

# Sustrans Scotland Active Cities and Towns

Financial Year 2020/21 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
(Delivery Year 2019/20 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)

---

24 July 2020

To find out more, please contact: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

**Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle.**

We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

Join us on our journey.

[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 326550 (England and Wales) SC039263 (Scotland).



# Contents

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Introduction                 | 1  |
| Street Design                | 2  |
| Places for Everyone          | 6  |
| National Cycle Network       | 11 |
| Active Travel Hubs           | 15 |
| Communities                  | 19 |
| Education and Young People   | 22 |
| I-Bike                       | 26 |
| Workplaces                   | 28 |
| Strategic Partnerships       | 34 |
| Communication                | 37 |
| Research and Monitoring Unit | 40 |
| Budget Summary               | 43 |

# Introduction

This report provides a summary to Transport Scotland (TS) of the Sustrans Scotland 'Active Cities and Towns' Portfolio for the 2019/20 delivery year, covering activities from April through June 2020.

The activities described here are those outlined in Sustrans Scotland's Funding Bid to Transport Scotland dated 24 April 2019, as funded by two grant offer letters from Transport Scotland dated 29 May 2019, and subsequently amended in grant variation letters.

The Sustrans Scotland Active Cities and Towns Portfolio includes a number of specific programmes, grant funded by TS as follows:

| <b>Infrastructure &amp; Place Making</b> | <b>Behaviour Change / Advocacy</b> |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Street Design                            | Active Travel Hubs                 |
| Places for Everyone                      | Active Travel Communities          |
| National Cycle Network                   | Education & Young People           |
|  | I Bike                             |
|  | Active Travel Workplaces           |
|  | Strategic Partnerships             |
|  | Active Travel Communications       |

An update is provided for each programme area, including progress against key milestones (as set out in the grant offer letters), and reflections on lessons learned in the previous quarter of delivery. A Portfolio Budget Summary is also provided.

This report is submitted for information but also as part of an iterative process to ensure that TS receives the information it needs. Feedback from colleagues in TS is therefore welcomed.

# Street Design

## Project Summary

Street Design is an award winning co-design service that delivers spaces people need to live, work and play in. It inspires others across Scotland by empowering communities, implementing high quality design and delivering behaviour change interventions. Our work demonstrably improves road safety and delivers more walking and cycling.

## 2019/20 Objectives

- With each project we:
  - + Empower local people as decision-makers;
  - + Deliver a Concept Design or 'Pocket Place' to prioritise people over traffic; and
  - + Implement complimentary behaviour change interventions.
- We inspire and challenge:
  - + Local authorities and consultants to aim higher;
  - + Communities to re-think the priorities for their spaces; and
  - + Professional bodies to follow our lead.
- We change Scotland by:
  - + Setting the example for best practice in co-design with communities;
  - + Promoting awareness by delivering professional papers and focussed media content; and
  - + Driving a programme of technical research, guidance and training to embed learning in the industry (new for 2019/20).

Project Milestones April through June 2020

| Street Design  |   | April | May | June  |
|--|---|-------|-----|-------|
| Neighbourhoods and High Streets  | Concept Designs Completed: Hurlford (amended milestone) |       |     | Amber |
| SD Hurlford: Engagement session cancelled, concept design completed July 2020. Completion of the Handover Report delayed till mid-August 2021. Project partner (East Ayrshire Council) successful application to PfE funding to conduct on site traffic analysis pursuant to a follow up application for funding for Developed Design and Technical Design stages. |   |       |     |       |
| Neighbourhoods and High Streets  | Concept Designs Completed: Wick (amended milestone)     |       |     | Amber |
| The completion date for this milestone has been amended to October 2020 due to Covid-19. It will be reported on in the appropriate quarter.  |   |       |     |       |
| Technical Research Guidance and Training   | Delivery Of A Minimum Of 10 Days External Training      |       |     | Amber |
| <p>Research: Delivery delayed due to Covid-19, existing commitments due to be completed in August and will be reported in the appropriate quarter.</p> <p>Guidance: Current commitments have been delivered.</p> <p>Training: Delivery delayed due to Covid-19, and an amended programme will be delivered.</p>  |   |       |     |       |
| Pocket Places  | Installation Complete                                   |       |     | Amber |
| The completion date for this milestone has been amended to Autumn 2020 due to Covid-19, subject to continued review. It will be reported on in the appropriate quarter.  |   |       |     |       |
| Street Design Project Outcome Report   |   |       |     | Amber |
| Completion of post works monitoring delayed due to COVID19 restrictions and resulting impact on the completion of the 1920 Street Design and Pocket Places projects. Outcome Report delayed till December 2020.  |   |       |     |       |

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

Street Design: Despite COVID19 restrictions both Street Design Project partners (The Highland Council and East Ayrshire Council) have commenced or are signifying intention to bid to PfE to progress both projects through to Developed Design and Technical Design stages.

## Impact / Significant Achievements

Pocket Places Kilbarchan: Working through social media and virtual classrooms our Pocket Places team brought together young families with an artist who is now working on a new active travel themed artwork to transform the walk, scoot, cycle or wheel to school.

<https://www.facebook.com/793654384078444/videos/719069998858810>

Street Design Hurlford: Latest design proposals:

<https://hurlfordproposals.commonplace.is/overview>

Street Design: Wick



Design output: Visualisation of Wick High Street post construction to be used in final public engagement event (online) September 2020.

## Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery

Spaces for People support: Since April the majority of the Co Design team have switched to providing ongoing support and skills leadership for the Spaces for People programme. This has enabled our team to demonstrate our expertise in:

- Planning and facilitating short term wide impact online engagement and data collection
- Demonstrate our proven expertise in the design of short term measures to facilitate active travel alongside social distancing.

Public engagement and design development: Engagement events to showcase our design work to complete our Street Design projects in Wick and Hurlford has been cancelled or switched to online platforms. Engagement and implementation events planned to complete the Pocket Places events have also had to be postponed.

Despite these setbacks we've managed to:

- Maintain positive support from partners, stakeholders and the local media for the Street Design Concept Designs and sustain a high level of design ambition.
- Work up the 19/20 Pocket Places design deliverables to a stage to allow for implementation in late 2020.
- Directly support our project partners to progress design development through PfE.

Street Design Application Process: Covid19 restrictions have delayed the completion of this year's Street Design Application process. We now have identified two projects that are likely to commence with staggered start dates (approx. Autumn 2020 & Jan 2021). The successful applicants will be notified early August 2020.

# Places for Everyone

## Project Summary

A single, unified, grant programme that rebalances Scotland's streets in favour of walking, cycling, and liveability. Grants are offered to partners for the design and construction of people prioritised infrastructure, such as paving, cycle-ways, road-crossings, and greening. Professional support is provided to partners to ensure that the highest quality infrastructure is delivered, enabling more walking and cycling regardless of location or ability. Previously Community Links, Community Links PLUS, and Safer Routes to School - the fund now simplifies the offer for partners.

