

ANGUS COUNCIL

GRANT SUB COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 4 JUNE 2024

PEOPLE AND PLACE LOCAL AUTHORITY DIRECT AWARD – 2024/25

REPORT BY GRAEME DAILLY, DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. ABSTRACT

This report updates the Sub-Committee on the change of active travel behaviour change funding awarded to Angus Council by Transport Scotland and the award amount for this year. It also includes details on the current service level agreement between the Council and Angus Cycle Hub and the proposed use for this year's award.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan:

ECONOMY

- An inclusive and sustainable economy

PEOPLE

- We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities.
- We will work collaboratively for and with our citizens to keep them safe in resilient communities.

PLACE

- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment
- A reduced carbon footprint
- Safe, secure, vibrant, and sustainable communities

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:

- accept the offer of Scottish Government funding of £91,355 from the Local Authority Direct Award Fund;
- notes the change in active travel behaviour change funding for 2024/25;
- acknowledges the current service level agreement with the Angus Cycle Hub; and
- approves the allocation of the £91,355 from the Local Authority Direct Award Fund to Angus Cycle Hub as detailed in this Report.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Smarter Choices Smarter Places was rolled out nationally in 2015/16 and looked to compliment the typical 'hard measures' which involved the creation of new walking and cycling infrastructure. The Scottish Government recognised the need for behaviour change projects to achieve the modal shift and help further encourage the use of more sustainable means of travel. Paths for All administered the programme and local authorities would apply to them for funding for any behaviour change projects that they were looking to implement that respective financial year. Angus Council has previously received £107k in 2022/23 and £104k in 2023/24.

4.2 A Service Level Agreement (SLA) is currently in place with the Angus Cycle Hub. The most recent version dated June 2018, and this sets out the collection of bikes from recycling centres by the hub which are then refurbished and made available for communities across Angus. To further develop the community engagement offering, funding from the Council's Smarter Choices Smarter Places award has been

allocated in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. This support allows Angus Cycle Hub to provide a variety of active travel and on the ground community focused initiatives across Angus and compliments a range of infrastructure projects. Such initiatives have included an Active Travel Festival that coincided with the Arbroath A Place for Everyone Street trial in 2021. Any funding provided by the council is then matched by Angus Cycle Hub to further extend their reach. Recent years have seen up to £50k from the council's Smarter Choices Smarter Places award being allocated to Angus Cycle Hub who then match this with £50k of funding from a separate Paths for All pot. This then allows for further outreach and a range of behaviour change activities to take place (**see Appendix 1**). With Paths for All receiving no further behaviour change funding for 2024/25 these funds are no longer available to Angus Cycle Hub and other similar organisations.

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 For the 2024/25 financial year, a new regional delivery model for behaviour change has been introduced. Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) have received funding directly to coordinate delivery (supported by delivery partners) of a People and Place Programme. This programme has identified clusters across Angus where the investment will be. These clusters are Montrose, Arbroath and Monifieth. The locations have been chosen by Tactran (RTP) due to the investment in active travel infrastructure and the numbers of employment centres and schools that they are looking to work with. Tactran have appointed Cycling Scotland and Paths for All to administer the funds and they will partner with Angus Cycle Hub.
- 5.2 Two funds have been established for 2024/25 - the **Local Authority Direct Award Fund**, which replaces Smarter Choices Smarter Places and is solely for local authorities and the **Community Projects Transition Fund** which aims to support local community projects. As part of this year's process, Angus Council had to submit project proposals direct to Transport Scotland for their People and Place Local Authority Direct Award. A total of £200k was applied for with confirmation that Angus Council has been awarded £91,355 received on 16.4.24.

6. PROPOSALS

- 6.1 Due to the sudden change of the funding landscape and a lack of available funding from Cycling Scotland, Smarter Choices Smarter Places Local Authority and Open Funds, Angus Cycle Hub now requires assistance to continue a similar level of service provision across Angus. Additional support from Angus Council would allow this to happen while providing an opportunity for engagement in the communities that have been overlooked in the cluster-based approach being delivered through Tactran funding. It is proposed that Angus Council's full grant award of £91,355 be utilised to continue delivering active travel behaviour change projects detailed in **Appendix 2**. Key performance indicators and planned monitoring can be seen in **Appendix 3**.
- 6.2 It is also proposed that the current Service Level Agreement with the Angus Cycle Hub is reviewed to ensure it suitable and sufficient and reflects the services being delivered and monitoring of key performance indicators as detailed in this report. The Roads and Transportation team will liaise with Legal colleagues on the review and sign-off of the Service Level agreement.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications to Angus Council, as it is proposed that external grant funding be awarded to the Angus Cycle Hub. The funding is intended to be awarded directly to the Hub, considering that they are currently the sole supplier capable of delivering the services outlined in the Angus Council area. This funding is urgently required to ensure the Hub can continue providing the services detailed in this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 There are no direct risks arising from the recommendations of this Report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are positive environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The proposed continuation and further development of the work carried out by the Angus Cycle Hub, as detailed in this report, will contribute towards the adoption of more active travel in Angus.

