



**Smarter Choices,  
Smarter Places**

Supporting Sustainable Travel

# Moving Scotland forwards

**Annual Report 2021/22**

**paths  
for all**

FOR A HAPPIER,  
HEALTHIER SCOTLAND



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# Executive Summary

**Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) is Paths for All's grant programme funded by Transport Scotland. It encourages people to change their behaviour to reduce the number of single-passenger car journeys undertaken across Scotland.**

**The ethos of SCSP is that effective behaviour change is achieved by empowering local projects to deliver local priorities, engaging local people to be the 'trusted voices' of change. SCSP is an outcomes-based programme, with six key outcomes. All funded projects must deliver, and report, against at least one of the programme outcomes.**

## **Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Outcomes:**

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**More people choose not to drive for everyday journeys**

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**More people choose to walk or cycle for short journeys**

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**More people choose sustainable transport options for longer journeys**

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**People develop more positive attitudes towards sustainable transport journeys**

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**People's knowledge about sustainable transport choices increases**

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**There is an increased evidence base to support sustainable travel choices**

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An Outcomes Framework within our Grants for All system aligns activities to the outcomes and details metrics that are used to measure a project's success. Baselines and targets are set at application stage based on the previous years of project delivery. This has allowed the programme progress to be measured over time.

We deliver four key elements as part of the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) programme: grant funding through the Local Authority Fund, the Open Fund and the Capability Fund, and shared learning and peer support through the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Network.

SCSP is a truly national programme and supports projects the length and breadth of the country, from urban communities through to semi-urban, rural and remote rural areas. The programme continues to deliver on its mission of supporting activities that promote sustainable travel across a wide range of travel modes.

The programme has clearly delivered across its defined outcomes based on internationally recognised behaviour change theory and linked directly to Transport Scotland's active travel outcomes. It has had real success in engaging with and supporting harder to reach groups and marginalised communities, ensuring better support for a just transition to a more sustainable society.

# Introduction

**Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) is Paths for All's Scotland-wide grant programme designed to encourage people to reduce car use in favour of more sustainable modes of travel such as walking, wheeling, cycling and using public transport.**

**Since 2015/16 Paths for All has awarded funding to local authorities and in 2018/19 the SCSP Open Fund for third sector and other public sector agencies was introduced. 2021/22 saw the addition of the SCSP Capability Fund and through this an increased focus on the SCSP network and sharing of good practice.**

In 2021/22 the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme funded projects in 31 local authorities through the Local Authority Fund and with 9 well-established, experienced organisations through the Capability Fund.

The Open Fund, due to how it works on a rolling basis each financial year, reports a year in arrears, meaning information included here refers to Open Fund projects awarded and delivered during 2020/21. Each organisation funded is required to submit a completion report at the end of their project and this report is based on the results and reporting provided through those completion reports.

# Recovery from Covid-19

**Although society seems to be moving on from the Covid pandemic, the results within this report are still very much delivered within the Covid context.**



Many community groups, charities and even councils are still not back to full capacity and are getting to grips with changes in working practices. Additionally, the results reported on within this report for the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Open Fund refer to projects awarded in 2020/21 and carried out throughout the following year. With the last UK-wide lockdown being in place until March 2021, clearly messaging around Covid and the ability of projects to deliver were very much still being affected.

We have covered the difficulties of delivering behaviour change projects during Covid restrictions many times but, as a result of ongoing issues, projects involving advertising and campaigns to encourage people to travel sustainably needed to be delivered in this context. Mass participation events, festivals, car-free days and celebrations were cancelled, as was much of the work planned with schools. Plans to promote public transport in some contexts were still being delayed. Face-to-face behaviour change encouragement became extremely limited. Faced with these circumstances, it would have been understandable if projects had just stopped and waited to see what happened. But they did not. Many projects adapted and changed to respond to the restrictions on daily life, and the programme continued to make an impact, albeit at a lesser level than previous years.



