



From mountain to sea

Huntly Integrated Travel Town Masterplan

June 2018

Supporting Sustainable and Active Travel



Foreword

The Integrated Travel Town Project (ITT) takes a lead from the experiences and lessons learned from the Council's successful Peterhead Cycle Demonstration Town Project (CDT). The ITT project builds on the strengths of the CDT pilot and capitalises on the findings of the Smarter Choices Smarter Places funded projects across the UK.

The Integrated Travel Towns (ITT) Project allows Aberdeenshire Council to support more sustainable and active travel, working with communities and partners to provide the means and knowledge to facilitate a change in travel behaviour. This is a model that has been successfully utilised in the Council's Peterhead Cycle Demonstration Town Project with a growing body of evidence confirming that this approach can succeed in delivering change.

Huntly is one of a number Integrated Travel Towns (ITTs) being developed that will benefit from greater awareness of the barriers to developing fully integrated and sustainable transport leading to improved opportunities for walking, cycling, public transport use and more efficient vehicle use.

This Masterplan document sets the context of the ITT project, describes the background to the development of this masterplan and sets out the actions proposed by Aberdeenshire Council to enable these opportunities to be realised. This plan will help deliver on the National and Regional aspirations around smarter and more sustainable travel and supports the objectives of the Council's Local Transport Strategy.

The ITT Project has been developed with support from ¹Nestrans, ²Sustrans and ³Paths for All and maximizes opportunities for partnership working both from within the Council and externally with a wide range of stakeholders and has at its heart, the needs of the local community.

Peter Argyle

Chair of Aberdeenshire Council Infrastructure Services Committee

Peterhead Cycling Demonstration Town

The Peterhead CDT Project was delivered in partnership with the local community to provide new and improved infrastructure underpinned with a promotions and marketing campaign. The nationally recognised project delivered new cycle paths, an annual bike ride and cycle events resulting in a year on year increase in cycling of 50%. Levels of walking and cycling amongst primary school pupils are now amongst the highest in Aberdeenshire (Hands Up Scotland Survey 2016).

The project has been held up as an exemplar by the Scottish Government, featuring in the 'Town Centre Tool Kit' resource document.

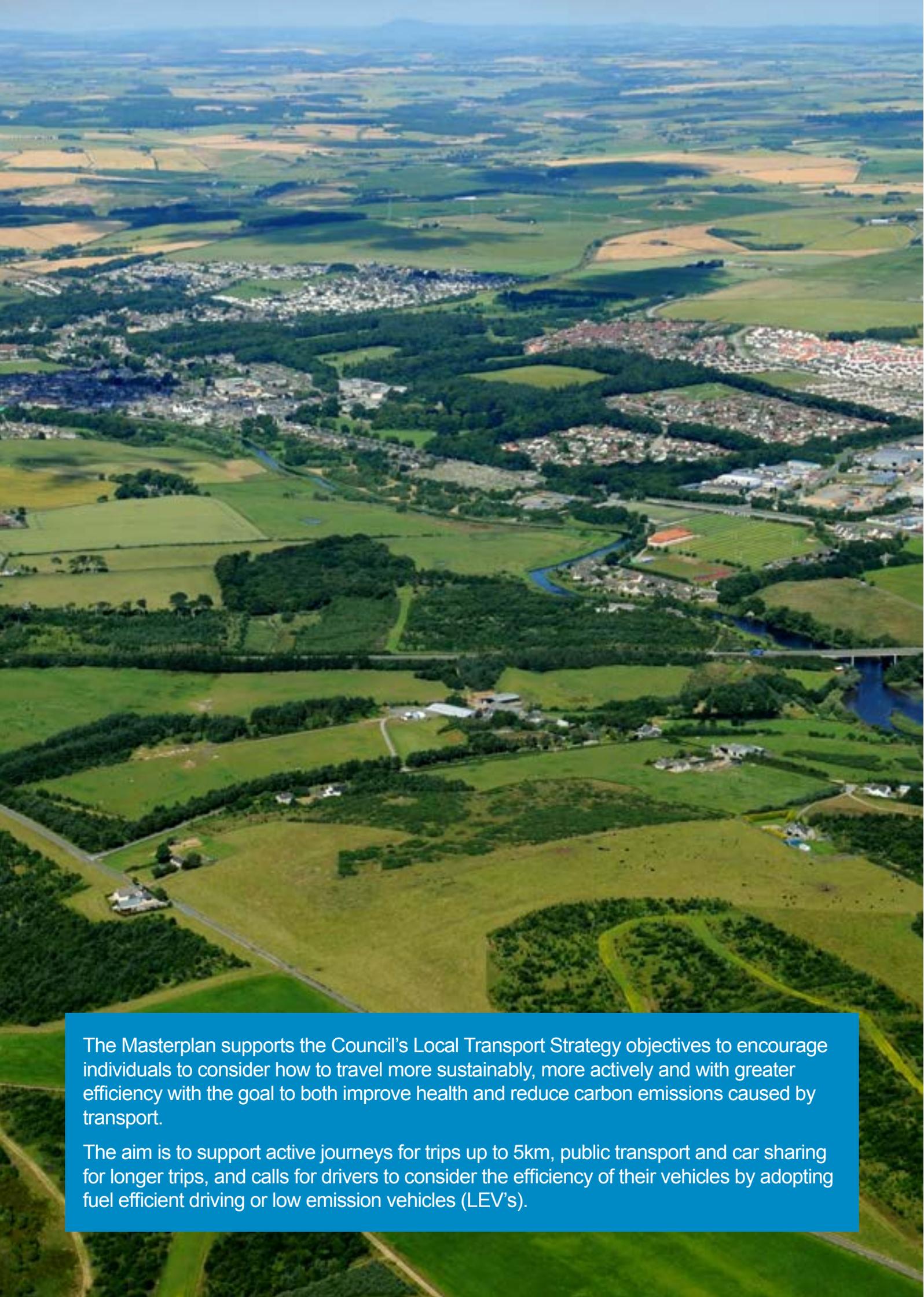
¹ Nestrans is the Regional Transport Partnership.

