

To: Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board

On: 15 November 2021

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: **AUDIT, RISK & SCRUTINY ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2021/22
– REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

1 Summary

- 1.1 Councillor Binks has submitted an item to be considered by the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board as part of the 2021/22 Annual Programme as detailed in the appendix to this report.
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2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board give consideration to including this review as part of the Annual Programme 2021/22 regarding linking the National Cycle Route 7 with the Whithorn Way.
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3 Background

- 3.1 The Board at its meeting held on 23 August 2021 considered the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board Annual Report 2020/21 and Annual Programme 2021/22. The report advised that an invitation to submit suggestions for areas of investigation for the 2021/22 programme was sent to Members of the Board on 12 April 2021 with a closing date of 11 June 2021 given. A reminder was sent out on 15 May 2021 and no suggestions were received by the closing date.

- 3.2 Councillor Binks has subsequently intimated that he wishes to submit a suggestion in relation linking the National Cycle Route 7 at Lochwinnoch (which is part of The Semple Way) to Howwood and to ensure a clear and safe link is created to the Whithorn Way which is the longest Pilgrimage Trail in Scotland.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - none
3. **Community Planning** - none
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** – not applicable.

List of Background Papers - none

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AUDIT, RISK & SCRUTINY BOARD
ANNUAL PROGRAMME



I would like to have the undernoted issue considered by the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board as part of its 2021/22 annual programme:

Issue:

Despite the constant pressure to encourage people to keep fit and healthy by taking more exercise, we tend to ignore the assets for encouragement on our doorstep. Cycle Lanes have recently been introduced to the roadways from Howwood to Johnstone and Paisley. As part of the impetus to get more people walking and cycling, consideration should be given to linking the villages, such as Howwood, to historic and well walked routes. At the moment there is **no** safe link for pedestrians to walk from the **National Cycle Route 7** to the village and beyond which is part of **The Semple Way**. Also, there is **no** link to the **Whithorn Way** route which is the longest **Pilgrimage Trail** through **Paisley** and on to Glasgow in Scotland. Above all, this road is very dangerous for pedestrians and walkers with speeding vehicles ignoring speed limits etc.

Why the review should be undertaken:

At the moment there is **no** safe footpath for walkers along the **Bridemill Road / Station Road** link to the **National Cycle Route 7**. Gartland Bridge is narrow and walkers have to walk in the road in the road to cross it. What is required is a **feasibility study** carried out to ascertain whether a raised footpath could be constructed or a timbered walkway. Consideration should also be carried out for a pedestrian controlled set of traffic lights. **Sustrans** have shown an interest in this suggested project and should be consulted as an interested partner.

Expected outcome of the review

This project would enhance and confirm **Renfrewshire Council** as a **Promoter/Supporter of History** and encourage more tourism and therefore more trade for the local economy. It would enhance Renfrewshire's status as a promotor History and a supporter of the **Whithorn Way**. The benefit to Renfrewshire and Paisley from the added footfall could be substantial. It would ensure a much safer route for pedestrians and walkers alike.

Signature : Bill Binks

Date : 12/10/2021