



Capital Programme Projects Update

Date of meeting 24 November 2023

Date of report 8 November 2023

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To update the Committee on the progress of some of the key projects within SPT's Capital Programme.

2. Background to report

Members will recall that SPT's proposed Capital Plan for financial years 2023/2024 to 2025/2026 was approved by the Partnership on 17 March 2023¹. SPT's investment in capital projects enables delivery of high-quality transport infrastructure in line with the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for the benefit of people and communities across the west of Scotland. Further to the report presented to the Committee in June, this report highlights key progress on delivery of current projects.

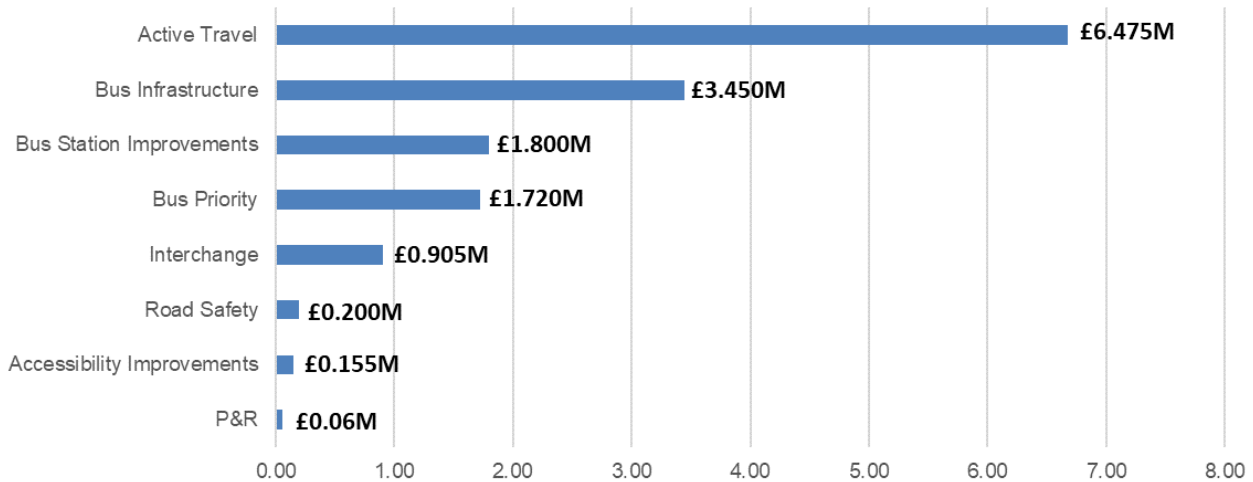
3. 2023/2024 Capital Programme Update Overview

3.1. SPT's 2023/2024 Capital Programme includes 59 transport projects that are to be developed or delivered by 31 March 2024. This includes six active travel projects funded by Transport Scotland (TS) as part of their Regional Active Travel Grant (RATG) fund supporting delivery of projects with a particular focus on cross-boundary active travel connections.

3.2. The table below presents members with SPT's current planned local authority capital programme investment grouped by project type.

¹ https://www.spt.co.uk/media/poboz1ep/p170323_agenda7.pdf

SPT Capital Investment (2023/2024)



3.3. These figures present a projected capital programme spend this financial year of £14.765M based on latest council updates. Figures include approved Committee budget changes as well as current amendments seeking the Committee's approval at this current meeting.

4. Update on Key Projects

4.1. Active Travel

SPT continues to support councils in delivering walking, wheeling and cycle routes across the region. The £6.675M SPT investment in 2023/2024 accounts for 44% of the current overall programmed budget spend, delivering 25 active travel projects. These include:

4.1.1 East Renfrewshire Council: A77 Strategic Active Travel Corridor

Phase 2 of East Renfrewshire Council's 'A77 Strategic Active Travel Corridor' project commenced in early 2023 and runs between the M77 overbridge and Malletsheugh junction and is supported by £180k SPT capital programme funding along with £337k Cycling Walking Safer Routes (CWSR), and £712K awarded as part of the Scottish Government's Active Travel Transformation Fund (ATTF).

The route is off-road with segregation provided between pedestrians and cyclists and incorporates a new pedestrian and cycle crossing at Maidenhill. This phase has seen the existing Malletsheugh roundabout converted to a Dutch style junction with safe crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists. The project builds upon previous SPT capital spend.

4.1.2 East Dunbartonshire Council: Regent's Garden

SPT's £0.600M investment, as part of East Dunbartonshire Council's Regent's Garden Redevelopment project, is helping deliver town centre improvements in Kirkintilloch. The project's focus is to create a more welcoming and pedestrian friendly environment which includes the introduction of traffic calming measures, enhanced accessibility including widening of existing footways, dropped kerbs as well as better physical links through the town centre. Works started in July and are expected to be completed in early 2024.

4.1.3 South Ayrshire Council: Alloway-Burton Underpass

SPT's £0.500M investment since 2022/2023 has supported South Ayrshire Council in creating of a new active travel underpass, involving reopening a disused railway tunnel under Dunure Road, creating a continuous off-road route linking from the A79 Maybole Road to the A77 trunk road via the NCR7 at Greenan Castle. This project formed part of a wider £1.4M investment by the Council which also saw the opening of a new sensory garden. Pupils from a local primary school, as well as the local community, were invited to take part in the opening and Garden naming competition in June this year.