² Sustrans is the Cycling Charity administering Community Links, Safer Routes to Schools and Cycle Parking funding.

³ Paths for All administers the Government's Smarter Choices Smarter Places programme and budget.

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The Masterplan supports the Council's Local Transport Strategy objectives to encourage individuals to consider how to travel more sustainably, more actively and with greater efficiency with the goal to both improve health and reduce carbon emissions caused by transport.

The aim is to support active journeys for trips up to 5km, public transport and car sharing for longer trips, and calls for drivers to consider the efficiency of their vehicles by adopting fuel efficient driving or low emission vehicles (LEV's).

1 The Masterplan in Context

Against a backdrop of health inequality, a drop in levels of physical activity and a wide range of environmental considerations, active and sustainable travel has never had more importance in tackling these issues.

1.1 Background

The ITT Project supports the delivery of Aberdeenshire Council's Local Transport Strategy (LTS) which aims to encourage people to:

- Reduce Non-Sustainable Journeys
- Increase Active Travel
- Make Travel More Effective
- Improve Health
- Reduce Carbon Emissions from Transport

The Integrated Travel Town Project has a particular focus on supporting smarter and active travel. The ITT Project has drawn upon a high level of community engagement to develop the proposals set out in this plan.

Community ownership is at the heart of the ITT project and success lies in being able to fully understand the local barriers to active and sustainable transport, developing the appropriate infrastructure to overcome these issues.

1.2 Approach

The approach to how the Masterplan has been developed and how it will be delivered is set out below. The actions at the rear of the plan have been developed with a view to full delivery within a five year period, subject to funding.

Developing

Making use of knowledge and understanding gained, the proposals that have been identified are based on the wants and needs relevant to the local community with the aim to address common barriers to sustainable and active travel.

Promoting

Lack of knowledge or information has been identified as one of the biggest barriers to smarter travel. A sustained and joined up approach to marketing and promotion has been included in the Masterplan.

The plan aims to encourage members of the community to take part in promotional events and make use of new infrastructure proposals. Clearly understood, a well delivered message will target receptive audiences, helping to achieve longer term behaviour change.

Evaluating

A significant and sustained investment will be required to realise the full potential of the Masterplan and what it can deliver. Baselineing has already been undertaken to establish current travel trends via Non-Motorised User surveys (NMU), postal and online surveys and remote pedestrian and cycle counters. This data will be used to monitor changes in travel behaviour during the life of the Masterplan to ensure that the investment delivers.



Understanding

The issues, barriers and problems to Smarter Travel have been researched by undertaking site audits, engaging with local communities, sharing the findings and seeking local knowledge and guidance. The 'Cycling Potential Tool' which was developed by Cycling Scotland using the ITT project as a pilot study has been utilised as a means to understanding the impact of infrastructure development.

1.3 Vision, Aims and Objectives

Vision of the Plan

At the heart of this Masterplan is an aspiration to achieve a modal change whereby 40% of all local journeys under 5km are made by bike or foot. This is an ambitious approach, reflecting Government commitments set out in the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) and the National Walking Strategy.

It is hoped that this can be achieved by providing the right infrastructure at the right locations and ensuring that residents are fully aware of the sustainable and active travel options that will be open to them. The benefits of achieving this will result in fewer single occupancy car journeys being made which will impact positively on tackling health, air quality and environment issues and will also help to address problems associated with congestion and parking.

Aims

The aim of this Masterplan is to develop these transport opportunities fully, by understanding the issues and barriers and overcoming these with support and initiatives identified and developed with the local community at the heart.

Objectives

With this approach, it is intended that the Masterplan will help the Council meet its sustainability objectives while supporting the priorities set out in the Council Plan 2017-22 which focus on transport, sustainability, active lifestyles, addressing inequalities and protecting the environment. The Masterplan will also make a positive contribution to the Nations health and environmental aspirations.

1.4 Funding the Plan

Smarter Choices Smarter Places

The Scottish Government's Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme aims to encourage more people to change their behaviour to reduce car use in favour of sustainable alternatives such as walking, cycling and greater public transport use.

