

To: Planning and Property Policy Board

On: 26th January 2016

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy 2016 – “Outdoors For You”

1. Summary

- 1.1 A Draft Outdoor Access Strategy – ‘Outdoors For You’ (Appendix 1 attached) has been prepared and will be subject to consultation and publicity for eight weeks from Monday 1 February 2016 to Monday 28 March 2016.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- i. Authorises the Director of Development and Housing Services to progress the necessary publicity and consultation in relation to the Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy 2016 – Outdoors For You;
 - ii. Notes that following consultation and consideration of the comments received the Final Access Strategy be referred to the Board for determination.
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3. Background

- 3.1. The first Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy was produced in 2004 in response to the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The Act allows a statutory right of responsible access to most land and inland water in Scotland.
- 3.2. During 2015 the Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy was reviewed and a new draft strategy ‘Outdoors For You’ has been prepared. The Strategy sets a

vision for access, promoting Renfrewshire's outdoors for recreational access and active travel.

- 3.3. The Strategy promotes walking and cycling along with a framework for enhancing access routes. It sets out an Action Plan highlighting infrastructure and communication measures along with identifying key partners that will assist in the delivery of the actions identified in the strategy.

4. Next steps

- 4.1 Approval is now sought to carry out consultation from 1st February to 28th March 2016 which will involve external agencies, Community Planning partners, Community Councils, Renfrewshire Local Outdoors Access Forum and other access stakeholders. The Draft Strategy will be placed on the Council's website as well as other social media platforms for comment.
- 4.2 Following the consultation period, the final strategy with a summary of the representations made throughout the consultation period will be presented to the Board for approval. Thereafter, the aim will be to implement and deliver the actions set out in the Action Plan in partnership with others.
- 4.3 The Access Strategy sets the overall framework for access in Renfrewshire and will also allow a review of the Core Path Network to be undertaken during 2016 and reported to Board in due course.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None.
3. **Community Planning:**
Community Care, Health & Well-being – The Outdoors for You work plan highlights actions that will enable people to be more physically active in their daily lives
Greener – Outdoors For You highlights actions that reduce emphasis on car use thereby reducing carbon emissions.
4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – None.
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** -
(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.

8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None.
10. **Risk** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – None

List of Background Papers

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OUTDOOR FOR YOU

RENFREWSHIRE OUTDOOR

ACCESS STRATEGY

2016—2026

www.renfrewshire.gov.uk



Renfrewshire
Council



Renfrewshire's outdoors

Renfrewshire has a high quality, diverse natural and built environment, with access to a range of open space, recreation and countryside.

Good access to Renfrewshire's assets is essential to deliver on many of the priorities for the area such as:

- retain and attract people to live, work and spend time;
- attract investment and
- enjoy good physical and mental health and wellbeing

Fresh air and exercise are good for our health and well being. While many of us use parks and countryside for recreation at weekends and on holidays, outdoor access is also about everyday journeys like walking to the shops, cycling to school or getting to the train station. The first type of activity is known as “recreational access” and the shorter, more regular journeys as “active travel”.

Whether for recreational access or active travel, using the outdoors for physical activity is a great way to get and stay fit. Good outdoor access provision contributes positively to the environment, makes our surroundings more attractive, boosts the economy and improves our mental and physical wellbeing.

These benefits have shaped the aims for this strategy.

The Renfrewshire's outdoor access strategy aims to:

- **improve health and well being;**
- **increase economic benefit;**
- **improve connectivity between people and places and**
- **aid responsible access for people and nature.**

Outcome:

Increase the percentage of Renfrewshire's residents that actively travel to work by walking cycling or running by 3% by 2026.

Introduction

What is outdoor access?

Outdoor access refers to all non-motorised travel (and motorised when adapted for use by someone with a disability). As well as walking, cycling and horse riding, outdoor access includes many other forms of activity including jogging, dog walking, sailing, canoeing, wind surfing and rowing.

Outdoor access is about how people get to and move around places. This may be on designated paths that run through and link towns and villages or may involve less defined routes through the countryside.

Outdoor access includes activities on land and inland water including rivers, lochs and reservoirs. It also includes the active travel journeys that people make between homes, schools, shops, work and public transport.

Why is outdoor access important?

Inactivity kills - one in seven Scots dies every day and is a condition that costs NHS Scotland approximately £94.1 million every year. Yet this alarming statistic could be one of the simplest to turn around. Regular walking has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic illnesses such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, asthma, stroke and some cancers. Increased activity can also boost economic factors as well as health benefits. Research suggests that making places better for walking can boost footfall and trading by up to 40%. Walking is also cited as the most popular activity for UK visitors to come to Scotland.

While these facts are Scottish wide, Renfrewshire's health and economic profile stands to benefit significantly by making walking and outdoor access in general, attractive and easy.

In Renfrewshire early deaths from coronary heart disease (<75) is 67.7 per 100,000 in comparison to Scotland at 60.7 per 100,000 population. Renfrewshire also has a higher rate of patients hospitalised with coronary heart disease and patients hospitalised with asthma than in comparison to the Scottish average. In addition Renfrewshire has a lower than Scottish average percentage of active travel to work at 10% compared to the national average of 16%. These statistics illustrate the role that an increase in outdoor access could play in health improvement in Renfrewshire.

Convenient public transport links also influence peoples' choice of travel. The existence of good footways, cycle lanes and cycle parking at public transport hubs can encourage people to travel actively for at least part of their commute.

INACTIVITY
KILLS
one in seven
scots every day



Making places better for walking can
boost footfall and trading by up to

40%



Early deaths
from coronary
heart disease
in Renfrewshire
*per 100,000

67.7*

10%* of Renfrewshire residents actively travel
to work by walking, cycling or running

* lower than the national average of 16%

The vision of Renfrewshire's Outdoor Access Strategy is that:

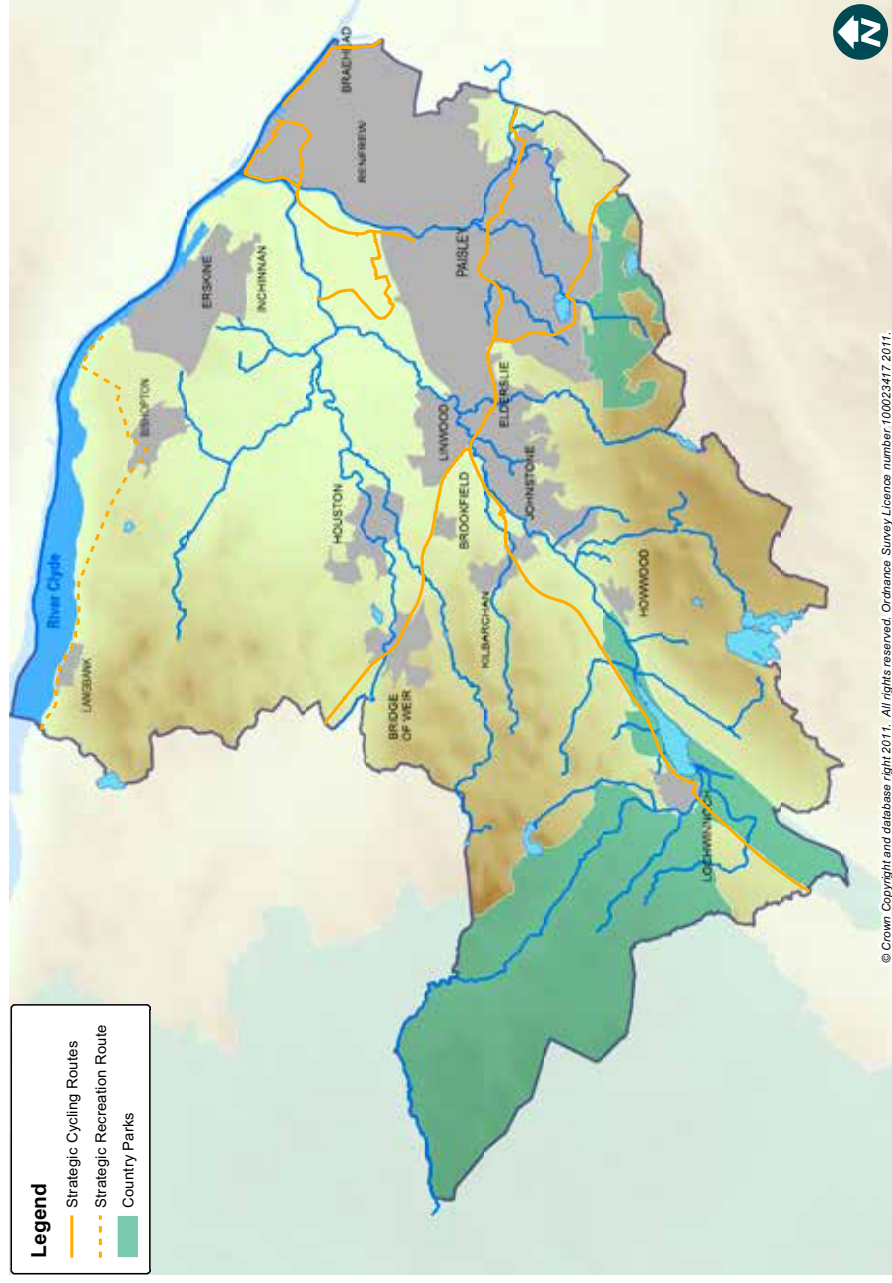


**It is easy for people to use Renfrewshire's outdoors
for responsible recreational access and active travel.**

Renfrewshire's outdoor access resource

Renfrewshire has a wealth of natural resources and facilities which can enable people to become more active through recreational access or active travel. There are many opportunities for walking, cycling, canoeing, sailing, rowing, mountain biking and horse riding in Renfrewshire. Renfrewshire's assets include:

- Four Country Parks—Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Castle Semple, Gleniffer Braes and Finlaystone;
- two sections of the National Cycle Route: NCR 7 + 75;
- Over 320 km of Core Paths ;
- a network of designated Leisure Lanes;
- 51 Rights of Way;
- the RSPB reserve at Lochwinnoch;
- the beach park at Erskine;
- many accessible woodlands;
- numerous urban parks and quality open spaces and
- an urban path network offering useful routes from homes to work, shops and schools.



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Background To “Outdoors For You”

Why have an outdoor access strategy?

The Land Reform Act is focussed on mutual respect and cooperation amongst different parties. This strategy encapsulates that principle and seeks to direct access in a way that minimises potential issues and provides people with opportunities and information to act responsibly whilst enjoying the outdoors.

Well designed and properly managed outdoor access contributes to the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and assists the Community Planning Partnership in achieving its vision of making Renfrewshire a fairer, more inclusive place where all our people, communities and businesses thrive.

This strategy provides a way of reviewing existing outdoor access in Renfrewshire and enables partners to set priorities to deliver actions for future access provision. The strategy puts forward an agreed vision, focussed aims and realistic actions to ensure good access to Renfrewshire's outdoors.

Legislation

Outdoor access is covered by the Land Reform (Scotland) 2003 Act (commonly referred to as The Land Reform Act). Under the Land Reform Act, everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water for various recreational, educational and some commercial activities, provided they act responsibly.

The legislation also obliges landowners to manage their land or water responsibly for outdoor access. In addition, Local Authorities are charged with upholding the public's statutory access right and promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Policy background

Several important pieces of national policy and guidance now shape outdoor access planning and provision in Scotland:

- A More Active Scotland – Building a Legacy from the Commonwealth Games: Scottish Government Physical Activity Implementation Plan (2014)
- Let's Get Scotland Walking: the National Walking Strategy (2014)
- Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (2013)
- National Planning Framework 3 (2014)
- Scottish Planning Policy (2014)

“... Renfrewshire a fairer, more inclusive place where all our people, communities and businesses thrive.”

Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy 2004

“Outdoors For You” is the second outdoor access strategy for Renfrewshire. The first was adopted in 2004 and since then a significant number of achievements have been made including:

- establishment of the Renfrewshire Local Outdoor Access Forum;
- production of the Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan;
- creation of new paths and the improvement of existing ones;
- publication of many types of promotional material and
- collaborative working with farmers, landowners and volunteers.

The over-riding vision of the 2004 strategy was to create an integrated network of safe and secure outdoor access routes accessible from all communities within Renfrewshire. It was area-based and aimed to build upon recreation, economic development, community health and social inclusion.

While the aim of the new strategy builds upon the good work of the previous strategy, there have been a number of changes that have taken place on the national level since the first strategy was approved. The Land Reform Act came into force in 2005. Nationally the emphasis widened from an earlier focus on rural recreation to one which now gives greater recognition to the role of the urban environment in outdoor access and has an increased emphasis on active travel links and connectivity.

This second strategy for outdoor access builds on Renfrewshire’s wealth of natural resources and opportunities for access and the successes achieved to date. It also recognises the shift in national policy and the economic challenges currently facing delivery. In redefining the vision for access the new strategy puts people firmly at its heart.

Developing Outdoors For You

“Outdoors For You” has been developed through collaboration, engagement and a series of conversations with a number of stakeholders and partners from a range of groups and organisations as well as other council staff who are involved with the provision or delivery of access facilities and opportunities.

The engagement and conversations took place through two workshops and consultation with the Renfrewshire Local Outdoor Access Forum. These were held in June 2015 from which the vision and wider aims for outdoor access in Renfrewshire emerged.

From various discussions it became clear that recreational access and active travel needs to be more clearly defined within the strategy with an increasing emphasis on people at the heart of all activity.

Through the engagement a number of themes began to emerge:

- Economic benefit and Tourism
- Connectivity
- Infrastructure and maintenance
- Statutory duties and management
- Promotion/ marketing and information
- Health and well being
- Community Engagement

Each of these proposed themes were looked at in turn. Following this exercise it was agreed that some of these themes were interlinked and the final themes agreed on were:

- improved health and wellbeing;
- increased economic benefit;
- improved connectivity between people and places and
- aid responsible access for people and nature.

Developing the action plan

In preparing the action plan four strategic actions have been identified to ensure that the strategy fulfils the purpose of placing people at its heart.

The four strategic actions are:

- People will have an enhanced outdoor resource throughout Renfrewshire.
- People of all abilities will be able to move confidently within and between communities and will be aware of opportunities for active travel and recreational access throughout Renfrewshire.
- Access will be planned and provided for throughout Renfrewshire with respect to land management and conservation and people will understand their rights and responsibilities with regard to outdoor access.
- People will be involved in outdoor access provision.