## 2019/20 Objectives

- Increase number of people and trips for walking, cycling and wheeling for everyday journeys.
- Ensure communities are proactively engaged in project development and decision making.
- Improve accessibility for people with protected characteristics.
- Improve the quality of place and where possible increase the quality and quantity of green infrastructure.
- Provide dedicated, safe spaces for people to walk, cycle and wheel through, adhering to Sustrans Scotland's Design Principles.

## Project Milestones April through June 2020

| Places For Everyone   | April | May | June |
|---|-------|-----|------|
| First Round Of Applications Awarded Across Whole Programme Categories 1-4 (Dates Subject To CabSec Availability)  |       |     | Red  |
| <p>A first round of 22 new 20/21 projects totalling £3,984,691 were ready to award as of the 14<sup>th</sup> April and were awarded on 2<sup>nd</sup> July following confirmation of 20/21 grant funding. A second round of projects with a total value of £4.4million is currently being considered. Projects continuing from 19/20 into 20/21 were for the first time given the opportunity to submit a short update form with a revised project timeline and 20/21 grant request. Unfortunately, the deadline for submission of these forms fell on 20<sup>th</sup> March just as the Covid-19 lockdown began, the impact of which has been to delay both the submission and processing of these forms with partner and Sustrans staff redeployed to Spaces for People. The process of confirming funding for all continuing projects is currently underway and expected to be complete by the end of July. The Category 4 Panel has been postponed; therefore, no multi-year funding has been awarded to Category 4 projects as intended.</p> |       |     |      |

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

The development of Spaces for People has provided many lessons for Places for Everyone. Through SfP, the team have worked with Local Authorities to develop new ways of prioritising projects and planning networks. These new strategic ways of working are informing ideas on how to develop Places for Everyone's impact further. It has allowed us to re-assess the skills of the team and how they might be better deployed to support the partner more directly on some areas, but less so on others. Lessons have also been learned in terms of streamlining the administration of the programme.

## Impact / Significant Achievements

Orkney Island Council (OIC) requested Sustrans support on the design of a masterplan in Kirkwall to maximise the potential walking, wheeling and cycling opportunities within the development from an early stage, the PfE team have been working closely with OIC on this throughout this quarter.

Construction of the community led Cycle Friendly Kingussie project is scheduled to begin construction in August following the appointment of a contractor this quarter.

The Hurlford Street Design project was successfully integrated into PfE for further development through stages 3-4.

The partnership between the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and Sustrans continues to be successful and is ultimately leading to high quality designs and adding value to projects.

The Morrison Street project has progressed well in the last quarter during which the project scope has substantially increased. The project aims have been clearly defined and aligned through close partnership between CEC and Sustrans. Temporary cycle segregation and widened footways will be implemented along the corridor and inform the design of permanent measures.

The West Edinburgh Link project has progressed through Q1. The eagerly anticipated Low Traffic Neighbourhood proposals for the 'northern' section in East Craigs are now to be delivered through CEC's Spaces for People programme, implementation is scheduled for late July-early August subject to CEC Board approval.

Our relationship with Zetrans and Shetlands Islands Council (SIC) has flourished over the past two quarters. We have supported intensive engagement including a high profile elected members seminar on active travel. Our engagement work was adapted in light of C-19 to include some innovative engagement with families and young people and an island wide survey.

Sustrans also ran a cross departmental seminar with roads engineers, planners, transport planners, road safety and NHS public health officers. The new Active Travel Strategy has now been finalised and SIC and Zetrans are now undertaking a full transport strategy refresh as a result of C-19.

We have been working intensively with Scottish Borders Council following significant investment in flood defence works. We have worked collaboratively on a number of initiatives, supporting their community engagement and developing designs for neighbourhood links along the river and high street. If awarded future funding, Hawick looks set to experience a step change in quality walking and cycling provision through this scheme, and this is in large part due to the effectiveness of the delivery team and engagement that Sustrans has supported.

A number of Category 3 & 4 projects were due to begin construction in the first quarter, a summary of these is in the following section.

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/news/next\\_stages\\_of\\_arbroath\\_places\\_for\\_everyone\\_programme\\_given\\_approval](https://www.angus.gov.uk/news/next_stages_of_arbroath_places_for_everyone_programme_given_approval)

<https://www.scottishconstructionnow.com/article/building-briefs-may-6th-1>

<https://www.scottishconstructionnow.com/article/main-works-contractor-appointed-to-hawick-flood-protection-scheme>

<https://projectscot.com/2020/05/main-works-contractor-appointed-for-88m-hawick-flood-protection-scheme/>

<https://www.fifetoday.co.uk/news/people/funding-new-path-between-st-andrews-and-east-neuk-2881095>

<https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/18576082.glasgows-spaces-people-cycle-routes-pushing-boundaries/>

<https://www.fifetoday.co.uk/news/politics/council/pop-cycle-routes-and-widened-footpaths-among-plans-safe-travel-fife-towns-and-villages-2906155>

## Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery

A new funding and support programme called Spaces for People (SfP) was established in response to Covid-19. A cross-team approach brought in skills from across Sustrans to assess, award and support partners in delivering temporary interventions. Spaces for People was set up quickly and had to evolve due to unpredicted level of demand from partners. It is expected that this approach of implementing temporary measures prior to permanent infrastructure will become a lasting legacy of Spaces for People and a number of projects may become permanent.

Over the last quarter, SfP became the priority and the team redirected their efforts to focus on supporting partners to design and implement temporary measures.

Every local authority that applied was awarded funding and we are also supporting NHS estates and Regional Transport Partnerships. So far, we are delivering over 60 individual support work packages for partners through SfP. These range from creating and managing local authority wide commonplace sites to preparing designs.

Many PfE projects were delayed, especially those at construction stage. Partners had difficulty reprogramming projects with so many uncertainties. However, as lockdown eases, many projects have resumed.

It is worth noting that some partners included existing PfE projects in their SfP applications. For example, City of Edinburgh Council targeted streets like Lothian Road and Morrison Street for temporary interventions while permanent infrastructure is being designed through PfE.

The infrastructure team is now balancing the needs of PfE against SfP with the latter taking priority in most cases. However, it is expected that Spaces for People will start to wind down as more interventions are installed and the focus will shift back to Places for Everyone.

### **Construction Milestones moved to 20/21**

- ICATN's Raigmore Active Travel Link
- Scottish Canals Stockingfield Bridge
- Connecting Woodside's Garscube Road
- Scottish Canals Claypits Nature Reserve link

# National Cycle Network

## Project Summary

The National Cycle Network is a UK-wide network of traffic-free paths for everyone, connecting cities, towns and countryside and loved by the communities they serve. Our vision is to provide accessible, traffic-free, paths for everyone and to realise the active travel and economic potential of the NCN.