# Reporting Methodology

At the end of each project every funded organisation must submit a Completion Report that details the actions taken against their principal Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) outcome, along with their progress in delivering these actions. Through our Grants for All system, the results contained within these completion reports are tallied to identify progress of SCSP as a whole. Unfortunately there was not sufficient run-in time for the projects supported through the SCSP Capability Fund to be migrated onto Grants for All, therefore they reported differently during the 2021/22 programme but have now been migrated on to the system and will report as part of the wider programme going forward. These results are therefore not included in the overall fund results. They can be seen in the Capability Fund section below.

Project monitoring is expected to be appropriate to the size and scale of the investment. A core principle of SCSP is that investments should be made

in the delivery of actions rather than a disproportionate amount in monitoring and evaluation. The introduction of the automated system Grant for All in 2019/20 has improved consistency across the multitude of project reports. The identified outputs will never be exact; however they do give a good indication of the direction of travel for the programme.

Local authorities and organisations funded through the Capability Fund present their overall projects as a series of smaller initiatives. This allows a more ready comparison with Open Fund projects.

Projects are encouraged to adopt existing measures where they are appropriate, rather than introducing new, additional ones. A consequence of this is that some results relating to the activities delivered are not reported until after the deadline for submission of Completion Reports. These results do not materially affect the findings in this Annual Report, but their contribution

to SCSP outputs will be included when next year's review is considered against the findings of this report.

The Open Fund projects have 12 months from award date to complete the project and results are therefore one year in arrears, meaning results for the Open Fund contained within this report are for projects awarded during 2020/21.

Covid and resulting guidance and lockdowns continued to prove an issue both with the Open Fund programme, which was running at the height of the second year of Covid, and with the first few months of the delivery of the Local Authority Fund. Results in this report therefore need to be viewed in this context. At the moment we anticipate 2022/23 to be unaffected by Covid. The work and development that projects have undertaken during the pandemic should set us in very good stead moving forward.

# Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Programme



# Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Programme

The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) programme consists of three distinct streams. In 2021/22 the Local Authority Fund distributed £5 million across 31 of the 32 local authorities in Scotland, the Open Fund awarded £2.5 million to 83 projects, and the Capability Fund allocated £1.5 million to 9 well-established, strategic projects.

As mentioned, each project funded through SCSP reports against at least one of the programme's outcomes (discounting the Capability Fund which was not migrated onto the Grants for All system until March 2022). The collated results, against the SCSP outcomes are shown overleaf.

## Local Authority Fund

Distributed  
**£5million** > **31 local authorities**

## Open Fund

Awarded  
**£2.5million** > **83 projects**

## Capability Fund

Allocated  
**£1.5 million** > **9 projects**



# Smarter Choices, Smarter Places outcomes



## Outcome

People choose not to travel

**420**

people choosing not to travel

**12,233** reduced journeys

**90,379** miles saved



## Outcome

More people choose to walk and cycle for short local journeys

**116,626**

people choosing to walk and cycle for short local journeys



## Outcome

More people choose sustainable transport options for longer journeys

**196,919**

people choosing sustainable transport options for longer journeys

**90,891** car miles reduced



## Outcome

People develop more positive attitudes towards sustainable transport choices

**2,690,600** people engaged

**6,895** people trained

**254** organisations engaged

**1,765** events run

**24,191** people feeling safer to walk or cycle

**258,743** people referred to active travel options



## Outcome

People's knowledge about sustainable transport choices increases

**196,919** people reached

**85,083** resources distributed

**6,349** routes improved or promoted



## Outcome

There is an increased evidence base to support sustainable travel interventions

**411**

resources/reports delivered

**13,169** responses/engagements delivered

# Local Authority Fund

**The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Local Authority Fund is a £5million fund distributed between all 32 local authority areas in Scotland on a “per head of capita” basis. There is no competitive bidding for the Local Authority Fund.**

In 2021/22, 31 of 32 local authorities utilised the funding available and carried out 119 initiatives across Scotland. Only Shetland Islands Council did not apply for funding during 2021/22.

With the easing of Covid restrictions, work undertaken during 2021/22 had more successful outcomes than in the previous year and local authorities have adapted to new ways of working to include virtual and face-to-face events and activities. Embracing and supporting new initiatives, such as the National Entitlement Card for under 22s to allow free bus travel, enhancing Park and Ride public transport and focusing on walking events, travel hubs and workplace engagement have seen great success across different areas of Scotland.

