

To: Communities, Housing and Planning Board

On: 18 January 2022

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan 2022

1. Summary

- 1.1 This purpose of this report is to inform the Communities, Housing and Planning Board of the Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan 2022. The new Core Paths Plan has been finalised following a statutory period of public consultation which took place over fifteen weeks.
 - 1.2 A copy of the Core Paths Plan, accompanying maps and an interactive storymap can be found on the Renfrewshire Council webpage at <https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/CorePaths>
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
 - (i) Approves the Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan 2022 incorporating three changes from the draft plan as set out in section 4 of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 requires that each local authority prepare a Core Path Plan and thereafter reviews it where required to do so in terms of section 20 of that Act. Core Paths are recreation and travel routes which allow the public “reasonable access” throughout each local authority area.
- 3.2. The current Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan was adopted by the Council in 2009. The plan outlines a network of key access routes across Renfrewshire in line with the requirements of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.
- 3.3. A review of the plan commenced in 2018, supported by the Renfrewshire Local Access Forum.

The Forum represents access users such as walkers, cyclists, community groups, and landowners/managers, as well as national organisations such as Forestry and Land Scotland and other stakeholders.

- 3.4. In 2020 a draft Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan was prepared. This sets out a strategic network of over 300 key access routes across Renfrewshire which connect communities and provide opportunities for active travel to schools, work and local amenities. The plan also identifies routes which connect people with areas of nature and greenspace, promoting and encouraging healthy lifestyles.
- 3.5. The Communities, Housing and Planning Board of 27 October 2020 authorised the Chief Executive to progress a statutory period of public consultation on the draft Core Paths Plan 2020.

4. **Finalised Core Paths Plan 2022**

- 4.1. The draft plan was subject to consultation for a period of fifteen weeks, from 9 November 2020 until 1 March 2021. Twenty-two responses were received. A summary of consultation responses is attached in appendix 1. The responses were supportive of the approach adopted within the plan and no formal objections were received.
- 4.2. Following consideration of representations, three changes to the draft plan are proposed, as follows:-
 - Minor realignment of aspirational Core Paths BIS 33 and BIS 37 to better reflect emerging routes within Dargavel Village;
 - Deletion of a short section of Core Path BIS 26 between Dargavel Village and Houston Road, recognising agricultural land uses within this area;
 - Renaming of Core Path BIS 26 to 'Glenshinnoch Viewpoint'
- 4.3. In accordance with section 20 of the Act, proposed changes to the draft plan were subject to public consultation for a further period of four weeks, from 15 November 2021 until 13 December 2021. No formal objections were received.
- 4.4. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, a copy of the adopted plan will be provided to Scottish Ministers and will be placed on the Council's website for public inspection. An interactive storymap of the adopted Plan will also be available on the Council's website.
- 4.5. It should be noted that under the provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, owners of land over which access rights apply have a duty to ensure that routes, such as designated Core Paths, are passable and free from obstruction.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.

3. **Community Planning**

Greener – The strategy seeks to support and enhance biodiversity and the network of green spaces across Renfrewshire

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.

13. **Climate Change** – The Renfrewshire Core Path Plan 2022 contributes to the Council's response to climate change and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 through the promotion of active travel opportunities which support the reduction of carbon emissions from transport.

Appendices

- (a) Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan 2022 (www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/corepaths).
- (b) Draft Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan 2020 – Summary of Representations.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Communities, Housing and Planning Board 27 October 2020 – Draft Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan 2020.

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Appendix 2

Draft Renfrewshire Core Path Plan 2020 – Representations

| Ref. | Core Path | Name | Representation | Proposed Change |
|------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | BIS 33, BIS 37 | Graham Trehwella (BAE Systems) | Propose minor realignment of BIS 33 and BIS 37 to better reflect emerging routes through Dargavel Community Woodland Park (BIS 33) and Dargavel Boulevard (BIS 37). | Minor realignment of BIS 33 and BIS 37 to better reflect emerging routes within Dargavel Village. |
| 2 | BIS 34, BIS 37, LIN 16 | Isla Williams (NatureScot) | Welcome new paths linking communities and key trip generators. Support new routes linking Paisley to Renfrew, new routes at Dargavel Village and aspirational link between Linwood and Erskine Bridge. | No change. |
| 3 | BIS 26 | Colin Camelford | Improvements necessary to allow designation of Core Path – access/egress at Houston Road. Suggestion that route should be fenced from surrounding farmland. Opportunity to improve linkages to Formakin Estate, Core Path may assist to address safety issues for pedestrians. | Delete BIS 26 spur to Houston Road as Core Path, recognising agricultural land use. |
| 4 | GB 4, GB 5 | Raymond Quinn | Suggests alternative route for GB 4. Supportive of aspirational route and seeks improvements to it. | GB4 retained as aspirational route. |