## 2019/20 Objectives

- Deliver a world class, safe and accessible active travel network in Scotland by creating traffic-free routes that communities love, enjoy and use to travel actively for more of their everyday journeys.
- Focus interventions on high demand, urban and suburban areas to deliver greatest uplift in functional journeys. Use NCN improvement projects as a place to pioneer best practice and act as exemplars for the wider active travel network in Scotland.

## Project Milestones April through June 2020

| National Cycle Network  |                                | April | May | June |
|---|--------------------------------|-------|-----|------|
| Development Of Greenways Concept and Plan   | Develop Impact Monitoring Plan | Green |     |      |
| <p>The monitoring and evaluation plan for the 20/21 phase of the project has been developed and agreed by the project steering group. Where appropriate, external consultants or Sustrans research and monitoring team have been commissioned to undertake the agreed plan. Baseline monitoring is currently underway at the three pilot sites.</p> |                                |       |     |      |

| National Cycle Network   |                                  | April | May   | June  |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Development Of Greenways Concept and Plan  | Pilot Project Programme Creation |       | Green |       |
| <p>The three pilot sites were selected at the programme steering group meeting on the 16th March. Further to this, programme plans have been developed and discussed at the 23<sup>rd</sup> June steering group. The first pilot project goes live w/c 13<sup>th</sup> July and the second and third will follow at the end of July.</p> |                                  |       |       |       |
| Complete Design/Feasibility and Construction Projects  |                                  |       |       | Amber |
| <p>Due to the Covid 19 lockdown, all construction projects ceased during March. Desk based feasibility and design works have continued throughout this period. Construction work is now recommencing and delayed projects will be delivered going forward and reported in the appropriate quarter.</p>                                   |                                  |       |       |       |
| Complete Quiet Roads Scoring Report  |                                  |       |       | Green |
| <p>The quiet roads work, undertaken by Sustrans D&amp;E team, is now complete. The work has produced a rigorous literature review, evidence based review and a draft quietways toolkit. The intention is to trial a number of pilot quietways projects during the 20/21 year.</p>  |                                  |       |       |       |
| Commission Outline Feasibility Studies On NWCN Project   |                                  |       |       | Green |
| <p>Initial phase of feasibility and design work for Taynult to Dalmally section of the Oban Tyndrum route (part of the wider Cross Scotland Pilgrims Way route) has now been commissioned to consultants via Sustrans Design and Engineering team.</p>   |                                  |       |       |       |

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

Covid 19 lockdown has lead us to consider and investigate options for remotely engaging communities and using methods such as Commonplace. We are currently trialling Maptionnaire software (<https://maptionnaire.com/>) for the Bo'ness pilot greenways project. See <http://bonessforeshore.co.uk/> for more details. The success of these methods will be evaluated during the programme and hopefully rolled out for other projects. Initial work on the

Scottish Greenways programme has underlined the need to reach out to and ensure hard to reach communities are engaged and have opportunities to help shape projects at an early stage to ensure successful outcomes.

## Impact / Significant Achievements

During the period of lockdown we have been able to accelerate the 2020/21 work to develop the Thirty Year Network Plan and to create and populate a project pipeline. The information from both of these documents has been used to inform the submission to STPR2.

The project pipeline will allow us to ensure all future project delivery strongly aligns with and delivers on Scottish Government Active Travel Framework outcomes. The pipeline will allow to present the first proposed 20/21 outputs to Transport Scotland over the coming months.

Network Development ran a joint media campaign with the NFU Scotland urging understanding between all road users along rural sections of the NCN as lockdown eased, resulting in targeted coverage in the Press and Journal, Highland News, Inverness Courier, [Northern Scot \(link\)](#), Forres Gazette, Dumfries Courier, Grampian Gazette and Scottish Farmer magazine.

As lockdown restrictions eased, National Cycle Network route suggestions were submitted and featured in articles within the Scottish Mail on Sunday, [Inverness Courier \(link\)](#), [Daily Record \(link\)](#) and The Herald.

Further to Q4 update, public launch of updated VisitScotland/Sustrans leisure cycling journey planner shifted due to the coronavirus pandemic, with amended launch rescheduled and confirmed for 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 in line with government guidance and Sustrans/VisitScotland positions.

## Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery

Covid 19 and the subsequent lockdown has had a significant impact on project delivery – largely physical construction projects. All partner and Sustrans projects were postponed during March. Since then, only safety critical works have been undertaken. Construction works can now recommence in line with Scottish Government guidelines. A programme for the delivery of delayed 19/20 projects has been drafted and delivery of these schemes will be phased throughout 20/21 year and reported in the appropriate quarter.

Feasibility and design work has largely been able to continue as planned:

- NCN 76 Manor Powis has continued and whilst delayed, is now largely complete.
- NCN 77 Perth to Almondbank and NCN 75 Inverclyde (Gourock – Port Glasgow) have both had detail design work completed and capital works tendered during lockdown period.
- Accessibility improvement works on the central canal (NCN 754) were also tendered and the contract awarded during lockdown period. Physical works here should commence during August 20.
- Works to deliver the Bowling basin masterplan with Scottish Canals were postponed during lockdown but recommenced in line with SG guidelines in late June.

Programmed signage and way marking work has also been postponed during lockdown. This is currently being rescheduled to be delivered during the remainder of 2020. Resources have instead been redirected to design and production of physical distancing signs to be erected on the NCN. Signs have been erected on all Sustrans managed sections of NCN and have also been provided to 10+ local authorities for use on their sections. Support has also been given to partners who have produced and installed their own physical distancing signage. ‘

Preparatory works for year two of the Scottish Greenways programme have continued. Three pilot sites have been selected (Balloch, West Glasgow and Bo’ness). Baseline monitoring has been delayed due to lockdown but should commence soon. Community engagement has begun at Bo’ness via remote methods such as Commonplace and online surveys. Engagement for the other two sites is expected to commence soon and will also be undertaken remotely initially.

# Active Travel Hubs

## Project Summary

The Active Travel Hubs (ATHs) deliver behaviour change measures and activities to increase levels of walking and cycling for everyday journeys in the communities they serve. The knowledge, experience, learning and resources gained through operating the hubs will be shared with other organisations via the national Active Travel Hub Network.

## 2019/20 Objectives

- Support communities to walk and cycle more, increasing the modal share for these active forms of transport
- Provide direct access to walking and cycling by delivering regular walking and cycling activities
- Target local barriers to active travel by providing free bicycle and equipment loans, skills improvement and training opportunities
- Develop a more positive attitude towards active travel in the community as a whole by hosting and attending promotional events, delivering walking / cycling challenges, developing media campaigns and directly engaging with workplaces and places of education
- Ensure **access for everyone** to active travel opportunities by delivering tailored activities and training with local and national partner organisations who are **working to reduce inequalities**.
- Support national outcomes by cascading active travel information, activities and advocacy through our volunteers and beneficiaries by providing volunteer training and actively supporting development of the national Active Travel Hub network.
- Explore alternative funding models for active travel hubs reflecting the co-benefits they provide.