The Local Authority Fund awarded projects in

**31** of the 32 local authority areas in Scotland

**240** individual activities were undertaken within the 119 initiatives

**50%** of projects targeted walking and/or cycling specifically

**9%** of projects targeted increased use of public transport specifically

**9%** of projects targeted a multi-modal approach to increasing behaviour change away from single occupancy car journeys

**21** of the 31 projects delivered by local authorities carried out delivery within areas within the SIMD register for Scotland

# Local Authority Fund: Smarter Choices, Smarter Places outcomes



## Outcome

More people choose to walk and cycle for short local journeys

**95,214**

people choosing to walk and cycle for short local journeys



## Outcome

More people choose sustainable transport options for longer journeys

**188,106**

people choosing sustainable transport options for longer journeys

**73,211**

car miles reduced

**8,499,648**

journeys



## Outcome

People develop more positive attitudes towards sustainable transport choices

**2,369,179**

people engaged

**4,645**

people trained

**78**

organisations engaged

**929**

events run

**18,091** people feeling safer to walk or cycle

**1,916** people referred to Active Travel options



## Outcome

People's knowledge about sustainable transport choices increases

**2,137,523** people reached

**55,811** resources distributed

**47**

routes improved or promoted



## Outcome

There is an increased evidence base to support sustainable travel interventions

**153**

resources/reports delivered

**10,717** responses/engagements delivered

# Case Study

# Glasgow City Council

## Young Scot Card Promotion

Glasgow City Council received SCSP funding to increase the levels of awareness around the Free Bus Travel for under 22s and the need for an updated Young Scot or National Entitlement Card. This was done through targeted advertising direct to schools and further education establishments and at public-facing 6-sheet advertising hoardings.

The key to engage with the young people was a programme of school visits for S1 and S2 pupils and then a simplified application process in conjunction with Education Services and Glasgow Life. The aim was to streamline the processing and administrative burden for the young people and the council and to consequently increase the uptake of the cards.

After only 6 months of funding, Glasgow City Council significantly passed their initial target of 7,000 cards and reached almost 50% of the eligible population. By the end of March 2022, 43,017 Young Scot / National Entitlement Cards had been issued across Glasgow, allowing the young people to benefit directly from free bus travel.



**After only 6 months of funding, Glasgow City Council significantly passed their initial target of 7,000 cards and reached almost 50% of the eligible population.**



# Case Study

## Stirling Council

### Park and Ride Free Fares

**In order to encourage wider use of public transport, Stirling Council was granted SCSP funding to provide free bus travel from the Park and Ride facilities around the City of Stirling.**

Ensuring Stirling has a successful and popular Park and Ride system is a key aspect of the Climate and Nature Emergency plan, helping to reduce congestion and improve air quality in the city centre. The grant enabled the authority to more than double patronage from 2020/21, with a total of 136,620 journeys which was 255% of the 2020/21 figure. With funding continuing in 2022/23, the local authority is hoping to see an additional increase in patronage.



**The grant enabled the authority to more than double patronage from 2020/21, with a total of 136,620 journeys which was 255% of the 2020/21 figure.**

# Open Fund

**The Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) Open Fund is a £2.5million fund available to support public, third and community sector organisations.**

The SCSP Open Fund is open for applications all year round and projects can be awarded right up until the end of the financial year.

Successful applicants then have 12 months in which to run their project and many projects do not therefore complete until after the financial year in which they were funded.

The results herein are the results for projects awarded in 2020/21 which have completed during 2021/22. The results here are very much within the context of delivery during the global Covid-19 pandemic.

