

4 March 2026

Agenda Item No. 9

North East Fife Area Active Travel Projects

Report by: John Mitchell, Head of Roads & Transportation Services

Wards Affected: 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the status of active travel projects in North East Fife.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Committee note the progress on the delivery of the following active travel projects:

1. St Andrews to Guardbridge;
2. Traffic free route between Strathkinness and St Andrews;
3. 'Greenways' signage proposal and on road active travel routes;
4. Anstruther to Pittenweem; and
5. Maintenance of unadopted routes across North East Fife.

Resource Implications

	<u>Approx. cost estimate</u>
St Andrews to Guardbridge (excl. land costs)	£2.5m
Strathkinness to St. Andrews (excl. land costs)	£1m
Greenways	£0.02m
Anstruther to Pittenweem (all routes excl. land costs)	£1.2m

Anticipate that funding would be met from Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) Tier 1.

Maintenance of unadopted active travel routes across Fife is funded from the Fife-wide off-road cycleways maintenance revenue budget (£108,710 in 2025/26).

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications. legal agreements with landowners will be required in order to progress projects 1, 2 and 4 above.

Impact Assessment.

The Fife Environmental Assessment Tool and EqIA screening tool will be used to assess specific projects once development work progresses to a suitable stage.

Consultation

Finance and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

1.0 Background

1.1 St Andrews to Guardbridge

The preferred option for the St. Andrews to Guardbridge active travel route was agreed at this Committee on 27 August 2025 (2025 NEFAC 94 para 248 refers).

1.2 Strathkinness and St. Andrews

There has been a long-term, local aspiration for a traffic-free active travel route between Strathkinness and St. Andrews. Previously, land and construction costs made this project economically unviable. A feasibility study undertaken in 2018 estimated the cost of providing a 3m wide shared use path at approximately £915,000.

1.3 Greenways

On 2 November 2022, this Committee agreed that the signing of cycle routes in North East Fife would trial Greenways on various C and D class roads (2022 NEFAC 11 para 26 refers). The pilot routes selected for this are Leuchars to Balmullo and Tay Bridge to Tayport/Tentsmuir. A briefing note on this topic was issued to members of North East Fife Area Committee on 24 June 2025.

1.4 Anstruther to Pittenweem

The Anstruther to Pittenweem active travel route project is part of a larger project to improve connectivity between the East Neuk Villages. Several sections have already been completed, including Kilrenny to Anstruther and Anstruther Co-op to Queens Gardens. The next proposed section to be constructed is Anstruther to Pittenweem.

1.5 Maintenance

Officers from the Sustainable Traffic and Travel team carry out maintenance inspections across the active travel network and instruct works accordingly.

2.0 Issues and options

St. Andrews to Guardbridge

2.1 Following selection of a preferred option for development, land acquisition / access agreements have been pursued by Fife Council.

2.2 As part of the development of the preferred route, it is considered that further consultation with the public, landowners and tenants is required to get feedback on options, ahead of pursuing land purchase. This is programmed for spring 2026.

Strathkinness to St. Andrews

- 2.3 Recent increases in active travel funding from the Scottish Government, combined with the potential for part of the route to be delivered as part of a mixed-use development, suggests that the route could now be achievable in the medium term.
- 2.4 In 2023, contact was made with landowners on site.
- 2.5 A Land Register search was carried out in 2024 to determine exact land ownership details.
- 2.6 To date, discussions with land owners have not proven successful and there is resistance to the proposals and the required land sale.
- 2.7 If all avenues for land purchase prove unsuccessful, compulsory purchase of land may be required.
- 2.8 For the overall project to progress, it is necessary to update the feasibility study with an options appraisal. This should then be consulted on with the public, landowners and key stakeholders. This is programmed for 2026.

Greenways

- 2.9 The pilot routes were chosen based on their characteristics: the Tay Road Bridge to Tayport / Tentsmuir section being either traffic free or within 20mph urban streets, and the Leuchars to Balmullo route being on a C class road subject to a 40mph speed limit.
- 2.10 Speed surveys were carried out on the two pilot routes in 2025 to appraise speed limit compliance, traffic volume and crash history.
- 2.11 Following completion of sign development work and consultation with Transport Scotland, site specific special authorisation will be required for the agreed signs. This is programmed for delivery during 2026.

Anstruther to Pittenweem

- 2.12 Land negotiations are ongoing. It is anticipated that Heads of Terms will be completed this financial year. The case will then be referred to Fife Council's Legal Services to complete the legal requirements for acquisition. This is the final step before construction can take place.
- 2.13 Construction of phase one (Anstruther- Pittenweem roadside route) is programmed to start in 2026/27, with the potential opportunity to develop and deliver subsequent phases of the programme through an application to Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund (Tier 2).

Maintenance / inspections

- 2.14 In North East Fife, the key unadopted active travel routes are as follows:
 - Tayport to Taybridge eastern section remote from public road
 - St. Andrews to Guardbridge sections remote from public road.
- 2.15 Unadopted active travel routes are inspected annually and any identified works instructed as required. Routine grass cutting is carried out during the spring and summer on the two key routes. Public reports of any defects are investigated as they are received and actioned accordingly.

- 2.16 Other unsurfaced, informal active travel routes in North East Fife receive maintenance on a reactive basis.
- 2.17 Project updates will be provided on the Fife Council website Active Travel Page as they become available. See: <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/roads,-travel-and-parking/active-travel/active-travel-policy-and-projects>

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Development work on the above active travel projects continues to progress.

List of Appendices

None.

Report Contacts

Phil Clarke
Programme Manager
Bankhead Central, Glenrothes
Telephone: 03451 55 55 55 + VOIP number 442098
Email: phil.clarke@fife.gov.uk

Susan Keenlyside
Service Manager (Sustainable Transport & Parking)
Bankhead Central, Glenrothes
Telephone: 03451 55 55 55 + VOIP number 444442
Email: susan.keenlyside@fife.gov.uk