## Project Milestones April through June 2020

| Active Travel Hubs   | April | May | June  |
|--|-------|-----|-------|
| In Partnership With Forth Environment Link:<br>Deliver Up To 4 x Scottish Active Travel Hub Network (virtual)<br>Sessions Attended By Member Organisations   |       |     | Green |
| <p>Active Travel Hub Network webinars on a “Mug o’ Tea” maintenance course was recorded and released in late June and another webinar on Dr Bike sessions recorded in June (released early July). The supporting resource packs including webinar recordings can be found here <a href="#">Mug O Tea Webinar</a> and <a href="#">Dr Bike Webinar</a>.</p> <p>The Sustrans (previously internal only) course on “Working with Local Authorities” was reworked to allow it to be delivered remotely via video conferencing being split into three sessions run over two days. This was offered to the Hub Network and was significantly over-subscribed. The course ran on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June with 19 participants and the course receiving very positive feedback.</p> <p>In the 12 month period 5 webinars + 1 full training course delivered.</p> |       |     |       |
| Deliver A Range Of Walking And Cycling Activities Including<br>Volunteering and Training Opportunities To The Communities In<br>Ayr and Kilmarnock   |       |     | Red   |
| <p>The milestone was not met due to the impact of COVID-19 <b>See “Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery” for how delivery was adapted.</b></p> <p>The Hubs closed from Monday 16th March and all activities cancelled. Across both Hubs 130 activities were cancelled that were scheduled up until the end of April. Despite the COVID-19 impact 439 individual activities with 3,255 beneficiaries were delivered over the previous three quarters. This is slightly up on the full four quarter period for 2018/19. Including engagement with beneficiaries at Hubs events, partner events and public events there were over 470 activities and events engaging over 5,000 beneficiaries.</p>  |       |     |       |
| E-Bike Pool For Rides and Short-Term Trials With A Focus On<br>New Audiences and Those Facing Social Inequality  |       |     | Red   |
| <p>The milestone was not met due to the impact of COVID-19. <b>See “Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery” for how delivery was changed.</b></p>  |       |     |       |

| Active Travel Hubs  | April | May | June  |
|---|-------|-----|-------|
| Produce 2 x Project Outcome Reports For The Ayrshire Active Travel Hubs   |       |     | Green |
| Detailed individual reports for each of the Ayr and Kilmarnock Hubs were delivered in May. These formed part of the completion report submission by both East and South Ayrshire Councils to Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) evidencing the activity and impact of the projects against the SCSP outcomes. |       |     |       |

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

**Short term bike loans v led rides.** The redeployment of the Hubs entire e-bike fleet to support key workers (see next section) led the team to evaluate the positive impact of short term bike loans versus the positive impact of having e-bikes available to enable beneficiaries to take part in led rides. Having a fleet of e-bikes to support led rides has many benefits including removing a barrier to participation (80% of beneficiaries borrow a bike), delivery of on-road skills by skilled instructors, local routes that support active travel are introduced to beneficiaries and the volunteer ride leaders are excellent advocates for active travel. **The team have concluded that following the COVID-19 pandemic and easing of lockdown restrictions the Active Travel Hubs should prioritise short-term e-bike loans over led rides to have a greater positive impact on levels of active travel for more beneficiaries.**

This is based on:

- It supporting a higher number of new beneficiaries (loans for one month support >200 new beneficiaries versus 100 new for led ride in 19/20)
- Bike loans have a significantly greater likelihood of increasing the number of active travel journeys versus led rides (survey responses of loans v led rides – also makes sense as bike is available to beneficiary to support their active travel)
- Bike loans have a faster rate of behaviour change versus led rides (survey responses of loans v led rides showing intention for increased bike use is higher for loans).

Consequently plans are being adjusted to support larger scale bike loans and to mitigate some of the led ride impact using push bikes.

## Impact / Significant Achievements

**Ayrshire Women's Cycling Festival:** The Ayr and Kilmarnock Hubs and also the The Trinity Hub in North Ayrshire collaborated to deliver the Virtual Ayrshire Women's Cycling Festival.

This was a very significant undertaking taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The website created by the team for the festival can be found here <https://ayrshirewomenscyclefestival.org/>. All speakers webinars, videos and other material produced remain on the site. In total 641 people registered across the 8 inspiration webinar talks across 25 countries. 94% of festival attendees said they felt inspired or very inspired to get out on their bike or increase their levels of cycling.

**Reach in SIMD lower deciles:** In 2019/20 beneficiaries were asked to provide their postcode so that the project could map beneficiaries to SIMD deciles to understand if the project was reaching people from the lower deciles as intended.

| Hub        | beneficiaries from SIMD deciles 1-2 | beneficiaries from SIMD deciles 3 - 4 |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ayr        | 20%                                 | 36%                                   |
| Kilmarnock | 32%                                 | 7%                                    |

## Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery

The impact of COVID-19 on the Hub delivery was significant with Hubs closed from 16<sup>th</sup> March and all planned activities cancelled. Focus moved to remote and online delivery. Taking each of the impacted milestones in turn:

- **Deliver A Range Of Walking And Cycling Activities:** This was adjusted in two main ways:
  1. **New** behaviour change support was delivered. This included five online “lockdown challenges”, the Ayrshire Women’s Cycle Festival, production of partner workplace active travel brochures, leading the engagement element of the Spaces for People project in both East and South Ayrshire
  2. **Alternative** behaviour change support was delivered where planned activities were replaced with an on-line or remote version including 1-to-1 Dr Bikes via Zoom, how-to videos created and hosted on new YouTube channel, personal travel planning by phone and email and bike security marking by post.
- **E-Bike Pool for Rides and Short-Term Trials:** Working with NHS Ayrshire and Arran and East and South Ayrshire Councils our e-bike fleet was offered for long term loan to NHS and Health and Social Care key workers. It was significantly over-subscribed. 29 e-bikes and one push-bike were delivered to the homes of the key workers during April. The workers still have the use of the bikes.

# Communities

## Project Summary

Our Communities programme pilots new interventions that support communities to reduce barriers (Individual, Social and Material) to behaviour change with respect to active travel.

## 2019/20 Objectives

- Support communities to walk and cycle more, increasing the modal share for these active forms of transport
- Support communities to be more closely and meaningfully involved in the development, promotion and use of infrastructure being funded through the 'Places for Everyone' programme
- Support the development of active travel activities and / or infrastructure in North Edinburgh by working directly with low income communities.
- Provide communities with suitable information about our work.
- Promote and grow e-cargo bike use by social enterprises and small businesses to increase the modal share of deliveries by bike.
- Provide both a focal point and practical resource for active travel with the installation of information/repair stations at workplaces, on the NCN, colleges, hospitals and schools.