**£2,507,752**  
total awarded to 83  
Open Fund projects

**61**  
of the 83 projects  
targeted walking or  
cycling initiatives

**52**  
of the 83 projects were  
focused on areas and  
communities classed  
within the 10% most  
deprived SIMD  
datazones for Scotland

**59**  
projects awarded were  
run by either non-pro fit  
organisations or third  
sector charities



# Open Fund: Smarter Choices, Smarter Places outcomes



5 projects delivered on

## Outcome

People choose not to Travel

**420**

people choosing not to travel

**12,233** journeys reduced

**90,379** miles saved



38 projects delivered on

## Outcome

More people choose to walk and cycle for short local journeys

**21,412**

people choosing to walk and cycle for short local journeys



10 projects delivered on

## Outcome

More people choose sustainable transport options for longer journeys

**8,813**

people choosing sustainable transport options for longer journeys

**17,680** car miles reduced

**6,520** public transport journeys



29 projects delivered on

## Outcome

People develop more positive attitudes towards sustainable transport choices

**321,421** people engaged

**2,250** people trained

**176** organisations engaged

**836** events run

**6,100** people feeling safer to walk or cycle

**256,827** people referred to Active Travel options



18 projects delivered on

## Outcome

People's knowledge about sustainable transport choices increases

**717,731** people reached

**29,272** resources distributed

**6,302** routes improved or promoted



38 projects delivered on

## Outcome

There is an increased evidence base to support sustainable travel interventions

**258**

resources/reports delivered

**2,452** responses/engagements delivered

## Case Study

# Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action

### Dundee Green Health Partnership

Dundee's Green Health Partnership's aim is to improve people's health by connecting them with green spaces. More than 200 primary and secondary health care providers across the Dundee area are now registered to provide a green prescription to their patients to treat a wide range of physical and mental health conditions, pre-existing conditions and aspects of social health.

All services and activities are free and individuals can also refer themselves to the services if preferred. The partnership are very aware that one size doesn't fit all so have created a varied and flexible selection of activities that people can participate in, with active and sustainable travel being one of the major referral options.

The Green Health Partnership is keenly aware that, as the impacts of Covid has included an exacerbation of health inequalities in our society, their project is more needed than ever. In order to secure the greatest impact from their project, the Green Health Partnership also maintain that healthy and open partnerships are the key to improving the physical activity rates, active travel adoption and positive health outcomes that the project can offer.



**516 people engaged through Green Health Partnership consultations**

**294 people participated in led cycle rides**

**247 people build more active travel into their day to day and recorded such within their Active Travel Diaries**

# Capability Fund

**The Capability Fund was a new funding stream for 2021/22 supporting nine well established delivery partners delivering strategic projects and supporting the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Network with knowledge and experience.**

Seven projects have completed; however two projects are on different timelines and will not submit final reports until later in the year and are not therefore included in the reporting below.

One additional project was added to the stream so overall £1,458,223 was awarded to nine projects with grants varying from £12,450 to £655,813.

One of the key differences between projects within the Capability Fund and those funded through the Open Fund is their scope and focus. Where projects funded through the Open Fund have a local focus, delivering local solutions for local problems, those within the Capability Fund have a wider remit and deliver over at least two regional authority areas or nationally.

## Projects funded by local authority area:

Project	Local authority area
Bike Station	Edinburgh; Perth
Forth Environment Link (FEL)	Stirling; Falkirk; Clackmannanshire
Cycling UK	Shetland; Orkney; Eileanan Siar; Moray; Scottish Borders; Argyll and Bute; Highland
Sustrans Hubs	East Ayrshire; South Ayrshire
Nature Scot	Dundee; Highland; North Ayrshire
Transform	National
Tactran	National
Cycling Without Age Scotland	National
Sustrans Hub Network	National

# Capability Fund: Smarter Choices, Smarter Places outcomes

Projects have traditionally reported against different outcomes than those of the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme and for 2021/22 they were not migrated onto our SCSP Grants for All system. The reporting received from projects is therefore different and non-comparable to the rest of the SCSP programme and we do not have the same measurements or straight forward figures available for the other funds.

What have been provided are effective case studies showing the scope and depth of the work being delivered and examples of how each project delivers against specific SCSP outcomes. We hope to be able to bring the reporting more in line with the rest of the programme in time for our 2022/23 Annual Report.