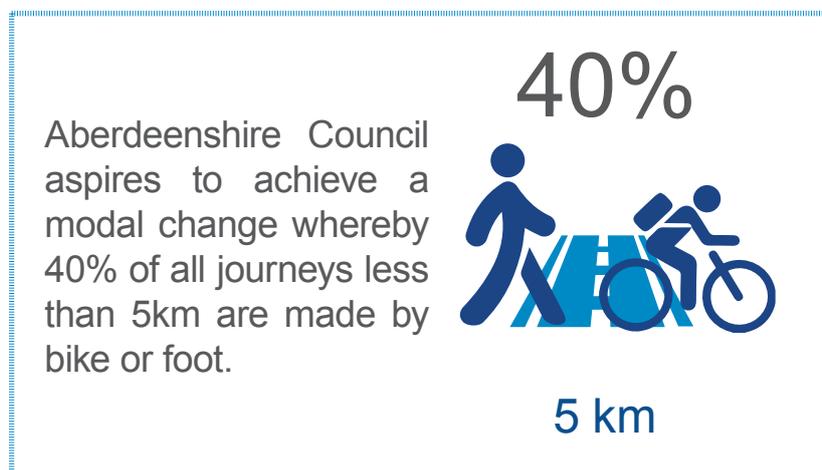
The initiative aims to deliver a step change in knowledge and attitudes towards sustainable travel choices by improved knowledge, awareness and tackling common perception barriers. Now in its fourth year, Government investment in the SCSP programme is currently £5m and it is anticipated that this will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

Community Links

The Community Links grant is a source of match funding delivered by Sustrans on behalf of Transport Scotland. Funding is allocated following a bid application process. One of the strengths of the Masterplan is to provide the 'bigger picture', setting into the wider context the infrastructure schemes which will be delivered over the period of the Masterplan. This approach, adopted for the CDT project has been successful and is welcomed by funding partners including Sustrans. With an annual budget of £80m and an annual bid process for funding, Aberdeenshire Council will continue to work with Sustrans using the Masterplan to support funding applications.

Regional Transport Partners

Nestrans, the regional transport partnership for the North East, represents the strategic transport needs of both Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City at a wider level. Funding from Nestrans will be used to help deliver some of the more strategic interventions, for example linking communities on long distance walking and cycling paths suitable for commuters or supporting efforts to improve local transport provision and recreational options.



Huntly: How we Choose to Travel

Transport Trends

49%



5 km

Travel to Work
Almost half of all work trips are within 5km.

30%



10km or more

70%



Scotland

70.6%



Huntly

Car Ownership in Huntly aligns with the national average. 22.3% of households have TWO or more cars.**

43%

Travel to work/study by car



Around 12% of these journeys are thought to be less than 5km*

4%



Nationally around 17% of the population travel by bus.*

36.1%



Walking and cycling account for 38.5% of all journey's to work/study among the highest levels in Aberdeenshire.*

2.4%



Travel to School**

Gordon Primary

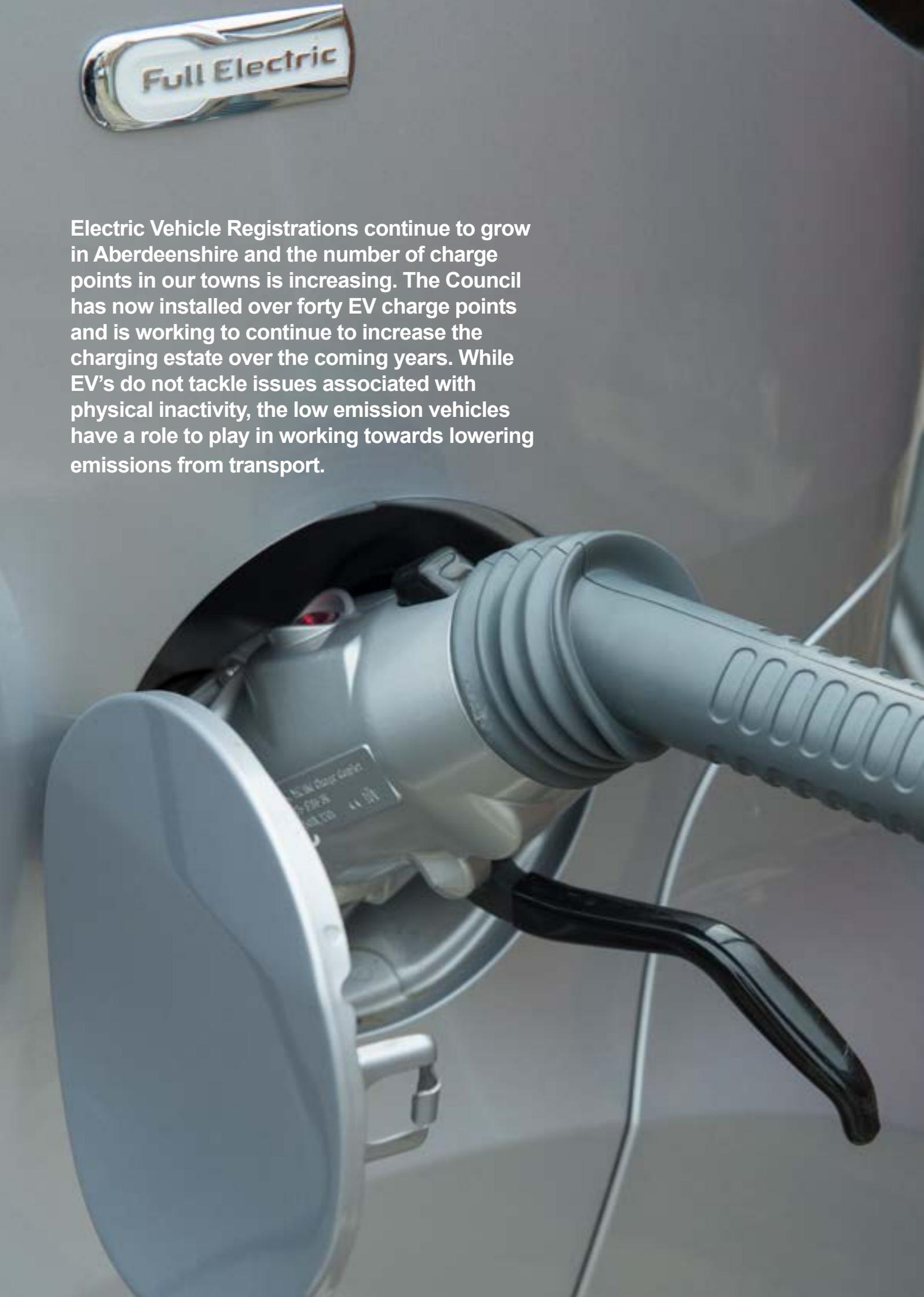
Walk 48%
Cycle/Scooter 4%
Park and Stride 13%
Driven 26%
Bus/Taxi 9%