## Project Milestones April through June 2020

| Communities  | April | May | June |
|--|-------|-----|------|
| Install Four Information/Repair Stations At Community Facilities, Hospital Sites Or Along The NCN (Amended Milestone)                      |       |     | Red  |
| The completion date for this milestone has been amended to Autumn 2020 due to Covid-19. It will be reported on in the appropriate quarter. |       |     |      |

| Communities   | April | May | June  |
|---|-------|-----|-------|
| Collate and Share Best Practice and Data From Effective Partnerships Between Community Groups and LAs In The Development and Use Of Infrastructure  |       |     | Green |
| <p>Presentations on our approach to behaviour change at Partners Knowledge Sharing Event</p> <p>Eight online internal “mini learning” sessions run for PfE team and recorded for a behaviour change induction (six led by our team, one led by Scottish Community Development Centre, one led by Planning Aid Scotland)</p> <p>Seven case studies demonstrating good practice in partnership working developed (five published on Showcase website, two awaiting publication)</p> <p>13 resources created for 'toolkit', drawing from best practice, to provide guidance to partners and PfE team</p> |       |     |       |

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

Our offer of behaviour change support for PfE projects works best at concept design stage – intervening earlier makes it difficult to engage community groups as construction dates can be too far off to be tangible.

Linking to activities already going on in communities (e.g. herbal walk in West Edinburgh) is an effective method of speaking to community members outside of the traditional ‘active travel bubble’ and building trust for PfE projects.

## Impact / Significant Achievements

Our fleet of cargo bikes has been utilised to support users in providing a vital delivery service during lockdown. Users include The Adventures Syndicate and Farr Out Deliveries who have been collecting goods for food banks and delivering to those most in need.

Setting up community-led steering groups with a focus on creating behaviour change action plans for three of the Category 4 PfE projects.

Knowledge sharing sessions successfully delivered through online delivery.

## Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery

E-cargo bikes on long-term loan to existing Cargo Bike Library users to support deliveries of essential items during C-19 lockdown, rather than made available for short-term loans as originally planned

Behaviour Change Action Plans should have been complete by 30 June, but community-led steering groups could not meet in recent months (community organisations redirected efforts to C-19 support). The expected delay on these co-produced action plans is 3-4 months.

# Education and Young People

## Project Summary

Education and Young People is a programme that engages pupils, parents and teachers in making the journey to school / college and university as active as possible. We widen our influence through showcasing examples and best practice in the media that will spread the impact to other people and school communities in Scotland.

## 2019/20 Objectives

- To increase the number of children, parents and teachers travelling to school by walking, scooting and cycling
- To develop projects that encourage walking and cycling to school and to integrate these with other active travel projects in schools (e.g. I Bike, Bikeability, etc.).
- To support and engage parents and carers to overcome barriers for their children to walk, scooter and cycle to school
- To support Local Authority officers to make changes in schools that encourage a culture of travelling actively.
- Raise awareness of and influence school travel choices (e.g. through targeted schools campaigns, street closures, Big Pedal, Big Spin Business Challenge, etc.)

## Project Milestones April through June 2020

| Education and Young People  | April | May | June |
|---|-------|-----|------|
| 400 Current and Former I Bike Schools and 400 Bikeability Schools Taking Part In The Big Pedal 2020   | Red   |     |      |
| This milestone was overly ambitious, it was not on track to be met. It will not be met due to the Big Pedal 2020 being cancelled due to Covid-19. |       |     |      |

| Education and Young People  |  | April | May | June  |
|---|--|-------|-----|-------|
| Hands Up Scotland Survey  | Publish Report (amended milestone)     |       |     | Green |
| Hands Up Scotland Survey 2019 data report was published on June 18 <sup>th</sup> 2020, the delay in the publication was due to late publication of the school roll figures by Scottish Government this year. Good media coverage from the press release about the results.  |  |       |     |       |
| Deliver Learning Events To The Local Authority Professional Network: 3 by March and 1 by June   |  |       |     | Amber |
| In this quarter we delivered one learning event for the local authority network in the form of a webinar by Eco-schools Scotland, bringing the total learning events delivered to three. The local authority partner for the 4 <sup>th</sup> learning event scheduled for June did not want to run it as an online event and preferred to postpone until it is possible to run as a face-to-face event. |  |       |     |       |
| Hands Up Scotland Survey  | Additional Analysis & Research Reports |       |     | Amber |
| Publication of the Hands Up Scotland Survey additional Research and Analysis has been delayed until August 2020. This has been due to delays obtaining data from partner organisations.   |  |       |     |       |

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

Research into parent user needs were commissioned and delivered to establish user case for developing a tool for digital identification of safer routes to school. The clear picture from this research was that there was not the user need for such a tool.

## Impact / Significant Achievements

- Promoted Sustrans Outside-In resources for parents with school-aged children at home across Scotland
- Circulated temporary measures template to School Travel Professionals network

- Ran first round of scooter and cycle parking fund, resulted in applications totalling the amount available in the fund
- Delivered a webinar with Eco-schools Scotland on the Eco-schools programme and Climate Ready Classrooms, linking pupil climate activism with active travel to school
- Published the Hands Up Scotland Survey 2019 data report alongside a blog piece, highlighting the opportunity to re-imagine journeys to school post C-19.
- Partnership working with other ATDP's with regular meetings of the Active Travel and Young People's group

### **HUSS media coverage**

19-Jun HUSS Car trips to school at record high featured;

- Scotsman pg. 15
- The I pg. 25
- Daily Express pg. 18
- The Times Scotland pg. 19 - <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/record-number-of-pupils-driven-to-school-8zg3577tb>
- Daily Mail pg. 30
- Daily Record pg. 25
- The Herald pg. 9 - <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18525845.pupils-travelling-car-school-reached-highest-level-record-2019/>
- Evening Telegraph - <https://www.eveningtelegraph.co.uk/2020/06/18/pupils-travelling-by-car-to-school-reached-highest-level-on-record-in-2019/>
- Evening Express - <https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/news/scotland/pupils-travelling-by-car-to-school-reached-highest-level-on-record-in-2019/>
- Edinburgh Evening News - <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/transport/extremely-disappointing-slump-walking-school-record-number-take-car-2888711>
- National pg. 17
- NEN
- Icon - <https://www.theicon.org.uk/active-travel-to-school-at-lowest-ever-recorded-level-in-scotland-in-2019/>
- Metro pg. 11

## Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery

It has been a very challenging environment to keep projects in the Education and Young People's setting going. Schools closing due to C-19 have severely impacted on our ability to delivery meaningful work. However, as local authorities and schools consider returning in August this is an opportunity to reset travel to school habits.

Not only have schools been closed but many walking and cycling infrastructure projects have been paused or delayed.

A significant number of cycle and scooter parking projects from 19-20 which were scheduled for installation in March, installation has been postponed.

Resources developed and distributed for parents home-schooling their children

Data science student who was due to start an internship in May postponed start until end of August, he will analyse and prioritise which Places for Everyone schools projects have the biggest potential impact on the school run.

