

Members' Library Service Request Form

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Document Title	Routes4Communities Report

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REPORT TO: Members' Library Service

MEETING DATE:

BY: Executive Director for Place

SUBJECT: Routes4Communities Report

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise elected members of the Routes4Communities study, which has assessed current active travel provision over the eastern sub-regional area of the climate evolution zone centred on Tranent.
- 1.2 The study continues the development of a strategic business case for active travel interventions and opportunities identified through the Sustainable Movement Plan 2020.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That elected members note the content of this Report and the ambition to seek further funding opportunities to progress the project through, for example, the Scottish Government's Active Travel Transformation Fund.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Routes4Communities Report was funded through the Council's Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes (CWSR) allocation from Transport Scotland. Stantec were appointed in early 2023 to develop the Stage 0-2 concept report in accordance with Places for Everyone guidance. Accordingly, the Report examined active travel infrastructure links connecting towns, villages, and connections between the detailed work which is ongoing in the Musselburgh area under the [Musselburgh Active Toun](#) programme, and the Cockenzie Link Road study.
- 3.2 Importantly, the study considerer connections to Blindwells development and the former open cast coal fields and economic development opportunities at the former Cockenzie power station site.

The area of interest encompasses the settlements of Tranent, Prestonpans, Longniddry, Ormiston and others and illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Geographic extend of the Routes4Communities Report

3.3 The agreed Objectives were:

- Improving Local Connections
- Connecting Communities
- Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth
- Reducing Emissions and Air Pollution
- Reducing Poverty and Inequality

3.4 Proposed active travel improvement interventions have been identified, appraised, costed and prioritised based on an objective multi-criteria assessment methodology.

3.5 A comprehensive review of the active travel network within the study area has been undertaken. In total over 100km of roads, paths and future connections have been assessed across the study area.

3.6 The outcome is a prioritised programme of active travel network improvements for the west-central area of East Lothian. The project deliverables are intended to be used to maximise the Council's chances of securing in-house and / or external funding to deliver the developed and technical design stages, construction, operation and on-going maintenance.

3.7 It is important to note that the costs contained in the report are high-level estimates only, which have been developed by applying industry-standard linear rates to the proposed extent of each intervention. This approach reflects the current stage of design maturity and is presented to allow comparative assessment and economic appraisal of interventions. Most of

the projects are currently unfunded. However, a list of potential external funding sources forms Appendix C of the report.

3.8 This Report, together with a number of other investigative studies including work on [Musselburgh Active Town](#), the [Cross East Lothian Active Freeway](#), and locally led initiatives, will feed into the East Lothian Active Travel Infrastructure Strategy due to be published in 2024.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 These proposals will contribute towards fulfilling the East Lothian Plan 2017-2027, in particular:

- Outcome 2.1: “East Lothian has strong resilient communities where people respect and support each other” and;
- action (k) “we will make our roads safer, including a focus on making journeys safer for cyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The subject of this report will contribute positively to the wellbeing of the community and will not have a detrimental impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial – All costs involved in connection with consultation, advertising, and implementation of this update can be accommodated within agreed budgets.

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other – None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

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