Gordon Schools

Walk 31%
Cycle/Scooter 3%
Park and Stride 3%
Driven 6%
Bus/Taxi 57%

Our Aims



A close-up photograph of an electric vehicle's charging port. The port is a light grey color and is partially open, revealing the internal charging socket. A black charging cable is plugged into the port. Above the port, there is a silver badge with the text "Full Electric" in a sans-serif font. The background is a blurred grey surface, likely the side of the car.

Full Electric

Electric Vehicle Registrations continue to grow in Aberdeenshire and the number of charge points in our towns is increasing. The Council has now installed over forty EV charge points and is working to continue to increase the charging estate over the coming years. While EV's do not tackle issues associated with physical inactivity, the low emission vehicles have a role to play in working towards lowering emissions from transport.

2 Development of the Masterplan

The Masterplan was developed with the community in mind to improve the sustainable and active travel options connecting people to the places they want to travel to. The delivery of the proposals will require significant sustained long term investment and the plan sets out how this can be achieved.

2.1 Process

Following successful funding applications to Sustrans and Paths for All, the ITT Masterplans have been developed adopting the following approach.

- Desktop Review and Site Audits
- Community Engagement
- Development of proposals.
- Consultation on draft proposals
- Baseline surveying

Central to the Masterplan development process has been engagement with the local community within each of the ITT towns.

The Masterplan includes background information relating to sustainable and active travel in Huntly, and details of the problems and opportunities which have been identified. The plan concludes with a list of potential actions to support active and sustainable travel.

Aberdeenshire Council plans to work with partners to ensure the ITT Project continues in the longer term and it is intended that the Masterplan remains a live document with the action list subject to ongoing review and update.

2.2 Desktop Review and Site Audits

The desktop review considered travel origins and destinations; mapping main residential areas and areas of employment, local facilities and education centres. The review then identified the key links between these areas, looking for opportunities to enhance these links or create new ones altogether.

By adopting a corridor approach, the desktop review helped to focus the scope of the site audits which would identify both barriers and opportunities particular to these corridors.

The site audit process considered the factors which have either a positive or negative impact on active travel in particular. The audit looked for crossing points, considered footway widths and lighting. Pedestrian 'cut through' or 'desire lines' have been noted as these routes provide indications of where people want to walk when not constrained. Areas of excessive on street parking or popular pick up or drop off points, particular those related to schools were also recorded.

Areas of opportunity were noted during the audit process which included the potential to widen existing footways, create new cycle lanes, improve or provide new lighting. Based on desire lines and on site observations, locations where crossing facilities would be of benefit were also noted as well as cycle parking opportunities.

The information from these audits was logged and mapped and the information presented during the community engagement process for comment and confirmation that the audit identified recognised issues and constraints.

2.3 Community Engagement

Community engagement has been central to the development of the Masterplans. A range of consultation methods were used to afford local members of the community the opportunity to provide their input.

Comments have been sought by attending public drop in sessions held in public areas such as town halls, libraries or sports centres. Council officers attended farmers markets and community fairs and events to seek views and opinions on transport problems and issues.

A consultation booklet was produced to accompany an online survey which was promoted to the local community, making use of Community Planning links and contacts, seeking comment and suggestions for improvements based on the findings of the initial site audits and desk top studies.

The recently developed 'Placecheck' tool was piloted to provide further opportunity for residents to comment. Making use of online and mobile technology afforded by smart phones, Placecheck allows users to note on an electronic map areas which are 'liked' areas 'for improvement' and general observations.

In summary: Early findings suggested that the main issues surrounded perceptions of safety in particular at schools. The most popular proposals centered around measures that would support access to the schools and facilitate general cross town cycling.

2.4 Development of Infrastructure Proposals

Taking into account the findings from the community engagement exercise and the site audits, a SWOT analysis was prepared for the Huntly area. This analysis, used alongside the Placecheck data, has been used to inform the development of the Huntly Masterplan proposals which sets out priority projects designed to meet the Vision, Aims and Objectives of this plan.