Analysis showed the actions could be placed under two categories namely:

- **Infrastructure and**
- **Communication**

The outcomes to be achieved under both Infrastructure and Communication actions are presented in the action plan towards the end of this document.



Infrastructure

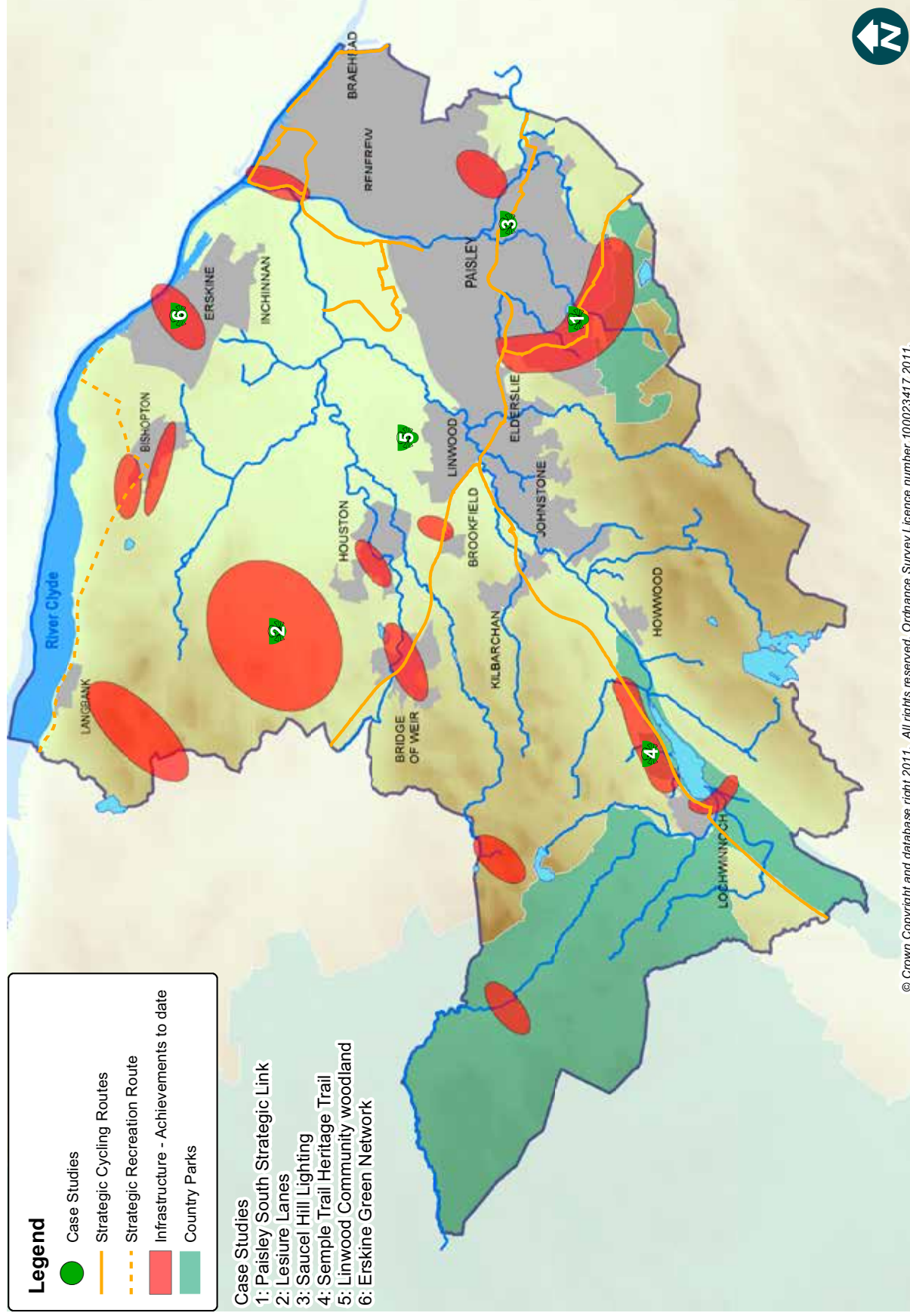
Infrastructure can involve various elements such as the different stages required in providing paths, areas of open space, the physical facilities used for outdoor access and many other associated activities. Infrastructure includes the design of new paths, the upgrading of existing ones, routine maintenance, filling gaps to improve connectivity, removing physical barriers and providing signposting so that people are well informed and feel confident about using the path network. It can also include ancillary facilities such as cycle stands or moorings to enable access onto and out of open water.

Achievements to date

Since the production of the first Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy in 2004 there have been a significant number of key infrastructure achievements including:

- the adoption of the Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan which included a condition survey of all the routes;
- the South Paisley Strategic Link – a 5.5km largely off road shared use route linking Barrhead to the National Cycle Route NCR 7 to the west of Paisley;
- several successful partnership projects to improve access along rights of way in Langbank, on forestry ground, over bridges in Locher Woods and throughout Gleniffer Braes;
- creation of new routes at Bishopton affording better links to school and work;
- creation of a route at Brookfield linking the village to the National Cycle Route 75;

- path creation and upgrading at Erskine, Linwood, Lochwinnoch, Paisley and Renfrew;
- creation of a shared use off road route between Lochwinnoch station and Lochwinnoch village;
- provision of cycle parking at 33 primary schools and 4 high schools across Renfrewshire;
- provision of staff cycle parking at Renfrewshire Council's headquarters in Paisley and at Johnstone town Hall;
- provision of public cycle parking at the Lagoon Leisure Centre, Renfrew Town Centre, Paisley High Street and at Houston shops;
- working with developers to ensure that new facilities, shops, health centres and public buildings include cycle parking provision in their design and
- ongoing delivery of the Semple Trail Heritage Project – improvement of the path network and heritage features around Castle Semple Loch



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CASE STUDY

South Paisley Strategic Link

The South Paisley Strategic Link is a largely off road route which runs from Barrhead in neighbouring East Renfrewshire to the National Cycle Route 7 at Linwood Toll to the west of Paisley. Sweeping round the south west of the town, it has been constructed in several discrete phases. Each phase was designed to be a stand alone project. Funding for the route came from a number of sources including Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), Sustrans, Westrans, Renfrewshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council and Paths for All Partnership. The route is well used by walkers and cyclists both for recreational access to a country park and active travel to many of the destinations along the route.



CASE STUDY

Linwood Community Woodland Link

Significant improvements to the paths between the On-X leisure centre and Linwood Community Woodland were completed in 2015. The previous uneven paths have been widened, sealed and levelled and drainage issues resolved. The paths now offer a safe environment for users of all ages, interests and mobility levels and link directly into Linwood Community Woodland, a natural playground and classroom. This project complements the improvements made recently to the community woodland by



CASE STUDY

Leisure Lanes

The project designated a number of quieter country roads as Leisure Lanes. The routes chosen were ones where leisure walking, cycling and horse riding were already taking place. Gateway features with the Leisure Lane logo were erected and additional road signage installed to highlight to drivers that they were entering a road where they were more likely to meet non motorised users. Leaflets were produced as part of the project “Travelling Safely Together” was aimed at road users, horse riders, walkers,

cyclists and vehicle drivers and highlighted how each user can remain safe and use the roads safely and courteously together. “Public Roads and the Countryside – managing them together” was distributed to land managers and explained the hazards that could be caused to road users by some land management operations, it also set out the responsibilities of both land managers and the Council in ensuring that country roads are available for everyone to use.



