lay out an indicative programme of works for 2027/28 and 2028/29, along with estimated costs and potential funding sources.

Funding Sources

- ATIF = Active Travel Infrastructure Fund
- BIF = Bus Infrastructure Fund
- Capital = Active Travel Capital Budget
- RTIF = Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund
- SSEN = SSEN Transmission Skye Reinforcement Local Fund

Proposed Works 2027/28

With regards to 2027/28, for those projects marked as being taken forward through ATIF, officers will have to prepare applications for **submission in early January 2027**. **Members are asked to agree** that these should be taken forward, and some additional context for these is presented below the following table.

Financial Year	Project	Criterion	Cost	Funding Source
27/28	Skye Cycle Way: Phase 1 (Construction)	Integrated Transport Action Plan	£3,100,000	ATIF/SSEN
	Wentworth Street / Bayfield Road (Stage 0-2 Design)	Portree Active Travel Masterplan	£50,000	ATIF
	A87 High Quality Active Travel Route (Stage 2-4 Design)	Portree Active Travel Masterplan	£160,000	ATIF
	Additional Portree Masterplan and Raasay Priorities	Portree Active Travel Masterplan	£100,000	Capital
	Mobility Hub (Stage 0-2 Design)	Portree Active Travel Masterplan	£50,000	BIF/RTIF
		27/28 Potential Spend	**£3,460,000**	

Skye Cycle Way: Phase 1 (Construction)

The Skye Cycle Way project was initiated by the local community, working with Broadford and Strath Community Company. It aims to deliver a safe active travel route for all between the Skye Bridge and Broadford. Phase 1 of the project will deliver a 6.23km route from Kyleakin Roundabout to Ashaig Bridge.

The project is currently being taken forward by HITRANS through to final (RIBA Stage 4) design. Discussions are ongoing between The Highland Council and HITRANS with a view to the Council potentially taking this project forward through its Construction phase.



A87 High Quality Active Travel Route (Stage 3-4 Design)

Action 1 in the Portree Active Travel Masterplan is to develop a shared use walking, wheeling and cycling path adjacent to the A87, running for 2.4km from the Isle of Skye Candle Company/Las Cinema to Sluggans Wood. The path will provide a dedicated active travel facility for pupils travelling from residential areas of Portree-to-Portree High School and onward to Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh. The route will also encourage walking, wheeling and cycling to trip attractors such as the Las Cinema and Isle of Skye Candle Company Visitor Centre.

This project is currently being taken forward through initial (RIBA Stage 0-2 Design), with the final outputs from that phase being delivered in March 2027. It is proposed that, subject to the output of that phase, the Council should continue to progress this action through to its final design.



Wentworth Street / Bayfield Road (Stage 0-2 Design)

Action 8 in the Portree Active Travel Masterplan identifies a desire to create a pedestrian and cycle friendly environment on Wentworth Street and Bayfield Road. It proposes that pedestrianisation is delivered on both streets, restricting vehicle access and delivering public realm improvements.

It is proposed to apply for funding for the initial (RIBA Stage 0-2) design of this project. This piece of work would result in the production of a detailed options appraisal, concept designs, and business case to take the project forward.



Proposed Works 2028/29

This list remains indicative at this stage and full priorities for 2028/29 will be agreed between Members and the new post holder (should Members agree to fund this).

Financial Year	Project	Criterion	Cost	Funding Source
28/29	Broadford Hospital Path (Construction)	Community Priority	£180,000	ATIF
	Wentworth Street (Stage 2-4 Design)	Portree Active Travel Masterplan	£100,000	ATIF
	Additional Portree Masterplan and Raasay Priorities	Portree Active Travel Masterplan	£100,000	Capital
	Mobility Hub (Stage 2-4 Design)	Portree Active Travel Masterplan	£100,000	BIF/RTIF
	Skye Cycleway (Construction)	Integrated Transport Action Plan	£2,000,000	ATIF
		28/29 Potential Spend	**£2,980,000**	

5.4 **Structure Update – Integrated Transport Team**

On 19 October 2026, the Active Travel Project Officer (Skye) was appointed to the position of Senior Transport Officer (Active Travel and Wick PSO) on an acting-up basis until August 2027, with any extension beyond this date being subject to the availability of funding. The creation of this post is intended to provide additional support to the recently established Active Travel and Road Safety Manager role, which has a significantly expanded remit and increased strategic and operational responsibilities.

To ensure continuity in the delivery of active travel projects across Skye, an Authority to Recruit (ATR) has been submitted to fill the resulting vacancy for the Project Officer (Skye Active Travel) post. Recruitment to this position will commence following approval of the ATR through the Council's senior management approval process with the funding for the current post finishing at the end of March 2027. In the interim period Active Travel cover for Skye will be provided by officers within the Active Travel Team.

5.5 **Future Funding: Skye & Raasay Active Travel Post**

As Members are aware, the current funding arrangement for the Project Officer (Skye Active Travel) post is due to conclude on 31 March 2027. In order to maintain momentum in the development and delivery of active travel projects across Skye, Members are asked to support the continued funding of this post. The proposed structure for this is as follows:-

- 2027/28 HC08 post costs of £57,000 (inclusive of on-costs/travel etc) funded from members parking revenue/discretionary budgets.
- 2028/29 Active Travel Team to investigate building in the officer costs for year 2 into a future ATIF bid for Skye, funding will be subject to a successful funding outcome.

Should members choose the continuation of funding for the Skye Active Travel Post, going forward, we would welcome the opportunity for this officer to work closely with local Members through a structured programme of monthly engagement meetings.

These meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss local priorities, review progress, and agree the forward programme of active travel projects and interventions. The Active Travel Officer will provide regular monthly updates to Members on the status of agreed actions, project delivery, and emerging opportunities, ensuring that Members are fully informed and able to contribute to the development and prioritisation of active travel initiatives across Skye.

This approach will strengthen collaboration, improve transparency, and help ensure that investment is aligned with local needs and community aspirations.

To ensure continuity of delivery of Active Travel projects on Skye & Raasay**,** **Members are asked to agree this proposal** and to commit funding of £57,000 for 2027/28 to ensure continuation of the post.

Designation:	Assistant Chief Executive - Place
Date:	11 November 2026
Author:	David Swanson – Senior Transport Officer (Active Travel & Wick PSO), Lisa MacKellaich – Active Travel & Road Safety Manager
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	None