

The Social Housing Partnership Fund provides facilities to make it easier for residents living in social housing across Scotland to be healthier and more active through walking and cycling.

The fund offers grants to Social Housing Providers to improve cycle parking, storage, shelter and security at their properties as well as funding street furniture, planters and community gardens.

The grant fund is delivered by Cycling Scotland, on behalf of the wider partnership which includes the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, Sustrans Scotland and Living Streets Scotland and is financed by Transport Scotland grant funding.

The fund prioritises support for social housing in areas experiencing high levels of deprivation.

Engagement with housing associations has provided the opportunity for many organisations to become involved and register for the Cycling Friendly Employer and Community awards.

47 organisations have been referred to the award with seven actively working on action plans to receive accreditation.

The Social Housing Fund received applications from 99 organisations in 2019–20 and received additional mid-year funding to enable a total of 61 housing association sites to be funded a total of £1,183,000. The projects have enhanced cycle storage and associated facilities in 116 social housing sites within areas of high deprivation.



Case study: Eildon Housing Association

Eildon Housing Association is a community controlled social housing provider based in the Borders. It submitted and received funding for two projects covering three sites. The Innerleithen project received funding for a single site project covering 24 households and 36 residents. The accommodation is flatted, and is sited in a rural area coded as SIMD Quintile 4. The projects received £13,350 to fund cycle storage solutions to suit residents' needs. The aim of the projects was to ensure close safety and address fire hazards and reduce risk of bike theft. The project is sited in an area close to nearby cycle paths and routes, and mountain biking is popular with residents and visitors to this area.

Eildon work with 'Sustainable Homes', through their environmental impact accreditation, to

promote cycling among Eildon tenants and provide infrastructure to allow more local cycling. The housing association hopes the project will help determine the best approach for improving existing bicycle infrastructure and inform the design of cycle storage facilities in future new build projects where energy efficiency and sustainability are key design principles. They are looking into e-bike charging technology as part of new build developments.

The cycle storage was installed in January 2020 after a delay due to contractor measurement and design order errors and rescheduled installation days. Once completed the new facilities will be publicised in the housing association newsletter and via letter drops to residents.