CASE STUDY

Sample Trail Heritage Project

This project aims to improve access to the built and natural heritage of the area around Lochwinnoch and Howwood in south west Renfrewshire. The Council has worked in partnership for several years with the South Renfrewshire Access Network Initiative (SRANI) to deliver the project. Footfall on a new link from the north end of Lochwinnoch into the neighbouring country park increased markedly when a former desire line was formalised. A number of paths have been upgraded, creating accessible circular routes with a greater choice

of routes for a variety of users. Fun outsized interpretative features incorporating seating allow the public to learn more about their surroundings. Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Renfrewshire LEADER, Renfrewshire Council, Forestry Commission Scotland, Historic Scotland, Active Places 2014 Legacy Fund, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and RSPB, the project has been successful in bringing people together to gain more experience and knowledge of the local area.



CASE STUDY

Saucel Hill lighting

Part of NCR 7 is routed through urban Paisley, one section runs across Saucel Hill, a small urban park. The path here is also used by commuters heading to the nearby Paisley Canal railway station. Sustrans Community Links funding was used to install lighting on the path through the park, thereby allowing this route to be used as an active travel route in the evenings and during the winter.



CASE STUDY

Erskine Green Network

The Erskine Green Network is a new access route connecting Rashielee Quay at the riverfront with Craighends Hill in the south of the town. Completed in 2013 it is both a recreational and active travel route connecting homes, shops, schools and open spaces. Existing woodland is at the core of this network with new paths created through woodland and open space. Directional signs link these new paths with existing routes. This route links directly into the long-distance riverfront walkway along the Clyde and also leads users towards access routes between Erskine and Bishopton. The project was funded jointly by Renfrewshire Council; Forestry Commission Scotland and the Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside and Erskine Local Area Committee.





Next steps for infrastructure

The achievements made to date have significantly improved access provision in Renfrewshire. This strategy aims to build upon these achievements and the action plan sets out how the aims of the strategy will be implemented.

Taking in to account the strategic actions identified above, infrastructure will be **enhanced** so that people can move **confidently** around the area; be **aware** of the opportunities available to them; **understand** their rights and responsibilities and be **involved**.

Communication

Physical infrastructure be it paths, spaces or facilities is not necessarily enough to get people using them. Increased communities about the resource and opportunities available is crucial in making outdoor access a success.

Communication is about engaging with people. This may either involve having conversations with people directly through events and activities or may be an indirect connection through information channels such as websites, mobile phone apps, leaflets and interpretation.

Achievements to date

Indirect engagement

- Publication of 'Steps in the Right Direction' – 15 health walks around Paisley;
- publication of 'More Steps in the Right Direction' – health walks around a number of the Renfrewshire villages;
- publication of 'Out There' and 'Out There on Bikes' – 10 routes for walking and cycling around Renfrewshire;
- production of walk leaflets and interpretation boards at Bridge of Weir, Houston, Johnstone, Kilbarchan and Renfrew;
- web based versions of the aforementioned leaflets made available on Renfrewshire Council's website;
- production of Look Up Paisley – a guided heritage walking app and
- ongoing promotion of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code via leaflets, interpretation boards and events

Direct engagement

- Establishment and development of Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Forum;
- creation of Walking Coordinator post and development of a successful health walk programme;
- development of the Renfrewshire Walking Network;
- delivery of a successful outdoor access festival in 2010 - Go Renfrewshire;
- delivery of the Gleniffer Braes Highland Cattle Project – an innovative way of increasing knowledge and reducing potential conflict amongst access takers;
- successful engagement with various voluntary groups and
- development of Bikeability in primary schools across Renfrewshire
- working within schools to develop and deliver Travel plans (35 primary schools have travel plans of which 13 are still current)



CASE STUDY

Out There booklets

‘Out There 10 walks around Renfrewshire’ and ‘Out There - on Bikes, 10 routes around Renfrewshire’ have proved highly popular with the public. Each booklet highlights 10 routes with full directions and information about the surrounding area. Historical snippets and unusual landmarks are highlighted to give each added interest to each journey. The individual routes in each book are also available for download from the Renfrewshire Council Website.



CASE STUDY

Look Up Paisley - heritage app

Available on i-phones and android the Look Up Paisley mobile app brings the heritage of Paisley to life. Ten heritage treasures from around the town are highlighted with photographs, music, historical snippets and recordings of some of the personal stories surrounding the locations. Users can learn more about Paisley's indomitable character, royal connections, the construction of a fountain, life in the mills and much more. Using the mobile app allows people to get more out of exploring Paisley's heritage.



CASE STUDY

Interpretation boards

Interpretation panels have been erected at Bridge of Weir, Houston, Kilbarchan and Johnstone. The panels highlight short walking routes around the area and give visitors a flavour of the rich and varied heritage of Renfrewshire. The interpretation panels were accompanied by a leaflet to take on the walk which are available on the Renfrewshire Council website.





CASE STUDY

Walking Network

The Renfrewshire Walking Network is a highly successful group that has been running for over 10 years. Originally established by Renfrewshire Council it is now coordinated through Renfrewshire Leisure. A number of volunteers, staff and Countryside Rangers lead a variety of walks around Renfrewshire and further afield.



CASE STUDY

Access Forum

The Renfrewshire Local Outdoor Access Forum was established as a result of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The Forum includes land managers, access groups, community groups and agencies. The group meets four times a year and is able to advise the Council and individuals on access matters.



CASE STUDY

Go! Renfrewshire 2010

In 2010 an access festival was hosted by Renfrewshire Council in partnership with a number of other organisations. A programme of 51 access events took place over a two week period with walks, cycle rides, canoeing, climbing, horse riding, jogging and even Tai Chi activities organised for people of varying abilities. To close the fortnight a fun day was held in Barshaw Park with a wide range of access related activities. The event was funded by Renfrewshire Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and Awards for All.



Next steps for communication

The strategy action plan aims to **enhance** the communications resource that has been developed to date and provide information in a variety of formats so that people of all ages and abilities are **aware** of Renfrewshire's access opportunities.

The provision of good information and the opportunity to join groups will **develop confidence**

Communications can maximise opportunities to **involve** people in outdoor access.

We will continue to communicate our statutory duties so that people **understand** their rights and responsibilities in relation to outdoor access for the benefit of all users and the natural environment.



Monitoring and evaluation

An important aspect of “Outdoors For You” is the ongoing monitoring, the review of the document and the implementation of the action plan. A statement will be prepared examining the progress on the issues identified in the action plan on a biennial basis. This will also inform the future review of the “Outdoors For You”.

A comprehensive baseline will be developed during the first year of the strategy to help improve the monitoring and evaluation process. It will be monitored bi-annually alongside the Renfrewshire state of the environment report.

Theme	Baseline Data
Improve health and well being	GP referrals
Increase economic benefit	Town Centre Health Checks Scottish Household Survey
Improve connectivity between people and places	Number of Core Paths or National Cycle Network Routes upgraded or developed Path surveys Path counts Car counts
Be harmonious for people and nature	Clyde Murshiel Regional Park Surveys Membership of local clubs Number of volunteers and hours

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. It is a process for identifying, predicting, reporting and mitigating the environmental impacts of proposed plans, programmes and strategies.