From the body of information gathered from the site audits, community engagement and the SWOT analysis, a number of proposals were identified. The proposals which are set out in the next section of this masterplan were set out in a Draft Consultation Document, Launched in 2016. This consultation was supported online with a survey and a mail out to 23,000 households seeking comments on the proposals and asking local communities to priorities the infrastructure proposals.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Consultation Events | Community Hall Workshops were held during 2015 in each ITT. Surveys and maps available to record comments. Officers attended public events such as farmers markets to gather local knowledge. |
| Schools Engagement | Workshops with staff and pupils in ITT cluster schools to identify specific issues related to travel to and from school. |
| Online Survey | Online survey in summer 2015 allowing interested parties to provide their comments electronically on problems and issues and potential improvements within each ITT. |
| Placecheck Tool | Promotion of the Placecheck tool and wider promotion of ITT Consultation and feedback mechanisms through press releases and social media. |
| Wider Approaches | May 2016 saw the launch of the ITT consultation document for comment. Officers attended public events such as farmers markets to gather local knowledge. A household survey was distributed to over 23,000 residents in the ITT areas. Baseline surveys were undertaken in March 2017 via NMU survey. |

2.5 SWOT Analysis

The findings of the community engagement and consultation exercises coupled with the site audits and desk reviews have been summarised into a SWOT analysis which considers the relative strengths and weakness associated with sustainable and active travel as well as the opportunities and treats associated with delivering new and improved facilities.

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Deveron Park has a high quality shared use path network (wide even surfaces and signposted), providing connectivity to the supermarket. » A path connects the Huntly Industrial Estate to the north of the town at Deveron Road-with permeability to Deveron Park, Scott Court and Clashmach View. However, this is very poor quality in places. » Sufficient space to widen existing path on Deveron Road (north side). » Good cycle storage at supermarkets in the town. » Good provision of dropped kerbs across the town. » Good connectivity to other towns via public transport. » Sufficient space in The Square for cycle storage facilities. The layout also lends itself well to low traffic speeds. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Shared use paths are limited to only Deveron Park. » No cycle storage in the Town Centre. » Poor infrastructure and connectivity for cyclists across the town-including to/from the station. » No bridge linking the two station platforms. Southbound platform access is via the A97. » > Lack of permeability between Huntly and areas to the south of A96. |
| Opportunities | Threats |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Extend the shared use path network to incorporate Deveron Road, and links between the river and Rowan Avenue/ Burnside Road. » Increase permeability at various locations across the town. » Develop the riverside path as an attractive option for recreational activities. » Implement a comprehensive network of walking and cycling routes to the schools. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Some schemes may be expensive. » Difficult for any future developments to the south of the A96 and east of River Bogie to have permeability with other parts of Huntly. Any new developments will likely generate additional traffic and should be designed with shared use facilities in mind. » Traffic levels on key arterial routes (Deveron Street/Road, Bogie Street and George V Avenue) may cause traffic related issues. |



2.6 Cycling Potential

Working in partnership with Cycling Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council investigated the cycling potential within the Integrated Travel Towns, including Huntly. The Cycling Potential Tool (CPT) used for the assessment provides an evidence base to inform decision-making about which areas may gain the largest impact from investment in cycling at a local level.

Reviewing origin destination data, the CPT identifies journeys that already occur and show that they could be completed on what is classed as cyclable network. The table below shows the top 10 journeys that occur within Huntly and the number of people who make that journey according to the Scottish Census data.

Top 10 Journeys

| Journey by Data Zone areas | No. of people |
|--|---------------|
| Huntly 02 (Bogie St area) – Huntly 03 (Bleachfield St area) | 61 |
| Huntly 02 (Bogie St area) – Huntly 05 (Steven Rd area) | 48 |
| Huntly 05 (Steven Rd area) – Huntly 05 (Steven Rd area) (internal) | 46 |
| Huntly 02 (Bogie St area) – Huntly 01 (Deveron St area) | 45 |
| Huntly 04 (town centre) – Huntly 04 (town centre) (Internal) | 45 |
| Huntly 01 (Deveron St area) – Huntly 05 (Steven Rd area) | 37 |
| Huntly 01 (Deveron St area) – Huntly 01 (Deveron St area) (internal) | 41 |
| Huntly 01 (Deveron St area) – Huntly 03 (Bleachfield St area) | 40 |
| Huntly 01 (Deveron St area) – Huntly 04 (town centre) | 39 |
| Huntly 03 (Bleachfield St area) – Huntly 05 (Steven Rd area) | 37 |

A key feature of the Cycling Potential Tool is to the ability to estimate the number of people who could potentially cycle to work or school within an area. This feature was used to examine the people who were nearby the proposed route sections and estimate how many of those people could feasibly cycle to work or school. To calculate the number of those who could potentially cycle, the tool considers the travel mode of each person and focuses on those who use the following forms of transport for getting to work or school:

- Car /Van
- Car Passenger
- Motorcycle
- Bus
- Taxi
- Metro
- Light rail

The tool then calculates the number of people who currently travel what is considered an acceptable distance to cycle to their workplace or educational facility. This results in a final number who could potentially change their mode to cycling. The figures are detailed in section 3.7 of this report.



Walking and Cycling are often overlooked as an affordable and healthy travel option. With around a quarter of travel to work journeys less than 5km and the increasing availability of E-Bikes, there is significant progress to be made in encouraging active travel for these short trips.

3 Proposals

The Masterplan proposals below have been developed to aim to address the main barriers to active and sustainable travel; catering for schools, business and the local community, delivering first the infrastructure and supporting soft interventions prioritised by the community.

3.1 Year 1

- Engage with the Gordon Schools to identify and address where possible pick up and drop off issues.
- Develop shared use path adjacent to Deveron Road to create traffic free cycle route to Gordon Schools from the west
- Support provided to local Bicycle Recycling scheme.
- Investigate potential for Huntly Cycle Club.
- Support HDDT with Huntly Car Club.
- Promote walking and cycling maps.

