

Places for Everyone

2021–22 Infrastructure Impact Summary Report



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Impact against Active Travel Framework

Places for Everyone is a grant fund programme, open to a range of organisations in Scotland, including local authorities, public bodies and community groups, that enables the creation of infrastructure to make it easier for people to walk, cycle and wheel for everyday journeys. The programme is funded by the Scottish Government through Transport Scotland and is administered by Sustrans Scotland. The programme is evaluated by Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit (RMU).

This report presents the findings of the 2021–22 evaluation of the impact of the Places for Everyone programme, which aimed to assess the contribution of the programme to delivering Transport Scotland's Active Travel Outcomes. The evaluation draws on aggregated data from a sample of 30 projects which were monitored both before and after project delivery throughout the history of the programme. For 24 of the projects a third round of monitoring was conducted more than a year after project delivery, to evaluate long term impact.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused significant disruption to the delivery of Places for Everyone infrastructure projects, resulting in a knock-on delay to monitoring and evaluation. As such, the 2021-22 report focuses on case studies, and the aggregated dataset was not updated.

The findings of the evaluation show that the Places for Everyone programme is contributing to the five Active Travel Outcomes.

The full evaluation report and case study reports are available on request.

Outcome 1: Increase the number of people choosing walking, cycling and wheeling in Scotland



Analysis has shown that, across all projects, there was a **54% average estimated increase** in active travel trips after initial project delivery, and more than a year later the number of active travel trips remained **37% higher than before projects were delivered**.

Case studies with follow up monitoring undertaken in 2021-22 also illustrate the increase in active travel achieved on individual projects:

- In Glasgow, following the introduction of protected junctions on the **South City Way**, the total cycle traffic almost doubled.
- Following path improvements in **Maidencraig** (Aberdeen) and **Wishaw** (North Lanarkshire), active travel trips more than doubled.
- Active travel trips between Port Charlotte and Bruichladdich on Islay increased five-fold after completion of the **Lochindaal Way**.

Outcome 2: High quality walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure is available to all



More than a year after project delivery, the proportion of people who said their decision to use a route was **influenced by its surroundings, convenience, directness and safety** (all factors that speak to project quality) increased across aggregated projects.

Case studies with follow up monitoring undertaken in 2021-22 also illustrate the quality of infrastructure on individual projects:

- The proportion of route users agreeing that the upgraded path in **Wishaw** meets the needs of the community increased by 75 percentage points (from 10% of respondents before to 85% of respondents) after improvements were made.
- 100% of path users agreed that the **Lochindaal Way** is fit for purpose and well maintained.

Outcome 3: Walking, cycling and wheeling is safer for all



The aggregated data showed an **increase from 79% to 85%** in those perceiving project routes to be safe after project delivery and **a further increase to 89%** more than a year after projects had been delivered.

Case studies with follow up monitoring undertaken in 2021-22 also illustrate the safety improvements achieved on individual projects:

- After improvements to **Lower Granton Road** in Edinburgh, almost all users (97%) said that the route felt safe during the day and the vast majority (89%) agreed that the route felt safe with regard to motor traffic.

- All cyclists interviewed and most of pedestrians felt either safe or very safe when using the protected junctions on the **South City Way**.

Outcome 4: Walking, cycling and wheeling is available to all



Aggregated results have shown the number of trips made by **women, by people aged 55+ and by disabled people** increased after projects were delivered.

Case studies with follow up monitoring undertaken in 2021-22 also illustrate the success of individual projects in improving active travel availability for all:

- In **Maidencraig**, almost all route users (98%) agreed that, following project completion, the path is easily accessible. The improvements have led to increased usage by disabled people. Use by over-65s saw the greatest increase of any age group compared to pre-project.

Outcome 5: Delivery of walking, cycling and wheeling is promoted and supported by a range of partners



There are currently around **250 projects** in development as part of the Places for Everyone programme, involving **28 of Scotland's 32 local authorities** and **60+ other** national, regional and community partners.

Case studies with follow up monitoring undertaken in 2021-22 also illustrate the range of partners working on individual projects:

- The **Lochindaal Way** received support from a local business, the Bruichladdich Distillery. The distillery contributed £50,000 during the first stage of the project. They also contributed staff time in the form of volunteer days, purchased signage, and have taken on responsibility for some aspects of path maintenance.

Project case studies

The report includes five case studies from projects with post-construction monitoring undertaken in 21-22, as described below. The case study data presented in this report has been fully analysed, quality assured and reported on.