# I-Bike

## Project Summary

I Bike enables, trains and enthuses pupils, school teacher 'Champions', parents and volunteers through an intensive, varied and tailored programme of cycling, scooting and walking events, activities and classroom sessions. This generates a local culture of active travel for everyday journeys and leaves a legacy within the school community for subsequent years.

## 2019/20 Objectives

- Empowering children, parents and teachers to travel actively, safely and confidently to school; encouraging exercise and reducing traffic.
- Embedding a culture of active travel in schools & contributing to safer, happier and healthier communities by providing training and resources to overcome local barriers.
- Engaging with children and young people experiencing barriers to cycling participation, with a specific focus on the transition between primary and secondary and engagement with young women and girls.

## Project Milestones April through June 2020

| I-Bike  | April | May | June  |
|---|-------|-----|-------|
| I-Bike Communities Project Outcome Report   |       |     | Amber |
| Amber due to the difficulties the project has had this quarter in continuing with planned sessions due to Covid, and therefore also in getting follow up surveys completed. Case study interviews have been carried out and this has formed a mainly qualitative report on project progress and outcomes. |       |     |       |

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

Online content developed during this period will be valuable to the project on an ongoing basis. There is an appetite for teacher and parent webinars. Useful to have time to develop

areas of the project such as working with secondary schools, linking with awards and female participation.

## Impact / Significant Achievements

- I Bike Communities supported 15 x 6 week bike loans to key workers
- I Bike produced weekly online resource packs through March- June
- Holiday activity programme planned June-end July
- Scooter fleets loaned to four hub schools
- Activities planned for summer hub schools
- Teacher webinar held on outdoor learning (36 participants)

## Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery

- I Bike communities six week participants programme halted
- No in-school delivery allowed between March-July
- Resource packs developed and distributed to support home learning.
- Scooter fleets loaned to hub schools
- Covid-adapted school travel plan template developed and used to support Local authorities (Edinburgh, Aberdeenshire, Highland, Falkirk) to develop plans for individual schools so they can apply for infrastructure funding where needed
- Online events for parents and teachers delivered
- Small-scale summer hub school activities planned in some locations

# Workplaces

## Project Summary

We work in partnership with a range of public and private sector employers to deliver innovative projects that create a culture where staff are able, supported and motivated to travel actively and sustainably to/from, and within, work. This involves engagement at all levels of the organisations we work with. In addition, we play a strong national role as a catalyst for integrating the offers of active / sustainable travel delivery partners.

## 2019/20 Objectives

- To increase the number of people walking and cycling to, and at, work
- To deliver a range of evidence-based behaviour change interventions to engage with commuting staff and senior management aimed at raising awareness of the benefits of active travel and overcoming barriers
- To build capacity within organisations to promote and enable active and sustainable transport to / from and within work, be it through facilities, funding or policy.
- To lead and facilitate joint working between delivery partners, chairing the Workplace Sustainable Transport Delivery Group and delivering a streamlined portfolio of offers to the Scottish workforce through a new website and the growing Scottish Workplace Network.
- To work closely with the infrastructure teams to ensure that workplaces are informed and able to benefit from the existing / new routes and, where possible, able to influence the design of proposed routes.

## Project Milestones April through June 2020

| Workplaces   | April | May | June  |
|--|-------|-----|-------|
| Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge: 300 Registered Workplaces, 5,000 registered Participants, 60,000 Registered Journeys   | Green |     |       |
| SWJC had 5,361 registered participants, 358 engaged workplaces and 75,500 logged journeys in the 2020 Challenge. Of all the Journeys logged 20,200 replaced car journeys (17,104 replaced single occupancy vehicle journeys). Throughout March, 779,873 miles were travelled, 94,579kg of CO2 saved, £148,291 cost were saved and 9,321,352 kcal were burnt.   |       |     |       |
| 90 Supported Champions Across 26 Workplace Sites (each site consisting of over 200 employees)  |       |     | Green |
| On the 21/01/2020 we supported 101 Champions across 31 sites. Although the milestone is achieved we have been working to provide workplaces with the support that they need to improve access and awareness of AT throughout their workplace rather than achieve a certain number per capita. Each workplace is unique and has its own objectives and requirements that we meet through many different methods. Since March we have had limited access to ATC as many have been furloughed. In this time Officers have sought innovative and effective ways to support employees and workplaces across Scotland. |       |     |       |
| Active Travel Champions Project Outcome Report   |       |     | Amber |
| Reporting in workplaces put on hold with the agreement from TS. Reporting is expected to be carried out in July/ August and will include a Covid-19 section to understand current employee beliefs and behaviours.   |       |     |       |
| Workplaces and Challenges Project Outcome Report   |       |     | Amber |
| Reporting in workplaces put on hold with the agreement from TS. Reporting is expected to be carried out in July/ August and will include a Covid-19 section to understand current employee beliefs and behaviours. SWJC summary report draft received but delayed due to furlough of Sustrans staff in Bristol - completion due July. New SWJC participant survey being developed as scheduled survey no longer relevant.  |       |     |       |

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

### Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge

The Challenge platform and process is resilient in nature. It was able to continue to operate and remain relevant through the most testing of times. The Challenge also had good levels of engagement with key workers/ NHS staff that enabled it to continue effectively throughout the pandemic. At a time of great stress the Challenge platform was inundated with positive messages and photos, helping people adapt and deal with the situation that they found themselves in. It was also a good tool to help promote the daily exercise that the Government permitted.

*“This week has been one of major upheaval: 9 clinicians (!!!) in self-isolation, several staff members in when not meant to be working... and yet.... I walk in to the phone room (scene of considerable stress as the practice is shut to routine work due to Covid-19 so the phones are going bananas) and see Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge website up on one of the screens ready for logging journeys. So proud of the team.”*

North Ayrshire Council have paused the Modern Apprentice Free Public Transport initiative due to working from home and limitations on public transport during Phase 1 of Covid response.

## Impact / Significant Achievements

### **Deliver A National Programme of Workplace Network Events throughout the Year to Meet Needs of This Audience (April – June 2020)**

Way to Work has been exploring how to engage with workplaces remotely during lockdown. Between 27 May and 17 June, we hosted a series of four lunchtime webinar events entitled ‘Working It Out: Life, Work and Wellbeing in Times of Change’. We partnered with a range of inspiring speakers, including Olympians, coaches and charity founders covering topics such as resilience and motivation. The series aimed to provide attendees with the skills that they need to evaluate, plan and adapt to modern life, increase levels of physical activity and make positive change through active travel.

The series was positively received with 472 Eventbrite sign-ups and a 59% turnout rate as well as excellent survey feedback from the attendees. As a result of the webinars, new audiences and workplaces were reached e.g. NHS Grampian, The Lovat Loch Ness, Scottish Canals, and Shetland Amateur Athletics Club.