The first stage of the SEA process is screening which determines the potential for significant effects on the environment. Screening was undertaken for the Outdoors For You and responses were received from the three consultation authorities:

- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Historic Scotland.

In agreement with the Consultation Authorities' responses, Renfrewshire Council has determined that a Strategic Environment Assessment is not required as the Outdoor Access Strategy is not likely to have significant environmental effects. The determination is available on the Council's website and was also advertised in the local press.

Consultation

To raise awareness and encourage participation the Renfrewshire Outdoor Access Strategy will be subject to public consultation from the 1st February 2016 to 12 March 2016. It will be available on the Council's website www.renfrewshire.gov.uk and in local libraries. Hard copies will also be available on request. In addition the Council will also specifically consult:

- Renfrewshire Access Forum;
- the workshop attendees
- Community Councils
- internal stakeholders and Renfrewshire;
- Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership.

Following consultation, Renfrewshire Council will amend the strategy as necessary before adopting the final strategy. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the strategy or consultation, please contact:

Kate Cuthbert (Access Officer):

0141 618 7840

pt@renfrewshire.gov.uk

“People will have an enhanced outdoor resource throughout Renfrewshire”

A photograph of a sailing regatta on a body of water, with several sailboats visible. The background features a shoreline with trees and a building. The image is overlaid with a brown contour map pattern.

Appendix

The Action Plan

The actions presented in the strategy will aim to **enhance** both the infrastructure communication resource in Renfrewshire for both active travel and recreational access. Communities will benefit from new or upgraded links that provide connections to and within residential areas. Providing links to places of interest and local heritage, improving pedestrian and cycling connectivity in and through our towns; making better cross boundary connections and improving signposting of the path network will all ensure that the quality of outdoor access provision in Renfrewshire is enhanced.

Infrastructure communication improvements can benefit enhance the visitor experience at key outdoor destinations. Scope exists to improve the opportunities for water sports for all ability users. Mountain biking and other cycling could be further developed and integrated for mixed experience and all ability users providing a network of opportunities across Renfrewshire. Increased levels of promotion will enhance public enjoyment of facilities.

Improvements to infrastructure will give people more **confidence** in using the outdoors. Well

designed paths and spaces are those that take into account user type, the way people travel along paths for different purposes, public perception of safety as well as landscape and environment. Improving user confidence can increase the use of different access modes including those used by people with disabilities. Appropriately designed routes and information available about them can make the difference between a path or space being well-used or being rarely-used. All new paths and path upgrades will be developed using current best practice guidelines.

Well-signed routes with useful and consistent additional information can help achieve better **awareness** of active travel and recreational routes as can providing infrastructure such as cycle stands outside public transport hubs and other key destinations.

The actions contained in the strategy help people **understand** their rights and responsibilities in relation to outdoor access. The countryside of Renfrewshire is a working environment that provides a living and home for many people. Careful management and promotion of responsible access by key land owners either independently or in collaboration with access

providers will ensure that people living and working in the countryside are not negatively affected by people exercising their right to access. The Council will work with local landowners and agencies to ensure that the development of appropriate and responsible access opportunities afford benefits to all parties in terms of managing access challenges on the ground.

Good management and maintenance are also key to the success of outdoor access. Not every path or space in Renfrewshire that the public can use is owned by the Council. Some are on land owned by other public bodies such as the Forestry Commission Scotland. Whilst others are owned by developers, farmers or estates. Under the Land Reform Act all landowners have a duty to manage their land responsibly for outdoor access.

Local communities can be positively and actively **involved** in the provision and maintenance of the network. Access providers aim to support local groups to develop new path and promotional projects. Encouraging volunteering as a means of maintaining facilities whilst making people feel good about themselves and improving their physical health is another key action from this strategy.

Appendix 1: Action Plan

Infrastructure

Strategic Action: People will have an enhanced outdoor access resource throughout Renfrewshire

	Detailed action	Timescale Yrs 1-10	Partners	Strategic aim	Community Plan (see appendix 2)
I - 1	Maximise the opportunities for active travel and recreational access presented by City Deal	1-10	Community Resources / City Deal team/	Economic benefit Connectivity	4,5,6,7,9
I - 2	Support companies / organisations in their efforts to maximise their opportunities for active travel eg. <i>upgrade routes at Glasgow Airport, West of Scotland College and create links to UWS from NCR</i>	1-5	Glasgow airport/ Community Resources	Economic benefit Connectivity	2, 3, 9,
I - 3	Undertake a biennial path condition audit and then implement a programme of regular updates	Every 2 years	Community Resources/ CMRP	Economic benefit	8, 10
I - 4	Prepare programme of maintenance based on findings of path condition audit in keeping with resource capacity	1-3	Community resources/ Housing and Development	Economic benefit	8, 10
I - 5	Increase opportunities for mountain biking across Renfrewshire eg <i>develop opportunities at On-X, consolidate Hardridge route at CMRP, formalise desire lines at Gleniffer Braes</i>	1-5	RL/ CMRP	Health and wellbeing Economic benefit	1, 3, 4,5,6,7

I - 6	Increase the opportunities for water sports in Renfrewshire <i>Improvement to pontoons at CS, expanding opportunities for disabled sailing</i>	1-5	CMRP/ rowing and sailing clubs	Health and wellbeing Economic benefit	1, 3, 4,5,6,7
I - 7	Increase opportunities for horse riding across Renfrewshire <i>Carry out survey to identify routes used and identifying barriers to use.</i>	1-3	BHS	Health and wellbeing Economic benefit	1, 3, 4,5,6,7
I - 8	Repair Renfrew walkway and Erskine walkway shared use routes	1-5		Connectivity	8, 10
I - 9	Improve off road access between RSPB and Roadhead roundabout	1-5	Community resources Lochwinnoch CC	Connectivity	8, 9, 10
I - 10	Create a series of bespoke heritage trails at sites throughout Renfrewshire	1-5	Economic development/ heritage groups	Health and wellbeing	1, 5, 6
I - 11	Upgrade the physical condition of routes in parks, country parks and other key open spaces	5-10	Community resources/ CMRP/ FCS/ private landowners	Connectivity	1,5, 8,10
I - 12	Review the Leisure lane project and expand to other areas <i>Engage with community councils in appropriate areas</i>	5-10	Community Councils/ Community Resources	Health and wellbeing Connectivity	1,3,4, 5,8,10

Strategic action: People of all abilities will be able to move confidently within and between communities and will be aware of the opportunities for active travel and recreational access throughout Renfrewshire

	Detailed action	Timescale 1-10 yrs	partners	Strategic Aim	Community Plan
I - 13	Carry out review of sign posting across Renfrewshire and implement the findings as appropriate <i>Review location of signage, identify gaps in the network, ensure consistency of design.</i>	1-3	Community resources/ planning	Health and wellbeing Connectivity	8
I - 14	Install “time to travel” signage to key destinations to encourage active travel	1-3	Community resources	Connectivity Economic benefit	8, 9
I - 15	Ensure all core paths are barrier free <i>Survey core paths (as part of prep for revised Core Paths Plan and as path condition survey above), work with landowners to reduce obstructions, ensure on council land all core paths are barrier free</i>	1-5	Land owners	Health and wellbeing Connectivity	3, 4, 8,9
I - 16	Improve infrastructure to and at facilities eg libraries, health centres, education centres, shops, cafes etc to encourage active travel <i>Identify sites that require improvements such as bike racks, slopes or ramps to replace steps, dropped kerbs and better signage</i>	1-5	Community councils/ facility managers	Health and wellbeing Economic benefit	4,5 8, 9

