
To: Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board

On: 24 January 2022

Report by: Lead Officer

Heading: Linking the National Cycle Route 7 with Howwood

1 Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 23 August 2021, members of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board agreed an annual programme of activity for the Board for 2021/2022.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 15 November 2021, members of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board agreed to a request to include a review which would look into linking the National Cycle Route 7 to Howwood including a clear and safe link is created to the Whithorn Way was included in the annual programme of activity for the Board for 2021/2022.
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2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to:
- approve the purpose and scope of the review;
 - approve the provisional timescale as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report;
 - authorise the Lead Officer to contact any organisations recommended by the Board who may have information useful to the Board and who may be potential witnesses;

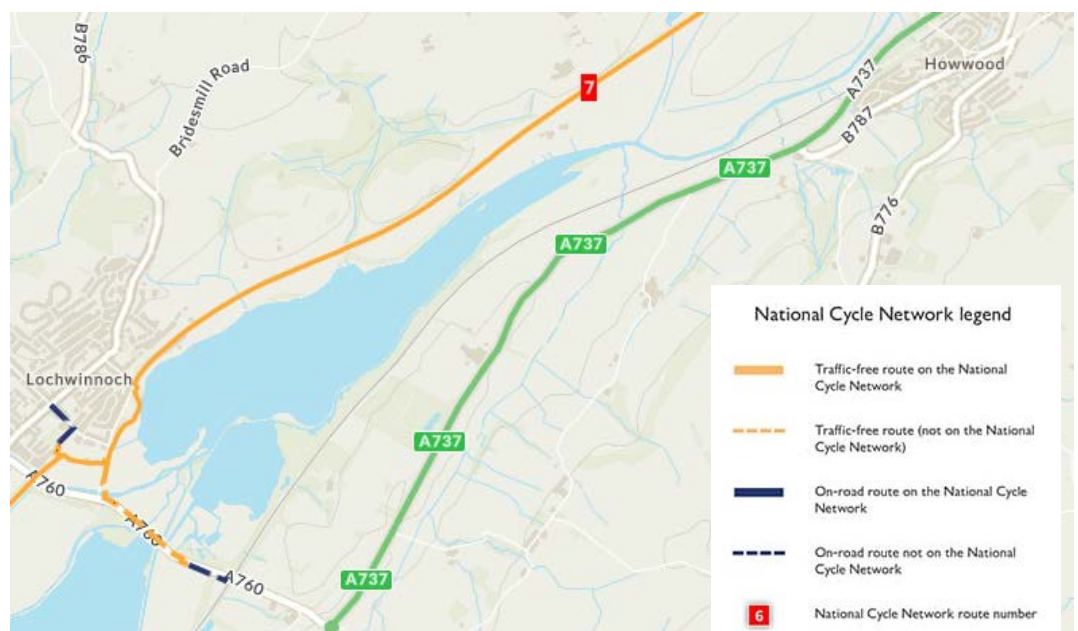
- delegate powers to the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Convenor, and grant the Convenor of the Board permission to alter the timetable having regard to the availability of evidence and witnesses throughout the course of the review; and,
- authorise the Lead Officer to make the necessary arrangements to progress the review within the agreed timescales.

3 Background

3.1 **National Cycle Network Route 7** connects Balloch on the southern banks of Loch Lomond with Aberfoyle, Strathyre, Callander, Lochearnhead and Killin. It forms the southern section of the long-distance Lochs and Glens Way route.

3.2 The route is described by Sustrans as having a mixture of traffic-free paths and quiet road sections and being reachable throughout the route via traffic-free paths and also by regular train connections.

3.3 From Lochwinnoch it is accessible from an on-road route (not part of the National Cycle Network) from the Main Street (via Church Street / Lochhead Avenue) on the east and also from a mixture of traffic-free route and on road route (not part of the National Cycle Network) from Lochwinnoch Train Station on the west.



3.4 **The Whithorn Way** is a newly mapped 143-mile walking and cycling route, which follows much of the westerly pilgrimage route to Whithorn, which was travelled by pilgrims over centuries.

- 3.5 The route follows established paths and cycleways where possible, including extensive use of the National Cycle & Path Route 7.
- 3.6 To aid users, the route is split into several sections in available guides. Lochwinnoch connects two sections; Paisley to Lochwinnoch and Lochwinnoch to Kilwinning.
- 3.7 There are currently no published dedicated active travel (pedestrian and cycling) routes from **Howwood** to Lochwinnoch.

4 Purpose of the Review

- 4.1 The key purpose of this review will be to:
- (1) understand what motivates people to use, and the demand for, walking and cycling from the National Cycle Route 7 at Lochwinnoch to and from Howwood;
 - (2) set out the current provision for walking and cycling from the National Cycle Route 7 at Lochwinnoch to and from Howwood; and;
 - (3) identify any other mitigation that could be recommended which the Council could pursue within available resources.

5 Scope of the Review

- 5.1 In relation to 4.1(1) above, the focus of the review will be on reviewing research available on this subject and reporting this back to the Board at subsequent meetings. Consideration will also be given to the potential use of social media to seek feedback from residents on this topic.
- 5.2 In relation to 4.1(2) above, the Lead Officer will focus on the existing provision, predominantly services currently provided by Environment & Infrastructure and Policy & Commissioning.
- 5.3 In relation to 4.1.(3) above, a significant focus of the review will be on other options that could supplement existing provision to provide a link between the National Cycle Route 7 at Lochwinnoch and Howwood which includes a link to the Whithorn Way.

Implications of the Report

1. Financial - none

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| 2. | HR & Organisational Development | - none |
| 3. | Community Planning | - none |
| 4. | Legal | - none |
| 5. | Property/Assets | - none |
| 6. | Information Technology | - none |
| 7. | Equality & Human Rights | - none |

(a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

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| 8. | Health & Safety | - none |
| 9. | Procurement | - none |
| 10. | Risk | - none |
| 11. | Privacy Impact | - none |
| 12. | COSLA Policy Position | - not applicable |
| 13. | Climate Risk | |
- Supporting and enhancing opportunities for active travel is an area being explored as part of Renfrewshire's planning for net zero.

List of Background Papers

(a) Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Annual Programme approved 23/08/2021

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Finance and Resources for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting.

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Appendix 1

Timetable for Linking the National Cycle Route 7 with Howwood Review

Date of Board Meeting	Stage of Review
Monday 24 January 2022	Commencement of review
Monday 21 March 2022	Continuation of review
Monday 13 May 2022	Continuation of review
Monday 22 August 2022	Continuation of review
Tuesday 27 September 2022	Draft report to Board
Thursday 29 September 2022	Final report to Council