3.2 Year 2

- Explore options for a set down – pick up area away from the school gates considering Burnside Road and/or Meadow Avenue
- Consider access on East Park Street onto West Park Street to support improved school access.
- Upgrade existing informal path Steven Road – Deveron Road.
- Implement measures on New Road and Meadow Street to provide opportunities for cycle and walking access on shared road space. Promote these routes as quiet lanes.
- Work with local businesses to identify opportunities to promote E-Bike delivery scheme.
- Work with HDDT to further promote use of E-Bikes.
- Sign post key routes across the town.

3.3 Year 3

- Implement measures on New Road and Meadow Street to provide opportunities for cycle and walking access on shared road space. Promote these routes as quiet lanes.

- Work with Huntly Schools to achieve 'Cycle Friendly Schools' status.
- Work with two local businesses to support applications as Cycle Friendly Employers.
- Support development of annual family cycle ride.
- Develop opportunities to create cycle link to railway station.

3.4 Year 4

- Create shared use path adjacent to A96 to link town to A97
- Gordon Schools receive Cycle Friendly accreditation.
- Review opportunities to promote Victoria Road, Torry Street, Torry Road as cross town cycle route.

3.5 Feasibility and Costings

The infrastructure proposals developed for the Masterplan have been subject to an appraisal to consider first the feasibility of delivery and secondly to gain an appreciation of the likely costs associated with each scheme.

The findings of the feasibility review have been collated into a standalone Feasibility Report which identifies the problems and issues associated with scheme delivery including land ownership, land availability and technical barriers such as utility provision.

The infrastructure options have been tested against the planning objectives identified during the community engagement exercise to ensure that the infrastructure proposed will deliver on community requirements.

3.6 Cycling Potential

Building on the identified options, the Cycling Potential Tool resulted in an understanding on how the proposed network has an impact on cycling potential compared to the current network. The analysis is based on four elements:

1. Areas of Interest – Identification of the study area – or 'Area of Interest'. In the case of Huntly, this has been sub-divided into six smaller areas to match the Integrated Travel Towns Masterplan document for Huntly.

2. Base Environment – This runs the CPT with no impact from the current network. This produces an output that is not biased by any network and simply shows the inherent state of cycling potential in the area.
3. Quality of Service – This runs the CPT with the current network in place. A 'Quality of Service' measure is in place to take into account the different types of network currently in situ. In other words, the CPT would show a difference between a dirt track and a segregated cycle way. In addition, the analysis and scoring of the network is from the point of view of a 'novice cyclist' who is perhaps not confident cycling on fast/busy roads. This means that the network is assessed for a wider audience than just those who currently cycle.
4. Proposed Network – This runs the same Quality of Service tool as section 3 but includes proposed changes to the cycle network that are listed in the Integrated Travel Town masterplan.

Using the data from these four stages of development, the Cycling Potential Tool has been used to provide an estimate of discussed above is the ability to estimate the number of people who could potentially cycle to work or school within an area. This feature was used to examine the people who were nearby the proposed new route sections and estimate how many of those people could feasibly cycle to work or school.

| Proposed Scheme | Total number of people within 500m of scheme | Total number of people within 500m of scheme who could cycle to work or school |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Upgrade existing desire line to link Steven Road to Deveron Road | 22,487 | 2,248 |
| 2. Cross town links | 4,903 | 1,266 |
| 3. Shared use path West/East Park St | 4,162 | 1,040 |
| 4. Meadow St and New Rd Quiet lanes | 4,618 | 1,144 |
| 5. Deveron Road Shared Use Path | 3,803 | 956 |



The Hands Up Survey has been undertaken in all Aberdeenshire Schools since 2006. Encouragingly the 2016 survey results confirm that across the area there are now four times as many pupils opting to cycle or park and stride.

4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation are key elements of the ITT Masterplan and a degree of baselining has already been completed to help monitor the outcomes of the ITT proposals. An annual non-motorised user survey will be undertaken and data captured from permanent walk and cycle counters will help identify any long term trends in behaviour change.

4.1 Why Monitor?

The Masterplan is supported by a structured monitoring regime, to ensure that the measures delivered by Aberdeenshire Council are cost effective and have a positive impact. This work is also vital to support grant fund applications and subsequent project reporting.

An annual evaluation of the data received and projects delivered will also allow the Council to determine which interventions have had the greatest success or indeed those which have had little impact. This process will inform future decision making and will allow greater targeting of effective resource.

4.2 Methods of Data Collection

The ITT project aims to collate both quantitative and qualitative data. While it is important to determine the actual number of journeys made by particular modes, it is equally important to understand and appreciate the motivation behind these modal choices.

Quantitative Data

Quantitative walking and cycling data has already been collected prior to any new/improved infrastructure or promotion campaigns have been implemented. This will allow the Council to evaluate the impact of any interventions measured against a set of baseline data. Making use of the newly installed automatic pedestrian and cycle counters, the Council will be in a position to provide a consistent and accurate method of data collection.

Through the ITT project, bus patronage on key routes will be monitored including sales of the new Grasshopper bus ticket. The number of Electric Vehicle charges delivered at any new charge point will also be included in any data capture.