10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is contained in **Appendix 4**.

11. CONSULTATION

- 11.1 The Director of Finance and the Director of Legal, Governance and Change have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Angus Cycle Hub 2023-2024 Project Funding and Outcomes

Appendix 2 – Proposal for 2024-2025 Funded Projects – Continued Support for Angus Cycle Hub

Appendix 3 – Key Performance Indicators and monitoring

Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment

Angus Cycle Hub 2023-2024 Project Funding and Outcomes

Some of the overarching outcomes from the Angus Cycle Hub project have been derived from a number of key active travel policies which include Angus Council's Sustainable transport and SECAP policies, CAPS and NetZero.

Through provision of £50,000 of SCSP Local Authority funding, £50,000 of SCSP Open Funding, and match funding from Angus Cycle Hub the project delivered the following schemes to support Active Travel, behaviour change, modal shift from car use and promotion of sustainable transport in the Angus area:

- Running of and provision of services and public information from the Angus Cycle Hub project building
- Region wide Bike recycling and reuse programme with support for provision of Transport Scotland's "Free Access To Bikes" scheme in Angus
- Enhanced support for the delivery of Bikeability Cycle Training in 45 schools
- Events and marketing to compliment the development of the A92 "Arbroath, A Place For Everyone", Active Travel infrastructure project
- Consultation work including development of the 2023 ARBROATH ACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL REPORT
- Development work to support the roll out of Bike Buses for Schools in Arbroath
- Development work for the implementation of increased Cycle Storage in communities in the Arbroath area
- HubClub – region wide cycling incentive scheme
- Dr Bike services and events
- Community Active Travel engagement events
- Bike Maintenance classes
- Cycling Scotland Cycle Training Award Provision
- Cycling Scotland Cycle Friendly Schools/Campus award provision
- E-Bike Rental
- Subsidised public bike maintenance service

2023 Project Reporting & Data

Snapshot of engagement and impact across project strands in Angus for the period January 2023 – December 2023:

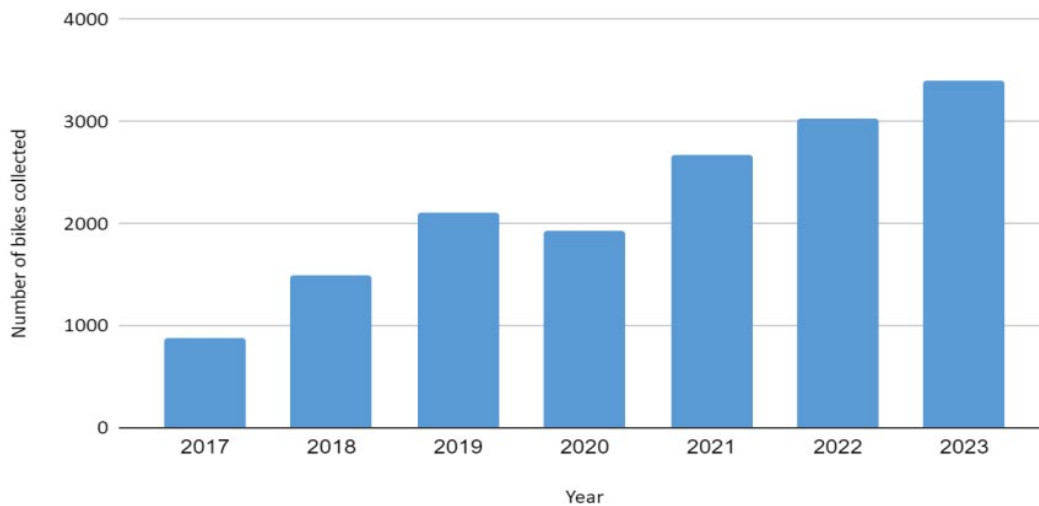
- 27,000 footfall at Angus Cycle Hub, Arbroath
- 3073 bikes collected from 5 Household Waste Recycling Centres across Angus
- 38,412 kg of bike waste collected
- 312 recycled Bikes sold at low cost through ACH retail outlet
- 447 Bike packages including helmets, lights and locks delivered free of charge to young people through the "Access to Bikes Scheme"
- 109 Bike packages including helmets, lights and locks delivered free of charge to adults and marginalised people through SCSP Open funding
- 11.2 tons of bikes recycled back into the community
- 238 tons equivalent CO₂e savings from recycling and circular economy projects
- 1211 hrs of volunteer time dedicated to recycling of bikes
- Delivery of Bikeability Cycle Training Levels 1,2 and 3 to 1572 pupils in 45 schools across the region
- 161,000km cycling recorded via HubClub region wide cycling incentive scheme
- 27.6 tons of recorded CO₂e savings via modal shift to cycling
- 173 active members and cyclists taking part in HubClub incentive scheme claiming 22 discount reward incentives.
- 17 social/led/confidence building rides
- 738 community Bikes serviced and repaired via SCSP funding
- 43 hires of pedal Bikes from the Angus Cycle Hub Bike Library
- 43 hires of E-Bikes from the Angus Cycle Hub Bike Library
- 4 various public Bike Maintenance classes
- 12 Community Active Travel events including a mini festival, Dr Bikes and Cycle Training