4.1.4 North Lanarkshire Council: Ravenscraig Active Travel Link

The new cycle/footpath through Ravenscraig, connecting Craigneuk to New College Lanarkshire's Motherwell Campus, opened in August 2023. This 500m stretch of off-road surfaced path, with lighting and CCTV, completes the Ravenscraig Active Travel project. Together with the adjoining cycle/footpath to Ravenscraig park and sports centre, constructed under the first phase of the project and in use since last summer, the new path creates a key connection with neighbouring Craigneuk and provides a sustainable means of access to facilities at Ravenscraig as its regeneration from former steelworks continues. SPT funding of £1.250M supported delivery of phases 1 and 2 in previous years.

4.2. Bus Station Improvements: East Ayrshire Council: Kilmarnock Bus Station

SPT's 2023/2024 capital programme includes an allocation of £1.800M towards completion of East Ayrshire Council's Kilmarnock Bus Station project. The project is delivering significant enhancements to the look, feel and layout of this key bus interchange which serves the wider Ayrshire region, and provides connections to Glasgow and beyond.

The first two phases of the project completed in previous years delivered the refurbishment of the passenger waiting room, ticket counter, Shopmobility office and essential roof works as well as improvements to pedestrian footway links between the bus station and London Road.

The third and final phase commenced at the beginning of this financial year with good progress now being reported by the council. This phase focusses on the bus stance area and will see new steel and groundworks completed as well as new cladding put in place. Each stance will be equipped with real-time passenger information displays. The project throughout has been delivered whilst keeping the station fully operational.

A final funding application is expected in 2024/2025 and will see completion in early 2024/2025, bringing SPT's total expected expenditure in this project to just under £4 million.

4.3. Access Improvements: Inverclyde Council: Port Glasgow Rail Station Accessibility Improvements

A funding contribution over two financial years by SPT is supporting access improvements at Port Glasgow rail station. The £5 million project is being delivered as part of Network Rail's 'Access for All' programme and involves the installation of lifts and a new footbridge over the railway, providing step-free access to and from both platforms, and the previously funded SPT park and ride car park. SPT's £0.575M contribution through Inverclyde Council has delivered a step free access link between the park and ride and the station, connecting into the new lift structure. The project which started in February 2023 is due to complete in early 2024.

4.4. Interchange: North Lanarkshire Council Motherwell Rail Station Interchange

SPT's £2.9 million investment in Motherwell between 2019/2020 and 2022/2023 helped to complete the major redevelopment of Motherwell Rail Station as part of a wider Scottish Government investment. Alongside North Lanarkshire Council's City Deal funded Town Centre bus and public realm improvements project, the completed project has created a modern fully integrated multi-modal transport hub helping support the regeneration of the town centre. The project was delivered as a joint initiative involving SPT, Transport Scotland, ScotRail and North Lanarkshire Council. The new station and bus interchange facility was officially opened in June 2023 by the Transport Minister.

5. Programme and monitoring

SPT officers will continue to engage with council colleagues to oversee the effective monitoring and delivery of the 2023/2024 Capital Programme.

Quarterly performance monitoring update meetings with all councils take place and are being supplemented with regular written programme and spend updates. These meetings help identify project risks, impacts on budgets and delivery of the programme and form the basis for any amendments decisions that may be required.

Members will be apprised of progress on key projects at subsequent meetings of the Committee during the course of financial year 2023/2024. Photographs of opening events or works underway in relation to the projects referred to in this report are attached at Appendix 1.

6. Capital Programme Update: 2024/2025 Programme

The compilation process for SPT's capital programme 2024/2025 – 2026/2027 is now underway. Councils were invited to apply for project funding at the start of September 2023 with a closing date for applications of 25 October 2023. Bids have been received from all twelve councils with SPT officers having begun an initial sifting of applications.

Follow up communications are taking place with councils where further details and clarifications are required. Applications will be subject to an assessment process in line with new Regional Transport Strategy's vision, priorities and objectives. The draft programme is expected to be completed early 2024 ahead of seeking Partnership Board approval in March 2024.

7. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.

8. Consequences

Policy consequences

SPT's Capital Programme will support delivery of RTS policies, in particular Policy 1: Accessible Transport; Policy 11: Behaviour Change; Policy 14: Accelerated Delivery of Walking, Wheeling & Cycling; Policy 16: Integration of Walking, Wheeling & Cycling; Policy 18: Integrated Public Transport System; Policy 26: Integration with other PT Modes; and Policy 27: P&R.

Legal consequences

None at present.

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| Financial consequences | <i>On-going inflationary pressures on costs associated with the supply of materials may impact projects delivery. This will be monitored during the course of the financial year.</i> |
| Personnel consequences | <i>None at present.</i> |
| Equalities consequences | <i>The delivery of SPT's capital programme will help reduce barriers to accessing the transport network, in particular supporting people with disabilities and ensuring fairer access to public transport and active travel.</i> |
| Risk consequences | <i>Financial consequence, as per above, and resourcing within councils and contractors could impact on the successful delivery of the planned Capital Programme. It will be important to monitor the programme closely in order to maximise spend.</i> |
| Climate Change, Adaptation & Carbon consequences | <i>The delivery of SPT's Capital Programme will encourage, enable and support people to be able to travel more sustainably thereby reducing the need to travel by private car, will contribute positively to the environment and to the safety and quality of our streets and communities.</i> |

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