Data from the annual Hands Up Survey will be collated for all schools within the ITT catchment area which will identify trends in how pupils are opting to make the journey to school.

With a range of promotional materials to support the ITT project, demand for this information will be recorded in the form of information distributed, social media interactions and number of events held.

Qualitative Data

We will undertake community surveys at regular intervals to establish levels of awareness of sustainable and active travel modes and over time gauge if the barriers both perceived and real have been removed. Non motorised user surveys have already been undertaken to provide the baseline and these surveys will be repeated annually. We will review the number of any website visits and levels of demand for promotional materials to help identify which area of intervention is having the largest impact.

4.3 Output, Outcome and Indicators

The following table sets out the desired outputs and outcomes of the ITT project and provides a short list of some of the indicators that will be used to evaluate the ITT Masterplan.

| Output | Indicators | Outcome | Indicators |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Shared use walking and cycle routes | - Length of new foot/cycle path implemented. | | |
| Cycle Parking | - Number of new cycle parking spaces - Number of covered Cycle Spaces | Increased number of trips made by bike/foot to key destinations. | - Percentage of work journeys by walking and cycling |
| Promotion of sustainable travel | - Activities and events: number of participants - Number of maps distributed. - Number of web site visits - Number of outlets stocking maps and transport information. - Number of information kiosks | Greater uptake of Electric Vehicles. Increase in bus patronage along key routes. Reduced car use for short trips. Increase in active school trips. Journeys being made by E-bike | - Pedestrian and cycle counts on key routes - Positive attitudes to sustainable and active travel. - Bus patronage. - EV Ownership in Aberdeenshire. - No of cycle friendly schools. |
| New School Travel Plans | - Number of new school travel plans | Increase in car sharing and decrease in single-occupant car journeys | - No of cycle friendly employers. |
| Electric Vehicle Parking Bays | - Number of charge points available. | | - No of Liftshare users. |
| Support for local cyclists | - Support of local (Ythan) cycle club. | | |
| Cycle to Work Scheme | Number of participants in Cycle to Work scheme | Increase in journeys to work being made by bike | No. of cycle parking spaces in use |
| Grasshopper Bus Ticket Scheme | Number of Grasshopper passes issued | | |

5 The Action Plan Proposals

5.1 Infrastructure Proposals

The action list has been developed based on the community engagement process and using Aberdeenshire Council's experience in Peterhead and elsewhere. The Council has also made reference to the experience of local authorities promoting sustainable and active travel around Scotland.

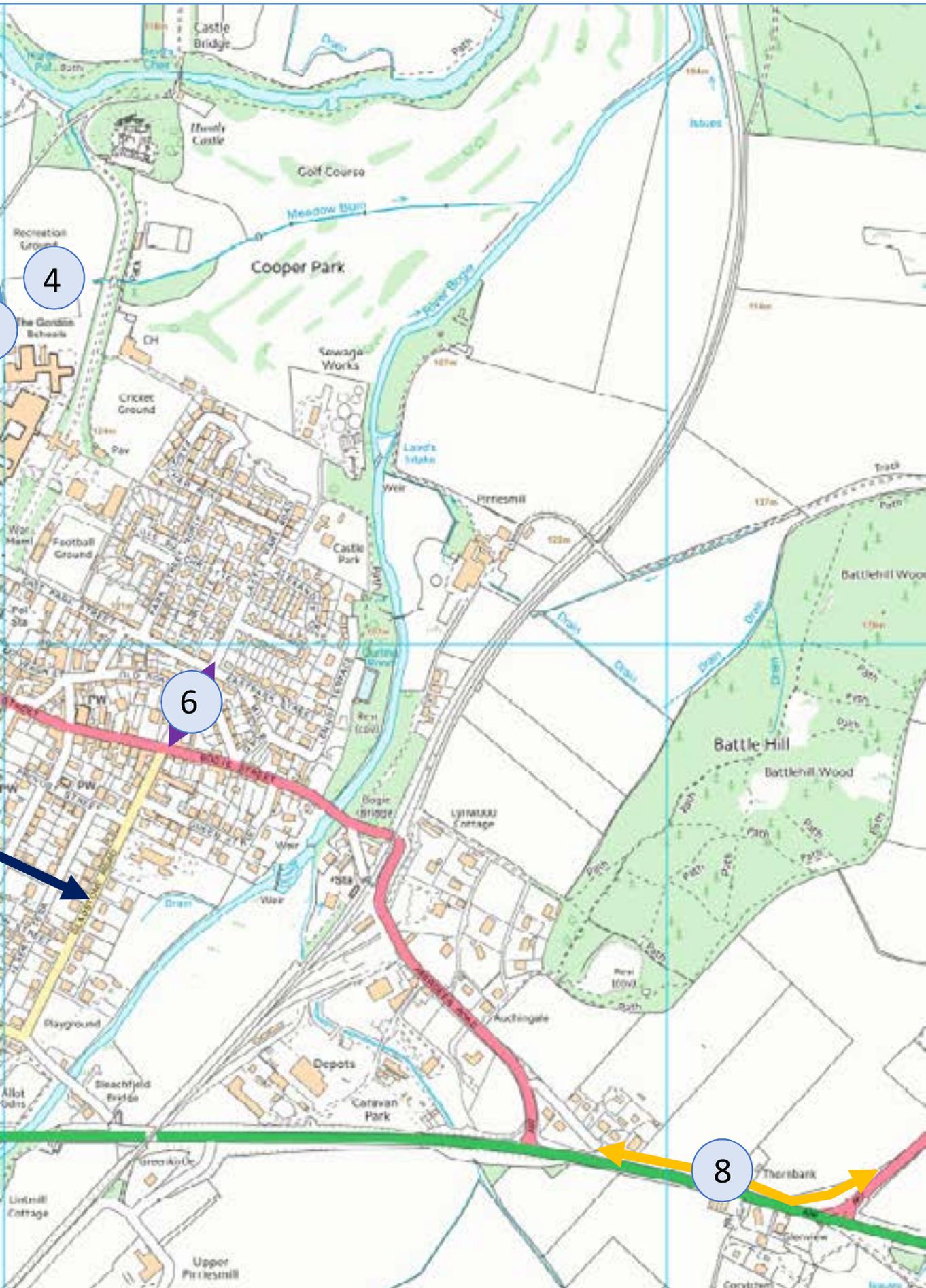
| Schemes | Description | Objectives | Delivery | Cost estimate |
|--|---|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Upgrade existing desire line to link Steven Road to Deveron Road | Existing 'cut through' is well used by walkers and cyclists. Route would benefit from formalisation to provide surfaced shared use path with LED lighting. | Provide improved connectivity north south across town and link into school infrastructure (Deveron Road) | Year 2 | £150,000 |
| Gordon Schools Access Rear Path Link | Explore options to support improved pick up and drop off, park and stride and support walking and cycling to the school gates. | Provide improved access from potential set down pick up areas away from school gates. | Year 2 | £20,000 |
| A96-A97 shared Use Link | Short link which would support cyclists traveling from rural communities accessing Huntly by providing traffic free access via A96. | Supports journeys to and from Huntly from other communities and supports recreational opportunities. | Year 3 | £150,000 |
| Cross Town Links | Develop east west route making use of Victoria Road, Torry Street, Torry Road linking onto off road paths at Scott Court Playing Field. Upgrade existing path linking onto Steven Road-Deveron Road link. | Improves access across the town away from the town center to create access between residential areas, employment and retail areas. | Year 4 | £150,000 |
| Gordon Schools Pick up and Set Down Options | Development of set down area considering Burnside Road, Meadow Avenue or bus parking area. | Support more park and stride trips and reduce school gate congestion. | Year 4 / Year 5 | £75,000 |
| Meadow Street and New Road – Quiet Lanes | Develop and implement solutions to support Meadow Street and New Road to become quiet lanes to encourage shared use amongst vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. | Creates further opportunities to promote some of the back routes in Huntly as safe and welcome areas for pedestrians and cyclists. | Year 4 | £20,000 |