Proposal for 2024-2025 Funded Projects – Continued Support for Angus Cycle Hub

Through funding provided by Angus Council in 2023, CycleHub.Org continued to provide a variety of public facing services from the Active Travel Hub at Market Place, Arbroath. The Angus Cycle Hub provides a focal point for cycling and active travel in Angus and attracts over 27,000 visitors per year (verified by footfall counters). The Hub provides a Recycled Bike Shop, Bike Hire, Bike Servicing, Cycle Training, Learning Opportunities and Active Travel information. It is also our main base of operations for our Bike recycling programme alongside our warehousing based in Forfar. The Hub is open to the general public 5 days a week.

Bike Recycling Programme

Growth of Bikes From Household Waste Recycling Centres in Angus



Angus Cycle Hub's Bike Recycling programme is an intrinsic part of active travel project delivery in Angus which provides free and low-cost access to bikes to communities in Angus and supports the uptake of sustainable transport alternatives. The project requires a considerable amount of resources and staffing to execute year on year. In 2023 the team of 6 dedicated staff with support from 20 volunteers helped recycle and deliver 989 bikes back into local use, via Angus Council Funding. The scheme is further supported by "Access To Bikes Funding" supplied by Cycling Scotland which has helped deliver an additional 1900 free bikes and support packages to young people in Angus and Dundee in 2022-2023. Through our SLA with Angus Council the hub collected unwanted bikes from 5 Household Waste Recycling Centres which are then uplifted and brought back to two warehouses based in Arbroath and Forfar. Bikes are then triaged for suitability with waste materials including scrap metal and rubber/tyres distributed to other agencies for recycling into other materials. The remaining bikes are then stored ready for processing and pre delivery inspection checks (PDI) by our team of mechanics and volunteers. Where possible recycled parts from donor bikes are used to refurbish bikes to BSI standards and new parts are fitted where required. PDI ready and refurbished bikes are then stored awaiting distribution to the shop or onward distribution to other projects which support communities to access bikes. These include the ReCycles Project, Scottish Government backed "Access to Bikes" scheme and Adult Access to Bikes scheme. The hub currently works with over 40 referral agencies, including schools, council and 3rd sector agencies who can nominate someone to receive a bike through this scheme for free. Development officers then work with the person referred to ensure they receive the correct bike for their needs. This is then delivered to their door along with a support package including Helmet, Light, Lock and access to cycle training as required. By providing low cost and free access to bikes with wrap around support for communities the hub is:

- Raising capacity for cycling in Angus
- Utilising waste that would have otherwise been discarded into a circular economy model
- Promoting inclusive cycling
- Working with schools and young people to increase cycling activity
- Working with business to encourage cycling activity and reduction in car use
- Providing free and low-cost access to bikes and promoting sustainable transport and Active Travel in Angus

In 2024-2025 Angus Cycle Hub looks to deliver:

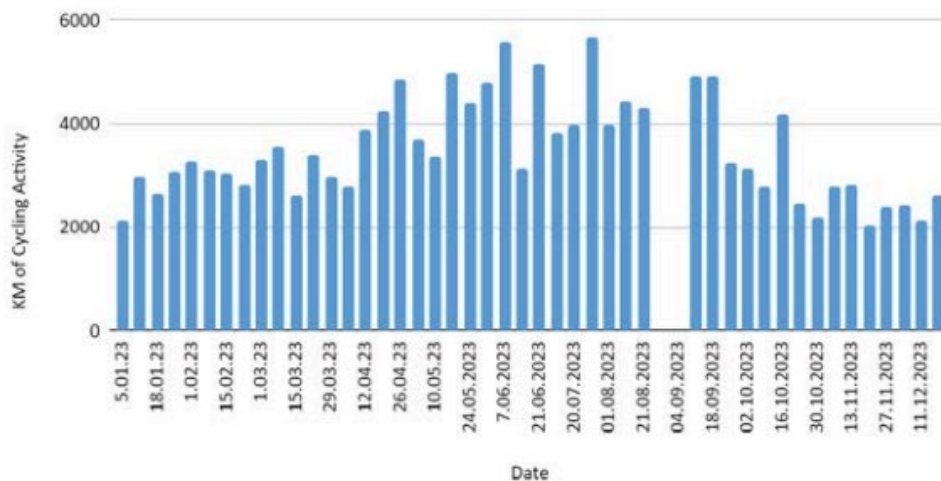
- Collection of triage of approximately 3000 bikes from HWRC's
- Staffing and continued provision of facilities and warehousing for the project
- Distribution of approximately 300 bikes via low-cost sales through the shop

Angus HubClub Cycling Incentive Scheme

In 2021 the hub developed a new Angus specific cycling incentive scheme and club via SCSP Local Authority funding to help monitor levels of cycling activity and promote behaviour change from car use on a region wide basis. The “HubClub” programme encourages Angus residents to cycle more via an incentive scheme and gathers intelligence on how participants are using their bikes in the Angus region. The club uses a membership model and utilises the Strava app to gather data. Members can claim rewards and free bike servicing at regular intervals when they record their cycling activity using the Strava app. We upsell the HubClub scheme through our store and projects. Customers who receive recycled bikes are encouraged to use the scheme to incentivise them to cycle. Participants can also access cycle training, bike maintenance classes and social rides to provide wrap around support and ensure they continue to engage with everyday cycling.

The HubClub gives Angus residents several benefits including free bike servicing (at recommended intervals for 1 year when they record their rides on our Strava Club), free safety checks, free Bronze level services at 250 miles worth £50, and free Silver level services at 600 miles worth £80. The membership also includes 10% members discount in store and cafe; exclusive Strava club membership; free cycle training and access to social rides and support; and free bike maintenance classes. Both an online social media campaign and print campaign were run as well as promotion through Strava itself to recruit people onto the scheme.

HubClub Cycling Incentive Scheme - Weekly Recorded Cycling Activity in Angus for 2023



Between January 2023 and December 2023, the scheme has grown to have 173 active members who have recorded 161,106 km of cycling in the Angus area. This activity is equivalent to a saving of 27.6 tons of CO₂e through reductions from car use in the Angus area.

Planned HubClub activity for 2024-2025 funding

For the 2024-25 funded programme the hub would like to continue to grow the scheme as the levels of recorded cycling have far exceeded the initial amounts that they were hoping for. Further exploration is planned to look at the possibility of growing the programme to tailor the incentives for workplaces as well as the general public. Membership is anticipated to grow but will not be as rapid if historic members do not renew their membership. Plans to grow the scheme to approximately 250 members and workplaces and 200,000km of recorded cycling activity for this year. Monitoring the impact of the scheme via travel surveys of participants to help gather data to further support future active travel projects and also monitor CO₂e reduction as a result of modal shift to cycle use.

Provision of Free Cycle Servicing and Repairs

The workshop in Arbroath is open 5 days a week and provides low-cost servicing and repairs to 1156 people in 2023. The workshop also benefited from the Cycling UK funded, Scottish Cycle Repair Scheme in 2023 which provided free £50 individual bike servicing vouchers to communities to enable them to continue to cycle and use sustainable transport. Angus Cycle Hub saw huge demand for this service in 2023 and the scheme increased both footfall and engagement, however due to withdrawal of funding from Transport Scotland we are unable to provide this through Cycling UK in 2024. A new regional free bike servicing incentive scheme through the funding supplied by Angus Council is proposed and plans to offer x200 Free £50 Bike servicing vouchers throughout the year in 2024 to capitalise on the project work completed in 2023.

Proposed Planned Key Performance Indicators for 2024 - 2025

The hub plan to continue to deliver similar levels of support from Angus Cycle Hub with continued financial assistance from Angus Council and a range of partners.