I - 17	Create more facilities that enable people with disabilities to take part in outdoor access activities <i>e.g create turning circles along key routes to facilitate turning of wheel chairs and hand propelled bikes. Improve launching facilities for disability boats.</i>	1-5	Sustrans/planning/ developers	Health and wellbeing	1, 5
I - 18	Use the national path grading system on new infrastructure <i>Raise awareness of path grading systems and implement</i>	1-5	FCS/ Sustrans/ CMRP	Health and wellbeing Harmonious management	8
I - 19	Create and or improve links between and around communities e.g <i>at Elderslie gap, along the Gryffe between Bridge of Weir and Houston, at Glasgow airport</i>	1-10	Community Councils/ landowners/ Glasgow airport	Health and wellbeing Connectivity Economic benefit	1, 3 4, 5, 8,9,10
I - 20	Complete missing links in routes	1-10	Community resources/ planning / landowners	Connectivity Harmonious management	5, 8, 9
I - 21	Undertake the cycling infrastructure projects contained within the Renfrewshire Cycling strategy maximising the opportunities for active travel and recreation	1-10	Community resources/ SPT/ Sustrans	Connectivity	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
I - 22	Ensure all new developments have well integrated cycling and walking connections	1-10	Developers / Planning	Connectivity	8, 9

I - 23	Ensure that all new routes are designed taking into account best practice regarding perception of safety	1-10	Sustrans/ developers	Health and wellbeing Connectivity	8
I - 24	Ensure that all ability access is considered in the design and implementation of all path creation and upgrading projects wherever possible, <i>Raise awareness amongst officers regarding disability inclusion</i>	1-10	Developers/ Planning/ land owners	Health and wellbeing	5, 8
I - 25	Ensure that there is sufficient useable cycle parking at all key transport hubs	1-10	Abellio/ community resources/ SPT	Connectivity Economic benefit	5, 8,9

Strategic action: Access will be planned and provided for throughout Renfrewshire with respect to land management and nature conservation and people will understand their rights and responsibilities with regard to outdoor access

	Detailed action	Timescale 1-10 yrs	partners	Strategic Aim	Community Plan
I - 26	RC will carry out the duties placed upon them under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 <i>e.g locked gates, respond to enquiries and find solutions to infrastructure issues as they arise</i>	1-10		Harmonious management	5, 9, 10,11
I - 27	Review the Core Paths Plan <i>Prepare a PID, survey existing routes, are these still the most useful. Public consultation. Landowner consultation. Consider routes for removal and new routes for inclusion</i>	1-3	Land owners/ CC's/ stakeholder agencies	Health and wellbeing Connectivity Harmonious management Economic benefit	8 9, 10
I - 28	Interpretation panels to include wording about SOAC	1-5	FCS/ CMRP/ Sustrans/ RL	Harmonious management	8, 11

Strategic action: People will be involved in outdoor access provision

	Detailed action	Timescale 1-10 yrs	partners	Strategic Aim	Community Plan
I - 29	Develop new innovative approaches to maintenance e.g. adopt a path scheme, volunteer scheme, friends groups, use of CSO teams	1-3	TCV/ Community resources/ social work	Health and wellbeing Economic benefit	8,11, 12,13
I - 30	Support communities to undertake local path development projects <i>Engage with communities to identify projects. Identify funding and assist with applications</i>	1-5	CC's/ path groups/ landowners	Health and wellbeing Economic benefit	8,11,12,13

Communication

Strategic action: People will have an enhanced outdoor access resource throughout Renfrewshire

	Detailed action	Timescale 1-10 yrs	partners	Strategic Aim	Community Plan
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C - 1	Update existing walk/cycle/ride route information and develop new resources using a variety of formats <i>Revise content of existing routes, new photography, explore new routes, consider likely users when deciding formats e.g putting suitable walks on external websites such as WalkHighland</i>	1-3	Economic development/ CRMP/RL/ community resources	Health and wellbeing Connectivity	4,8,9,10
C - 2	Develop animated maps showing access opportunities <i>Work with graphics/GIS/tourism officer</i>	1-5	RL/ CMRP/FCS/ Sustrans	Health and wellbeing Economic benefit	3,5, 7, 8
C - 3	Develop Heritage trail information in a variety of formats. Leaflets/ apps/digital websites <i>Decide routes and prioritise, decide directions, research route and interpretation</i>	1-5	RL	Health and wellbeing Connectivity	4,8,9
C - 4	Engage with cafes to welcome access takers <i>Tourism officer engage with cafes located near routes and where we have interpretive material e.g stickers or plaques "We welcome muddy boots"</i>	1-5	Economic development/ Visit Scotland	Economic benefit	3, 4,

Strategic action: People of all abilities will be able to move confidently within and between communities and will be aware of the opportunities for active travel and recreational access throughout Renfrewshire					
	Detailed action	Timescale 1-10 yrs	partners	Strategic Aim	Community Plan
C - 5	Renfrewshire– walking network Extend the scheme by recruiting more volunteer walk leaders so that can add to the number of walks offered each week.	1-3	RL/ PFAP	Health and wellbeing	3, 4, 5, 11,12

C - 6	Improve information on council website regarding access groups available	1-3	Stakeholder groups	Health and wellbeing Connectivity	5,10,11
C - 7	Guided walks/cycle rides/jogging develop walking /bike/jogging buddie schemes A wider variety of activities to be provided across Renfrewshire.	1-5	RL / CMRP/ Sustrans active communities	Health and wellbeing	4,5,6,11
C - 8	Work with GP's to prescribe increased outdoor access activity	1-5	Social work and CHP	Health and wellbeing	4,5,6
C - 9	Encourage travel planning in secondary schools	1-5	Education/RL	Health and wellbeing Connectivity	1,9
C - 10	Undertake the cycling communication projects contained in the Renfrewshire Cycling strategy	1-10	Community resources/ Sustrans/ SPT/ RL	Health and wellbeing Connectivity	1,3,4,5,6,8,9, 11

Strategic action: Access will be planned and provided for throughout Renfrewshire with respect to land management and nature conservation					
	Detailed action	Timescale 1-10 yrs	partners	Strategic aim	Community Plan
C -11	Hold biennial event that promotes responsible behaviour	1-3	RL/ access stakeholders/ access forum	Health and wellbeing Economic benefit	3,8,10
C -12	Create fun responsible behaviour “leaflets”	1-3	Planning/economic development	Harmonious management	8,10
C - 13	Create better information on the website that gives information regarding responsible access for the public	1-3		Harmonious management	8,10
C - 14	Ensure information about SOAC is on all leaflets apps etc	1-5		Harmonious management	8,10

Strategic action: People will be involved in outdoor access provision				
	Detailed action	Timescale 1-10 yrs	partners	Strategic Aim
				Community Plan