5.2 Soft Interventions

The actions for the softer interventions will support the infrastructure investment and will ensure that the local community is engaged via promotional and marketing activities. Lack of way marking and signage are common barriers to active travel – proposals to signpost and map key routes will help to address this. Awareness raising activities and events working with both business and school communities will help to promote active and sustainable travel.

| Proposal | Description | Objectives | Delivery | Budget |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---------------|------------------|
| Maps | Legible walking / cycling routes – To help people to travel more sustainably more often around town and in their local area the Council will build on the success of previous maps and produce a suite of sustainable travel maps covering the Huntly area. | To improve awareness of proximity to service locations by mapping and identifying time bands to access these areas. Remove barrier to distance perceptions. | Year 2 | £2,500 |
| Signage | Legible walking / cycling routes – co-ordinated town walking and cycling signage based on comprehensive wayfinding/signage strategies will support the development of walking/ cycling infrastructure. | To improve awareness of locations available to walkers and cyclists. Address barriers associated with distance perceptions. | Year 3 | £10,000 |
| Cycle Parking | Cycle Parking - Significant improvements are being made to the quality and availability of secure cycle parking. The programme looks to provide secure facilities at key locations across Huntly. | To provide safe secure highly visible areas for cycle parking to encourage greater cycle use. | Ongoing | £15,000 |
| Business Travel Planning. | Business travel planning – engagement with employers (prioritising those with high 'sustainable travel zone rankings'), including provision of workplace travel planning support and advice and delivering Personalised Travel Planning (PTP) / travel challenges to employees. This aims to establish business networking and a joined up approach to employee travel. | To work with businesses to identify areas where staff travel could be improved, business travel reduced and raise awareness of alternative fuel/vehicle options. | Ongoing | Staff Resource |
| School Travel Planning | Schools / colleges – continued programme of activities, awareness raising and PTP aimed at young people and their parents. | To reduce school gate congestion and encourage more active school trips helping to improve local environment | Ongoing | Staff Resource |
| Marketing and Promotion | Marketing and promotion – implementation of the GetAbout Marketing and communications Strategy, co-ordinated to support initiatives delivered through the wider programme and including direct marketing techniques, targeted campaigns and events, including a programme of led walks/cycle rides and bike and electric bike loans. | To raise awareness of public transport availability, walking and cycling opportunities and introduce new low emission vehicle technology. | Annual Events | £5,000 |
| Bike Workshop/ Repair Station | Active Travel and Cycle Hub - support for a community cycle hub. The cycle hub will be multi-functional, encompassing a combination of cycle repair and bike recycling, lockers and cycle storage, and the proposed bike share scheme. | To reinforce the community linkage and participation in active and sustainable travel. | Year 2-4 | To be determined |





For Further Information, please contact:

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