## Outcome

More people choose to walk and cycle for short local journeys

**Cycling UK** brought a new bike fleet to Shetland, Orkney, Eilean Siar, Moray, Scottish Borders, Argyll & Bute and Highland. Across these locations they enabled communities to access a wide range of bike types; balance bikes and small bikes for young children, e-bikes, cargo bikes and adaptive cycles including tandems, e-trikes and all-terrain wheelchairs.

Cycling UK increased levels of cycling through a variety of cycling activities:

**57%** had started cycling for journeys that they previously would have done by car

**30%** had started cycling for commuting and shopping journeys - up from 10% before their involvement with Cycling UK

**54%** had started cycling for other local journeys (e.g. appointments, visiting friends) - up from 21%

Across seven Rural Connection locations Cycling UK have provided signposting and support to help people access existing Health Walks. All Rural Connections staff have received Health Walks Leader training in preparation of filling gaps in Health Walks provision in 22/23.

## Forth Environment Link (FEL)

FEL increased levels of walking and cycling delivering led rides, led walks, cycle training and e-cargo bike training with 983 participants attending in person events.

## The Bike Station

The Bike Station delivered “Shifting Gears” a community-based programme tackling inequalities in active travel highly driven by participants’ individual needs and interests. One-to-one cycling, maintenance sessions and group rides started with a check in to assess participants’ mood, motivation and circumstances, with sessions tailored as a result.

**147** bikes were delivered to participants referred by their partner organisations

**296** cycling or related sessions were delivered comprising of one-to-one lessons, group lessons, group rides and route planning sessions with 411 attendees (80 unique participants).

**“Since I got my bike I haven’t used the car”**  
(participant)



# Capability Fund: Smarter Choices, Smarter Places outcomes



## Outcome

People develop more positive attitudes towards sustainable transport choices

### Sustrans, in partnership with Forth Environment Link

Supported **66** member hubs across the country by documenting and sharing best practice and delivered three online webinar events, attended by 66 people.

### The Bike Station

The Bike Station had **78** attendees (34 unique participants) at their maintenance workshops, four part-time Assistant Mechanic posts lasted six months each and one Assistant Mechanic was recruited as a full-time Refurbishment Mechanic.

### Forth Environment Link (FEL)

FEL loaned **49** bikes (43 of these were long-term loans as part of their key worker Covid response before being recalled towards the end of the pandemic for full servicing and return to public loans in Q4). Four e-cargo bikes were loaned, five e-cargo bike training sessions were delivered with 14 participants. FEL supported three employers (University of Stirling, NHS Forth Valley GPs and Falkirk Bid) to use seven e-cargo bikes.

FEL developed two new School Active Travel Hubs in Forth Valley (Alloa and Bannockburn High Schools) which are opening in Spring 2022. Lornhill Academy, their third school Active Travel Hub, continues to operate.

FEL provided a fleet of five e-bikes to three local police stations.

### Cycling UK

Cycling UK helped to set up an Active Travel Thurso group which began running events and activities, as well as networking with existing health and transport initiatives to bring more active travel opportunities to the area.

In almost all the Cycling UK locations they are working with local NHS Trusts to support cycle training (including work-based training for bike use within service delivery) for their staff and integrate opportunities for staff and patients.

Cycling UK provided e-bike loans to a social care provider who are testing whether home carers on Bute can make use of e-bikes instead of car journeys. This has already been successfully implemented at another location thanks to a previous collaboration with Cycling UK's Ardrishaig Bothy, resulting in the provider buying two e-bikes.

Cycling UK provided 12 loans of balance and small bikes to early years providers and Rural Connections staff provided a short training session for staff to ensure they were confident facilitating the use of the bikes.

**"Balance bikes have never been a thing we would have had as many of the children we thought would struggle using them but we were delighted to see how well they used them and definitely developing their balance skills each day was a great thing. [Since the loan, we] bought our own lovely balance bikes out of our budget."**

Noss Early Learning and Childcare, Caithness

# Capability Fund: Smarter Choices, Smarter Places outcomes



## Outcome

People's knowledge about sustainable transport choices increases

### Tactran

**10** workplaces were provided with accessibility advice and support on how to adopt and embed travel planning into their policies reaching approximately 22,000 people.