C - 15	Hold an annual/biennial Access festival (multiple types of access) <i>Bring together a number of agencies to develop a festival</i>	Every 2 years	RL/CMRP/ Sustrans/ BHS/ FCS	Health and wellbeing Economic benefit	1,3,4,5,6,11,12
C - 15	Develop an interactive mapping resource on the RC website	1-3		Harmonious management Connectivity	5, 10,11
C - 16	Develop a cross boundary partnership/ consortium to further leisure cycling across Renfrewshire and beyond	1-3	RL/CMRP/ cycling Scotland/ neighbouring LA's	Health and wellbeing Economic benefit	1,3,4,5,6,11,12
C - 17	Renfrewshire Local Outdoor Access Forum Organise meetings, secretarial services, develop programme of work	1-10	Access stakeholders/ landmanagers	Harmonious management	7, 11,12,13
C - 18	Support Community groups to develop access facilities	1-10	Community groups/ CC's	Economic benefit Harmonious management	7,11,12,13

Appendix 2 “Outdoors For You” and the Community Plan

Renfrewshire Council’s Single Outcome Agreement is embodied in the Renfrewshire Community Plan 20013 – 2023. “Outdoors For You” contributes to the Community Plan under a number of headings:

Access strategy reference	Community Plan Theme	Community Plan Outcome
1	Children and Young People	Outcome 3 – our children and young people feel confident and responsible – able to participate fully in learning and in their wider community and take part in opportunities which meet their needs and aspirations
2	Jobs and the Economy	Outcome 1 – Renfrewshire will be one of the best locations in Scotland to invest in terms of people, business and local economy
3	Jobs and the Economy	Outcome 2 – Renfrewshire will have a growing local economy creating employment for a well trained, qualified and motivated workforce where unemployment is reduced and employment opportunities are growing
4	Community Care, Health and Wellbeing	Outcome 1 – Our residents will have an increased life expectancy regardless of the community they live in
5	Community Care, Health and Wellbeing	Outcome 4 – Our residents will have improved healthy behaviours
6	Community Care, Health and Wellbeing	Outcome 5 – Our residents will enjoy good mental health

7	Community Care, Health and Wellbeing	Outcome 6 – Our residents will get involved in activities and improve the health and wellbeing of their community
8	Safer stronger Renfrewshire	Outcome 1 – Renfrewshire is known as a place where people living, working or visiting feel safe and secure
9	Greener Renfrewshire	Work stream: Carbon reduction
10	Greener Renfrewshire	Work stream : Sustainable use of land
11	Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities	Outcome 1 - Our communities will be confident, fully engaged with and regularly consulted by public services
12	Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities	Outcome 2 – Have the capacity and resources to lead projects and be involved in service delivery
13	Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities	Outcome 3 – have the capacity, enthusiasm and ‘right to try’ the management of local assets

Appendix 3: Funding opportunities for Access –

Fund	Description	Contact details/website
Awards for All	The programme is administered by the Big Lottery Fund and is run in partnership with sportsotland. Awards For All gives groups a chance to apply for a grant between £500 and £10,000 for projects that aim to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. Awards For All can fund a range of activities, including : putting on events, purchasing equipment and paying expenses for volunteers.	www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

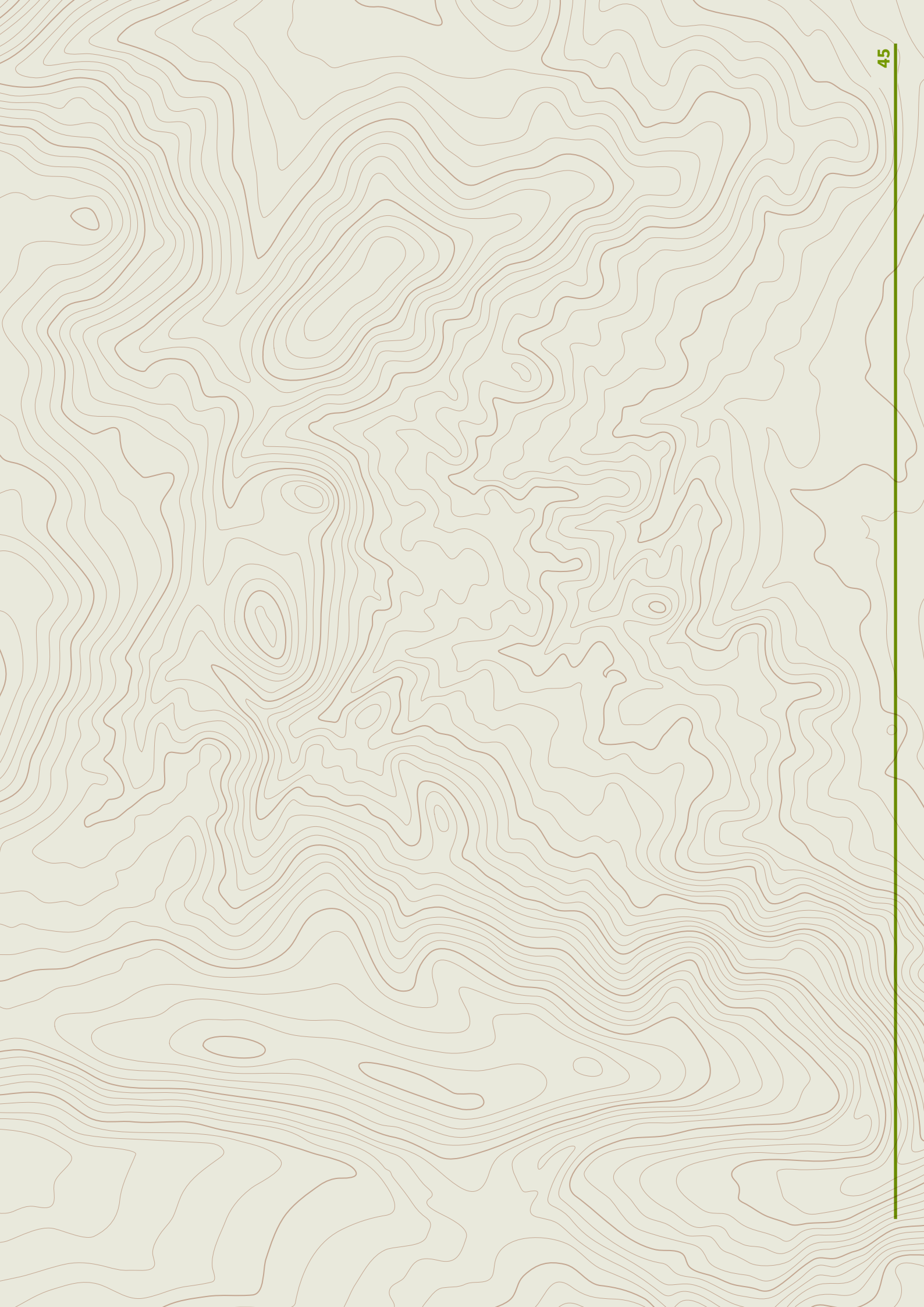
Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) Development Fund	The Fund is intended to support the development and implementation of projects delivering the priorities of improving the quality and connectivity of the green network. Projects must demonstrate that they will assist in delivering the CSGN goals and priority actions, change on the ground and demonstrate how the funding will add value to the proposals. Currently closed for new applications.	http://www.centalscotlandgreennetwork.org/resources/funding CSGN Telephone: 01501 822015
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	Funds projects about the environment. The main priorities regarding this are: connecting people with nature; large scale conservation of natural environments on land and at sea' countering the damaging human activities. Projects should: address a significant gap in provision, develop or strengthen good practice, challenge convention in order to address a difficult issue, test out new ideas or practices, take an enterprising approach to achieving its aims or set out to influence policy or change behaviour more widely	Esmee Fairbairn Foundation www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk 020 7812 3700
Events Scotland – National Events Programme	The Programme aims to develop domestic tourism across Scotland by supporting sporting and cultural events which take place outside the main cities. It supports the strategic development and assists in growing the media profile and audiences. It is open to all event organisers whose event meets the aims, objectives and criteria of the programme.	Events Scotland www.eventscotland.org 0131 472 2313
Heritage Lottery – Our Heritage Grants	The Your Heritage Programme offers grants between £10,000 and £100,000 inclusive for projects that relate to the local, regional or national heritage of the UK (except the Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Heritage Lottery Fund welcome applications that help people to learn about, look after and celebrate heritage in a fun and enjoyable way. The project must conserve the UK's diverse heritage for present and future generations to experience and enjoy or help more people, a wider range of people, to take an active part in and make decisions about heritage.	Heritage Lottery Fund www.hlf.org.uk 0131 225 9450