Attendees described how the webinars supported them to change their behaviour examples include:-

- *“...the webinar will help me simply to keep going with the small daily steps I'm taking to stay fit and stay positive.”* – Myles Edwards webinar attendee
- *“[After the event] I went for a brisk, long walk and really enjoyed it. The message of ‘just keep doing it and enjoy it’ is a good one.”* – Dave Moorcroft webinar attendee
- *“[This webinar] encourages me to get out cycling”* - Alex McMaster and Merlin Hetherington webinar attendee
- *“This was so helpful to remind me to have an outcome focus and to take time to enjoy physical exercise (especially cycling)”* – Anna Bell webinar attendee

The webinar recordings will be made available on the Way to Work website and packaged together to be offered to workplaces as a motivational and inspirational active travel resource which is ready-made for sharing with employees.

### Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge (SWJC)

The SWJC 2020, held in March, was greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown. Despite that:

- It achieved the greatest number of participant's ever seen (5,360, >11% from 2019), engaged more workplaces than ever before (369, >27%) and recorded 75,500 (<11%) journeys logged despite lockdown.
- Of the total journeys logged 19,558 (34,924 miles) and 15,946 (83,521 miles) were made by walking and cycling respectively. Working from home (WFH) was the most commonly logged journey for the last two weeks (lockdown) equating for 19,507 journeys and 237,166 miles.
- 17,104 journeys logged included modal shift from a car (not Inc. car share) to sustainable mode. WFH was responsible for the greatest modal shift from vehicles with 6,367 of total modal shift, followed by walking (2,974) and cycling (2,739).
- The total amount of CO2 reduced through modal shift in the SWJC was 61,403 kg and 94,579kg of CO2 in total.

Partnerships with many organisations and sectors were established. We will look to build upon these relationships with future projects, including the development of Way To Work. Key partners have been provided with workplace specific information packs documenting their achievements in the Challenge, to assist with carbon reporting, wellbeing strategies physical activity targets and transport policy.

## Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery

Face to face engagement and events have been put on hold as a result of the pandemic. Cognisance is being taken of the Scottish Government's Route Map. Risk assessments and method statements will be carefully prepared to consider how to mitigate risks in order that engagements and events can take place safely in the future. Furloughing of partner staff has meant that remote offerings to workplaces have also been disrupted. Respectful and appropriate messaging required in the recovery as many workplace struggle with the financial and safety consequences of the pandemic.

### Supporting Spaces for People bids

The embedded officers in **NHS Dumfries and Galloway**, **NHS Highland** and **NHS Shetland** have worked extensively with NHS colleagues, sharing their knowledge of active travel to ensure bids for the Spaces for People initiative were forthcoming.

**ATC** have promoted Space to Move and Commonplace to workplaces resulting in huge response rates for Scotland projects.

### Supporting Sustainable Travel Messaging

At the quarterly meeting of the Workplaces Sustainable Transport Delivery Group concern was expressed that, in some cases, as a result of the pandemic, workplaces are instructing staff not to use public transport to get to work. Accordingly, an extra meeting has been scheduled at the end of July to consider:

- Guidance from the Government that may be forthcoming regarding the use of public transport, and
- How the partnership can encourage the use of public transport following lockdown.

### Active Travel Champions

Identified new ways of engaging with employees and ATCs.

The introduction of remote digital meetings at EAUC has enabled regular and consistent attendance. This has led to the project officer being offered a position of co-convenor for EAUC's Transport Topic Support Network due to increased interest in AT from the FHE sector.

Work in partnership with Next Bike and Serco to promote free usage for key workers resulting in increased usage of their scheme.

Mindful walking remote sessions developed and delivered with excellent feedback.

Bike grants

**NHS Highland** have been awarded Cycling Scotland / Big Bike Revival funds to distribute 36 x £400 bike and accessory grants to NHS Highland staff who don't qualify for the staff cycle to work scheme either because they are on temporary contracts or because they are part-time / low paid and cannot guarantee to meet the minimum payments. 2,300 bank staff in **NHS Highland** fall into this category, it is hoped this initiative will support many to start cycling through this scheme.

# Strategic Partnerships

## Project Summary

The Strategic Partnerships programme provides local, regional and national partner organisations with access to the skills, knowledge and resources needed to deliver walking and cycling infrastructure projects.

## 2019/20 Objectives

- Provide partners with access to Sustrans' resources and expertise in active travel network development and delivery.
- Ensure that active travel strategies are effective in creating a pipeline of strategic infrastructure projects.
- Evidence demand for active travel infrastructure in towns and cities through delivery of Bike Life Scotland
- Identify key regional priorities for cycling infrastructure and develop proposals for these.
- Maximise the budgets available for active travel infrastructure by working across Local Authority departments.
- Support the exchange of best practice amongst our partners.

## Project Milestones April through June 2020

| Strategic Partnerships   | April | May | June  |
|--|-------|-----|-------|
| Strategic Partnerships Project Outcome Report  |       |     | Amber |
| Programme evaluation is underway but not complete. Interviews with LA partners have taken place and RMU are analysing data. Scheduled first draft due first week of September. |       |     |       |

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

We have embarked on a functional realignment of the Partnerships team to ensure we best meet our strategic and delivery outcomes. We are engaging with local authorities across Scotland to ensure that our offer of additional embedded officers (20/21 GOL) is well communicated and are preparing a strategic prioritisation process to ensure that we work with those LAs that are of most strategic importance.

## Impact / Significant Achievements

Digital communications Strategy for Bike Life has been developed and is being implemented.

Embedded staff have been heavily involved in 'Spaces for People' and have supported or led applications from both Local Authorities and the NHS.

Significant progress has been made developing the evaluation framework for the partnerships team to inform future evaluation work and clearly articulate programme impact.

Our Transport Integration Officer has continued the partnership support of Just Eat hire bikes for NHS staff offering a further round of passes to staff.

Our Glasgow team are building great momentum and we receive regular positive feedback from Senior Staff. The team have created a GIS mapping tool that has generated a solid evidence base to guide decisions around the Strategic plan for Cycling. They are working very closely with the strategy leads and the Big Data centre to ensure evidence based delivery. This is being complemented by the development, by the team, of a public engagement tool, 'Your Transport Priority for Glasgow' to ensure the public are informing GCCs transport priorities.

## Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery

The Partnerships team have adapted to delivery in the pandemic and supported our partners to deliver in these challenging times. Work plans were quickly adapted and the Officers have been heavily involved in 'Spaces for People' and have supported or led applications from both Local Authorities and the NHS.

Following the cancelation of the scheduled Bike Life launches in Dundee and Inverness in March due to Covid, the team delivered a virtual launch event to elected members in Dundee, and are planning a similar launch to businesses in Inverness.

As above: Our transport integration Officer have continued the partnership support of Just Eat hire bikes for NHS staff offering a further round of passes to staff.

As highlighted above, due to Covid, we have pushed back the delivery of the Programme evaluation. This will be reported on in the Q2 report (Sept 2020).