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| | | | Suggests consideration of aspirational route to improve linkages between GB 5 and SP 32, across Capethill Road. | Aspirational linkage between GB5 and SP32 precluded by existing road infrastructure, limited opportunities for improvement and ownership. |
| 5 | REN 23 | Martin Hagen | <p>Suggests extension of REN 23 to link with Hillington West Rail Station.</p> <p>Suggests extension of REN 23 to link with Gallowhill.</p> | <p>Extension to Core Path not proposed at this stage but further investigation of feasibility to be considered through Renfrewshire Economic Recovery Plan.</p> <p>Route proposed would involve use of single track roads with high volumes of traffic. In this context, it is not considered appropriate for inclusion as Core Path.</p> |
| 6 | JOHN 14 | Cllr Andy Steel | Suggests extension of JOHN 14 to link with Auchenlodment Road. | Auchenlodment Road at this point is a single track road with no footway. It is not proposed to designate this as a Core Path as existing network provides for a segregated route between Rannoch Road and Auchenlodment Road. |
| 7 | N/A | Steven Esson | Consider improvements to route between Glenpatrick and Mackie's Mill Road, to connect Elderslie and Foxbar. | <p>Representation is not related to a proposal within the Plan and outwith the scope of consultation.</p> <p>This section of Mackiesmill Road/Glenpatrick Road is single track with no footpath provision and limited opportunities for</p> |

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| | | | | improvement. As such it is not proposed to consider for designation as a Core Path. |
| 8 | BIS 26 | Fiona Sinclair | Considers that the name of BIS 26 would direct path users to Formakin Estate. Requests amendment of BIS 26 name from 'Formakin Viewpoint' to 'Glenshinnoch Viewpoint' in view of historic farm at this location. | Rename BIS 26 as 'Glenshinnoch Viewpoint'. |
| 9 | BIS 26 | Dr Michael McHugh | Requests amendment of BIS 26 name from 'Formakin Viewpoint'. Requests no further connections to Formakin Estate. | See response to representation 8 above. |
| 10 | BIS 26 | Susan Graves | As above | See response to representation 9 above. |
| 11 | BIS 26 | Dr Catherine Saddington | Requests amendment of BIS 26 name from 'Formakin Viewpoint'. | See response to representation 8 above. |
| 12 | BIS 10, BIS 26 | Russell Anley | <p>Requests reinstatement of BIS 10 as alternative proposed aligns with busy road.</p> <p>Suggests additional aspirational route from end of BIS 26 at West Glenshinnoch to connect with LAN16 (Formakin).</p> | <p>Extension to BIS 11 and designation of new Core Path BIS 22 provides purpose built segregated route which avoids conflict with farmyard (deleted route BIS 10). No change to plan proposed.</p> <p>Opportunities to improve the strategic path network within the area will be explored through future iterations of the Core Path Plan, in the context of the emerging Dargavel Woodland Park.</p> |

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| 13 | BIS 26 | Myrid Ramsay | Requests amendment to BIS 26 name as per representation 8. | See response to representation 8. |
| 14 | BIS 26 | John Clark | As above | See response to representation 8. |
| 15 | BIS 26 | Keith Gibson | As above | See response to representation 8. |
| 16 | BIS 26 | Ian McNaull | Requests amendment to BIS 26 name. Requests no further connections to Formakin Estate. | See response to representation 9 above. |
| 17 | Formakin | Joyce Rattlidge | Requests amendment to BIS 26 name as per representation 8 and does not agree with formation of link towards Houston Road. | See response to representations 3 and 8. |
| 18 | GB 26 | Kate Murray | Proposes extension of GB 26 to link with JOHN 14 at Auchenlodment Road. | Auchenlodment Road at this section is a single track road with no footway. It is not proposed to designate this as Core Path as existing network provides for a segregated route between GB26 and Johnstone Castle at JOHN 11. |
| 19 | BIS 26 | Gareth Hammond | Requests removal of section of BIS 26 leading to Houston Road. | See response to representation 3. |
| 21 | BIS 26 | Vicki Greig | Requests amendment to BIS 26 name. Requests no further connections to | See responses to representations 3 and 8. |

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| | | | Formakin Estate, considers Houston Road to be a safety risk. | |
| 22 | BIS 14, BIS 15 | Lynne Hartley | <p>Change of maintenance of BIS 14 to support use.</p> <p>Deletion of BIS 15 until circular route can be established.</p> | <p>Maintenance of the route is the responsibility of the landowner.</p> <p>BIS 15 is an established Core Path not subject to change and is outwith the scope of consultation.</p> |