Heritage Lottery Fund – Landscape Partnerships	Landscape Partnership schemes put heritage conservation at the heart of rural and peri-urban regeneration. Local, regional and national organisations work together to make a real difference to landscapes and communities for the long term. They do this by conserving habitats at landscape-scale, promoting joined-up management and reviving long-lost skills. The programme provides grants of £100,000 to £3 million. It is based around a number of smaller projects which together provide long-term economic, environmental and social benefits for rural areas. To be eligible for a grant the overall project must identify an area of countryside that has a distinctive landscape character and is recognised and valued by local people.	Heritage Lottery Fund www.hlf.org.uk 0131 225 9450
Heritage Lottery Fund - Parks for People	Local Authorities as well as not-for-profit organisations that own public parks and gardens can apply for grants of between £100,000 and £5 million for the regeneration of parks and public gardens. Projects need to show that the community values the park as part of their heritage; the parks meets local social, economic and environmental needs; and the park management actively involves local people.	Heritage Lottery Fund www.hlf.org.uk 0131 225 9450
Interreg IVA	The Interreg IVA Programme for Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland is a European Union supported Structural Funds Programme which seeks to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders. It supports strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region. It is open to national and local authorities; public agencies and non-profit organisations.	http://www.seupb.eu
LIFE +	The Life+ nature and biodiversity is a European Union fund providing support for environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. It supports large scale projects (£2 million) in Scotland that contribute: to the implementation of the European Union's Birds and Habitats Directives; to the halting of biodiversity loss.	Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk/funding LIFE@snh.gov.uk

Paths for All Partnership	Paths for All funds are divided into Community path grants for improving local paths and health walks funding . Community path grants are for projects which: improve links to amenities in a community; path maintenance; increase awareness of paths in the community; improve paths for multi use and improve signage. Grants of up to £1500 are available for each project. Health walks funding falls into two categories Small grants of up to £5,000 and large grants of up to £30,000 Grants are available for community projects which build local capacity and deliver a volunteer led solution to improving physical activity levels.	Paths for All www.pathsforall.org.uk 01259 218888
Paths for All Partnership Smarter Choices, Smarter Places	PFAP administer the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places funding for the Scottish Government. A £5 million pot of Scottish Government funds to encourage less car use and more journeys by foot, bicycle, public transport and car share has now been distributed. Funds have been allocated on a population basis to local authorities, enabling soft measure projects to be implemented from April 2015.	Paths for All www.pathsforall.org.uk 01259 218888
People's Postcode Trust Small Grants Programme	The Small Grants Programme exists to try to make the world a better place through short-term, designated funding for projects that embody the following theme: Advancement of citizenship or community development Funding from People's Postcode Trust enables the delivery of successful initiatives involving sport, health, reducing poverty, environmental improvement and the advancement of human rights within the framework of community development and the advancement of citizenship. Funding is provided for projects of up to twelve months in length, ranging from £500 up to £20,000 to registered charities, community and voluntary groups, community interest companies and other not-for-profit organisations	People's Postcode Trust www.postcodetrust.org.uk 0131 555 7287

Renfrewshire Leader	LEADER is part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme, a part-European funded programme aimed at promoting economic and community development within rural areas. The main aim of the Programme in Renfrewshire is to support community based projects that will assist in Securing a high quality environment for residents and visitors; promote tourism and increase day visitors; support micro businesses and social enterprises and build stronger more self reliant and inclusive rural communities.	Website to be confirmed
Scottish Rural Development Programme	The 2014-20 SRDP (Scottish Rural Development Programme) offers funding for rural Scotland. A key aim of the SRDP is to deliver natural heritage benefits including biodiversity, landscape, climate change, water and soil quality, and public access. The SRDP is delivered by the Scottish Government in partnership with other public bodies including SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland.	Scottish Government www.scotland.gov.uk/srdp
(SRDP) Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS)	The Agri-Environment Climate Scheme promotes land management practices which protect and enhance Scotland's magnificent natural heritage, improve water quality, manage flood risk and mitigate and adapt to climate change. It will also help to improve public access and preserve historic sites. A total of £350 million will be available between 2015 and 2020 to fund a range of activities that help to maintain and enhance our rich and varied natural environment. Funding is available for supporting projects which manage vulnerable and iconic species and habitats, strengthen ecological networks, control invasive non-native species and enhance the condition of protected nature sites; preserve the historic environment and improve public access.	Scottish Government www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures

(SRDP) Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS).	The Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) will support: the creation of new woodlands – contributing towards the Scottish Government target of 10,000 hectares of new woodlands per year and the sustainable management of existing woodlands. During the Scottish Rural Development Programme 2014–2020, £252 million will be available through this scheme. Applications are under eight categories: two for the creation of woodland and six for management of existing woodland	Scottish Government www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures Forestry Commission Scotland – Central Scotland Conservancy www.scotland.gov.uk/srdp 01698 368530
Scottish Natural Heritage Grant Scheme	SNH funding is currently under review. Currently priorities are: to help a wider range of people to participate in volunteering, outdoor learning and physical activity; help and empower communities to become more resilient and better connected with their natural assets; helping people to engage in the development of the National Walking and Cycle Network through identifying new routes or promoting and encouraging use of the NWCN; supporting nature-based tourism, wild foods and innovative enterprises based on sustainable use of natural assets	Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk/funding 01292 261392
Scottish Landfill Communities Fund	With the introduction of Scottish Landfill Tax (SLT) in Scotland, there is also the requirement for a Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) that is suited to Scotland. This is a scheme that gives tax credits to operators who contribute money to organisations enrolled in the SLCF. This helps to fund local projects that meet community or environmental objectives. The maximum tax credit a Scottish landfill operator will be able to claim under the fund has been set at 5.6% of their Scottish Landfill Tax liability. However, this may change from year to year as announced in the Scottish Budget and agreed by the Scottish Parliament. HMRC and the Scottish Government are discussing arrangements to ensure that Scottish projects can continue to benefit from funds paid into the UK LCF for a transitional period from April 2015 until March 2017.	www.revenue.scot/scottish-landfill-tax/scottish-landfill-communities-fund





Following the consultation period, Renfrewshire Council will amend the strategy as necessary before adopting the final strategy. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the strategy or consultation, please contact:

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