

Cycling Friendly Community



The Cycling Friendly Community programme supports projects across Scotland to get their communities to cycle, with a focus on accessibility and inclusion.

The Cycling Friendly Community development grant supports community groups who are looking to increase access to bikes and opportunities to cycle.

The funding was popular, with 67 grant applications received, covering physical and mental health improvement, increasing local transport options, and employability. Requests for funding came from a wide geographic spread, including Shetland, Moray, Argyll &

Bute, and the Western Isles. In total, £537,000 of grant funding was distributed to 48 projects to supply bikes, equipment, cycle storage, maintenance equipment, and sessional costs.

At the end of the financial year, several funded projects, such as 1st Step Developments, were in a position to provide bike repairs and servicing to key workers. This helped ensure essential workers could travel by bike to work and for exercise, as well as respond to the increased demand for cycling during Covid-19 crisis. Support is ongoing for all funded projects to achieve the outcomes of their Cycling Friendly Community project.



£1,214,000: total project value of 48 funded projects, including community in-kind contributions

Case study: Venture Trust



Many young adults referred to Venture Trust have come from life circumstances where they are not given the best start. They are often dealing with one or more challenges around poverty, alcohol and drug addiction, poor family relationships, mental health issues, learning and housing issues. The majority also have had little or no work experience.

The Cashback Change Cycle programme, supported by £19,950 from the Cycling Friendly Community development fund, provides an informal educational and training environment focusing on 'hands on' learning. This type of learning is often more suited for the young people Venture Trust supports. It results in acquiring new skills along with increased confidence, motivation and ambition, using the medium of cycling.

The elements of the programme include employability sessions, bike construction and maintenance including workshop experience

and a short wilderness residential that has work-related tasks, and biking. Participants learn about responsibility, time management and are introduced to a Monday to Friday work schedule. They get to keep the bike they have built and use it for job hunting, accessing services, training, getting to work, and leisure.

Venture Trust employability team coordinator Fraser Taylor said: "It's fantastic to be supported by Cycling Scotland, the nation's cycling organisation, to support their vision for anyone anywhere in Scotland to cycle easily and safely.

"Many of the young people we work with come from some of Scotland's poorest areas which has reduced their access to having a bicycle of their own. The CashBack Change Cycle programme supports individuals to build and own their own bike while developing their skills and confidence to move towards sustained education, training and employment so they can have a future that has moved beyond 'just getting by' and poverty."