# Communication

## Project Summary

Our Communications programme provides strategic communications on all Transport Scotland-funded programmes managed by Sustrans Scotland. This includes traditional media, online and social media content promoting the benefits of active travel to the general public in Scotland, and promoting the full range of support offered by the Scottish Government-funded partners to get people walking and cycling for more of their everyday journeys.

## 2019/20 Objectives

- To communicate the full health, environmental and economic benefits of everyday walking and cycling to a wide range of audiences
- To build awareness within local authorities, housing associations, community development trusts and other potential delivery partners of the range of Scottish Government-supported active travel funding grants
- To support the development of a repository of case studies and programme reviews that can contribute to the Scotland-wide body of knowledge on the challenges and opportunities of active travel infrastructure implementation

## Project Milestones April through June 2020

No milestones identified between 1 April and 30 June 2020.

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

Learning – despite difficult working conditions, the Sustrans Scotland communications team rose to the challenge and were able to quickly redeploy priorities and resource to ensure that Spaces for People had the communications support needed.

Planned events were cancelled or moved online.

Planned sponsorship events have been postponed until Autumn.

Content was repurposed to take account of lockdown.

Since lockdown and as we move through Phase 1 and Phase 2, online and social media engagement has increased, despite potentially having a narrower range of content and a reduced social media output.

Key learning: with less competing 'noise' and the public experiencing the health and wellbeing benefits of walking, cycling and wheeling and being outdoors, there has been increased engagement with our social media content, including engagement with our transport Scotland funded content.

### Impact / Significant Achievements

The decision was taken early on in lockdown to limit social media output on everyday walking and cycling. Posts were limited to one per day in April and only increased slightly in May. However, by late April and early May, it was clear that the huge interest in walking and cycling during lockdown meant that social media output and advice had much greater engagement.

The **Spaces for People** programme benefited from significant input from communications resource. This included

- Liaison with Public Health Scotland, MACS and Transport Scotland and other active travel delivery partners to create agreed 'code of conduct' style information for the public on walking, cycling and wheeling during Covid-19. [Click here](#) for details. This has provided an information resource for the public, built stronger awareness of considerations for disabled people and is also being used as a reference point by many local authorities for communication to the public
- Development of a section of the Places for Everyone microsite to showcase Spaces for People projects along with [detailed design guidance](#) and design sheets that can be used as a resource by local authorities

Media output and social media engagement increased during lockdown. Examples listed below.

## Press Coverage

Substantial increase in press coverage compared to last year, but mainly focused on Spaces for People and Hands Up Scotland Survey – 153 articles, including 40 proactively sold in with a reach of 1.2million people

## Social Media reach

- As an example, increase in social media reach from June 2019 to June 2020, particularly on Twitter.
- Last year in June we had 185 tweets with a reach of 332k impressions
- Top tweet in June 2019 earned 7,657 impressions
- This year in June we had just 85 tweets but with a reach of 334k impressions
- Top tweet in June 2020 earned 34,500 impressions.

## Impact of Covid-19 on Project Delivery

Planned campaigns and events from April through to June 2020 were changed and resources redeployed to focus on embedding communications at the centre of the setup of Spaces for People, Sustrans and Transport Scotland's programme to provide support and funding for temporary measures to enable safe walking, cycling and wheeling during Covid-19.

Due to the public-facing nature of communications events and activities, all communications plans and output have been affected by Covid-19 and resource was principally redeployed to supporting the Spaces for People programme.

# Research and Monitoring Unit

## Project Summary

The Research and Monitoring Unit assesses the impact of the portfolio of programmes delivered by Sustrans Scotland. The Unit seeks to generate robust evidence that supports the delivery of the portfolio and evaluates the ways in which the programmes contribute to the outcomes of the Active Travel Framework. To do this, the Unit devises and implements monitoring and evaluation plans, conducts evaluations of the programmes, and produces final evaluations reports. Where appropriate, the Unit commissions or conducts small-scale projects that address specific knowledge or methodological gaps to aid the evaluation of Sustrans Scotland's work.

## Evaluation Milestones April through June 2020

| Research and Monitoring Unit   | Apr | May   | Jun   |
|--|-----|-------|-------|
| Street Design Project Outcome Report   |     |       | Red   |
| Delivery of this programme was halted due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, the project reports are now due to be completed by January 2021. |     |       |       |
| Ayrshire Active Travel Hubs  |     |       | Green |
| This milestone was met on time and within budget.  |     |       |       |
| Hands Up Scotland Survey   |     | Green |       |
| The statistic and accompanying report was completed and published on time and within budget.   |     |       |       |

| Research and Monitoring Unit  | Apr   | May | Jun   |
|---|-------|-----|-------|
| I Bike Communities  |       |     | Green |
| The report for this pilot study was delivered on time and within budget.  |       |     |       |
| Active Travel Champions Report  |       |     | Red   |
| Delivery of this project has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, the submission date for the impact report is now due in September 2020.  |       |     |       |
| Strategic Partnerships Evaluation Report  |       |     | Red   |
| Delivery of this project was halted due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, the project report is now due to be completed by August 2020. |       |     |       |
| Scottish Greenways Impact Monitoring Plan   | Green |     |       |
| This milestone was met on time and within budget.   |       |     |       |

## Lessons Learned / Reflections

During this quarter we:

- Completed the evaluation reports listed above.
- Completed the review of our monitoring and evaluation tools and aligned these with the outcomes and indicators developed during the last quarter.
- Adapted our monitoring approaches, where possible, to the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Initiated work to create a new monitoring approach to capture the impact of the Strategic Partnerships team.
- Worked to shape a programme of small scale research projects for the 20/21 delivery year, which address knowledge and methodological gaps in the Active Travel Framework.

## Impact / Significant Achievements

During this quarter:

- Provided monitoring and evaluation support for the Spaces for People programme.
- Published the Hands Up Scotland Survey official statistic.

## Upcoming Milestones

As a result of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, the following milestones for Q2 2020/21 (July to September) have been changed:

- I Bike Report: This will not contain data from the Pupil Survey or qualitative evaluations as it was not possible to conduct these due to Covid 19.
- Workplace Challenge Report: This was due in August 2020 but will now be delivered in September 2020.

# Budget Summary

A summary of the end of year position for the 2019/20 programme spending (July 2019 – June 2020) is provided in the table below:

|   | Funding available in 2019/20<br>£m |  | Funding awarded to date<br>£m |  | Actual spend at 30 June 2020<br>£m | Working Capital to be brought forward into 2020/21 (total)<br>£m |
|---|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>2019/20 Transport Scotland grant award</b>         | 59.1                               |  | 59.1                          |  | 24.8                               | 34.3   |
| <b>'Working capital' brought forward from 2018/19</b> | 18.3                               |  | 18.3                          |  | 4.3                                | 14.0   |
| <b>Other brought forward underspends from 2018/19</b> | 1.1                                |  | 1.1                           |  | 1.5                                | - 0.4  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>78.5</b>                        |  | <b>78.5</b>                   |  | <b>30.6</b>                        | <b>47.9</b>  |