Lower Granton Road, Edinburgh

This project aimed to improve facilities along Lower Granton Road to align with the standards of the city's QuietRoutes network, a City of Edinburgh Council scheme that aims to develop an active travel network across the city that enables people to cycle without having to engage with heavy and fast-moving traffic.

The project was delivered by City of Edinburgh Council and received Places for Everyone (formerly Community Links) funding during the 2017–2018 grant iteration. Construction took place between April and August 2019.



Upgraded path at McKelvie Parade
Credit: Colin Hattersley 2019

Monitoring data shows that the project has achieved its key outcomes, particularly in relation to increasing levels of active travel, improving perceptions of safety, and making it easier, safer and quicker for people walking and cycling. The data from baseline and follow-up manual counts shows more than a doubling in estimated annual active travel journeys, and a significant shift in cycling away from the road and onto the new waterside path.

South City Way Protected Junctions, Glasgow

As part of the South City Way, protected junctions were trialled at two locations along the Victoria Road section of the project – the first such junctions to be trialled in Scotland. These junctions are designed so that people travelling on foot, by cycle, and in vehicles are separated as they pass through, making the junctions safer for all road users, and cyclists in particular.



Protected junction on the South City Way
Credit: John Linton 2021

The South City Way project was delivered by Glasgow City Council and received Places for Everyone (formerly Community Links) funding during the 2016–2017 grant iteration. Construction took place between 2017 and 2021.

Monitoring data shows that total cycle traffic passing through the junctions almost doubled between March 2019 and September 2021, before and after installation of the protected junctions. In addition, the protected junctions appear to be making the experience for cyclists and pedestrians a safe one, with all of the cyclists and two-thirds of the pedestrians surveyed after installation reporting feeling either safe or very safe when using the protected junctions.

Ravenscraig Active Travel Links, Wishaw Link, North Lanarkshire

The Wishaw Link provides a half-mile long accessible walking and cycling path linking Ravenscraig, parts of Craigneuk, and Wishaw. It aims to provide local residents with active travel links to key locations and services.



Ravenscraig Active Travel Links area before and after project completion.
Credit: Sustrans

The project was delivered by Green Action Trust and received Places for Everyone (formerly Community Links) funding during the 2019–2020 grant iteration. Construction took place between May and December 2019.

The path upgrade has contributed to substantial increases in trips, particularly by younger and older people, helping local people to increase their physical activity and improving access to local services.

Following project completion there were large increases in the extent to which people agreed that the path was easily accessible, convenient, pleasant, enhanced the area, and met the needs of the community. Survey responses also suggest that, since completion of the upgrade, the path is being used to access a much wider range of services including education, health services, other public services, retail, and transport.

Maidencraig Active Travel Links, Aberdeen

This improvement work, undertaken in 2020–21, formed the second phase of Aberdeen City Council’s Maidencraig flood management and wetland scheme. The work focused on encouraging active travel by upgrading paths and adding seating, lighting and other environmental amenities to make walking and cycling within the Den of Maidencraig attractive and safe.

The project was delivered by Aberdeen City Council and received Places for Everyone (formerly Community Links) funding during the 2018–2019 grant iteration. Construction took place between February 2020 and April 2021.

Active travel trips to and through the area have more than doubled following completion of the upgrade work, and there has been an increase in the already high levels of active travel to school in the area.

Almost all route users perceive the new routes as high quality and accessible for all, and the improvements have increased usage of the area by under-represented groups – particularly among those with health conditions or a disability, and older people.



Den of Maidencraig after project completion
Credit: Aberdeen City Council

The Lochindaal Way, Islay

This project, involving the construction of a 2.5km path linking the town of Port Charlotte and the employment and visitor destination of Bruichladdich, aimed to improve connectivity and enhance visitor experience and road safety along the popular coastline of Islay.

The project was managed by the Islay Community Action Group (ICAG) and Argyll and Bute Council. It received Places for Everyone (formerly Community Links) funding during the 2017–2018 grant iteration. Construction began in 2019, and the path was formally opened to the public in March 2022.

The presence of this path has increased levels of active travel between the villages – there are 26,000 more active travel trips taken annually

compared to before construction. The quality of the path is perceived to be of a very high standard, with 100% of route users agreeing that the path is both fit for purpose and well maintained. This project was delivered in close collaboration with the local distillery and is an example of how partnership working can facilitate success.



The Lochindaal Way after project completion.
Credit: Sustrans