- Support for continued running of the Angus Cycle Hub venue which has a recorded footfall of over 27,000 visitors per year.
- Continued support of the Bike Recycling Scheme in Angus and distribution of approximately 300 refurbished bikes via low-cost sales through our retail store.
- Volunteer support for over 20 volunteers who contribute over 1200 hours of time to projects in Angus.
- Provision of a Free Bike servicing and repairs scheme for Angus residents designed to support x200 people to continue to cycle.
- Minimum of x6 Bike Maintenance classes for the general public to encourage cycling self-sustainability.
- Provision of a better and more affordable online system for Bike Hire/lease in Angus and incorporation of a range of bikes and adaptive bikes into this to ensure marginalised communities are catered for and hire to approximately x100 participants in the first year.
- Continued support for the HubClub Cycling incentive scheme in Angus to record modal shift from car use and cycling in Angus of 7pprox.. 200,000km of cycling activity and increase to over 200 members through events and activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Angus Cycle Hub will ensure that the following data sets will be recorded to gauge the project's success: -

- Recording of footfall and visitor numbers at Angus Cycle Hub
- Number of Bikes collected and recycled/refurbished and put back into the local community
- C02e reduction from recycling initiatives
- Number of volunteer hours contributed to the project and attributed cost
- Number of People who have received free bike servicing
- Number of Bike Maintenance classes delivered and number of participants
- Number of Bike Hires and participants using the Bike Hire/lease scheme.
- Number of participants and members taking part in the Angus HubClub Cycling Incentive Scheme and recorded levels of cycling and associated C02e savings.
- Active Travel survey of participants to help gauge user habits and modal shift from car use, to better inform the local authority strategy, in line with the Transport Scotland M&E framework



Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

Step 1

Name of Proposal (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions): **PEOPLE AND PLACE LOCAL AUTHORITY DIRECT AWARD – 2024/25**

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment Yes/No

(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people Yes/No

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics
Yes/No

(iii) It is for information only Yes/No

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year Yes/No

(v) It is technical Yes/No

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

(B) If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment Yes/No

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Yes/No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service: **Infrastructure and Environment/Roads & Transportation**

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

To highlight the changes in active travel behaviour change funding and the opportunity for Angus Council to support Angus Cycle Hub through the council's allocation for 2024-25.

(iv)Is it a new proposal? **Yes/No** Please indicate **OR**

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? **Yes/No** Please indicate

Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees **Yes/No**

Job Applicants **Yes/No**

Service users **Yes/No**

Members of the public **Yes/No**

Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:

Internal data (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

Not applicable.

Internal consultation (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

Not applicable.

External data (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

External consultation (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

Other (general information as appropriate).

Step 6: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? **Yes/No**

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups? Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.

Age

Impact Positive. The Angus Cycle Hub works with a wide demographic from primary school pupils through to older age groups. Bikeability training in 45 schools, active travel workshops and bike bus programmes allow opportunities to work with schools while active travel events and providing bikes for carers has more of a focus on older groups.

Disability

Impact Positive. The work that Angus Cycle Hub involves people that have physical and/or mental health issues, whom are currently most often excluded. Support will allow further engagement with such groups.

Gender reassignment

Impact Neutral

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact Neutral

Pregnancy/Maternity

Impact Neutral

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

Impact Neutral

Religion or Belief

Impact Neutral

Sex

Impact Positive. Angus Cycle Hub delivers a number of women only rides that are designed to inspire greater confidence while out cycling.

Sexual orientation

Impact Neutral

Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?

Not applicable.

Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.

Not applicable.

Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

The proposal identifies the positive impact to advance equality of opportunity to transport through free access to bikes, maintenance and other schemes delivered by Angus Cycle Hub. These all help facilitate modal shift and promote sustainable transport across Angus.

Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?

The proposal identifies the positive impact to advance equality of opportunity to transport through free access to bikes, maintenance and other schemes delivered by Angus Cycle Hub. These all help facilitate modal shift and promote sustainable transport across Angus.

Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?

Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.

Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings? Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.

Low and/or No Wealth (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future).

Impact

Material Deprivation (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

Impact

Area Deprivation (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport)).

Impact

Socio-economic Background i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

Impact

Other – please indicate

Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.

Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Paul Downie, Active Travel Officer, 16 May 2024

Reviewed by: Craig Hudson, Manager – Traffic and Transport, 16 May 2024

Approved by: Graeme Dailly, Director of Infrastructure and Environment, 29 May 2024

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.