Tactran worked with three NHS Health Boards to provide additional capacity to allow them to progress with the travel planning measures required as part of their reporting.

### Forth Environment Link (FEL)

FEL supported National campaigns, including the Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge and the Step Count Challenge

FEL coordinated a social media campaign promoting climate action in the build up to COP26, which included hosting an official launch of #Let'sDoNetZero campaign at Bantaskin Primary on behalf of Scottish Government.

### Transform Scotland

Transform Scotland's youth programme was launched in March with:

**100** presentations to schools & youth groups

**4,000** children and young people were reached across 14 local authorities. Engagement on Love My Bus key messages, and free bus travel was well received - with positive responses from children, schools, operators and local authorities.

The first Scottish Bus Week was successful, kicking off with a launch in Glasgow - where Transform Scotland launched [a film](#).

There was engagement through events across Scotland, hundreds of organisations sharing and promoting internally, companies running games and promotions, two school visits, photo calls and conversations with MSPs, Scottish Government promotion and engagement across Parliament - in the Chamber, through a motion, including members and a Minister profiling bus as a choice that week.

Further to Transform Scotland's work during COP26, Scotland's story of bus and the transition to zero emission vehicles was picked up by [Climate Reality](#) - an international organisation set up by Former US Vice President, Al Gore)

### Cycling Without Age Scotland

The fantastic project Cycling Without Age Scotland (CWAS) while not being able to report on the number of people travelling sustainably saw:

**28,880** people's lives enriched and enhanced through their work

**36,101** sustainable transport miles were achieved by 'Trishaw and Outriders' in 2021-2022. There has been a significant increase in pilots and outriders being inspired by their CWAS activity to become regular cyclists. Now approximately 80% of pilots and outriders cycle to and from the Trishaw base for the start and end of each ride, totalling an estimated 46,209 sustainable miles in doing so.



# Case Study

## Transform Scotland

Transform Scotland is Scotland's alliance for sustainable transport. They campaign for walking, cycling and public transport to be the easiest and most affordable options for everyone.

Andrew is a Bus Driver for First Glasgow. He is keeping people connected by being a driver, to help deliver the links that people need to move around.

**"I love the bus, they are fast, dependable and always there when you need them. I have always travelled on the bus since a very young age, I loved the cheeriness of drivers also, made my day at times travelling to and from college. I have always admired travelling on the buses that much that I really wanted to be a driver. It was a dream I have had for years. Six months after I passed my car test I went for it and managed to pass my bus test. Two years on now and I love the buses even more, I love talking to passengers and making their day like drivers in the past made mine."**



**"I can remember being on a number 62 bus in Glasgow from Whiteinch to Glasgow City Centre, it was quite late on in the evening on a Saturday. A passenger who had a few too many started singing flower of Scotland on the bus, a couple of passengers started with him, a few seconds later the whole bus started to sing. It just shows how much a bus journey can bring people together."**

# SIMD

**Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) projects are making a difference in communities experiencing deprivation, ranked through the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).**

From next year, as well as providing figures around how many SCSP funded projects are supporting people in areas of multiple deprivation, we will also be able to provide figures on how many projects are supporting people who are experiencing inequality.

**4**

Capability Fund projects (44%) supported ethnic minority communities and/or people with disabilities through their funded activities

**8**

Local Authorities (26%) supported ethnic minority communities and/or people with disabilities through their funded activities

**31**

Open Fund projects (40%) supported ethnic minority communities and/or people with disabilities through their funded activities

**52**

of the 83 Open Fund projects (64.1%) delivered activities in the 10% most deprived SIMD areas

**29**

Local Authority areas (69%) delivered activities in the 10% most deprived SIMD areas

**29**

Local Authorities reached 41.9% of the 10% most deprived SIMD datazones

# Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Network

**The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Network is crucial to the successful running and development of the overall SCSP programme. The network is the method through which we share good practice, knowledge and experience among all three funds and it helps us influence organisations towards better, more effective delivery and ultimately more behaviour change.**

The aim of the SCSP Network is to share learning, promote innovation, provide peer support, promote collaboration and partnerships, support more applicants to reach the fund (particularly from seldom heard groups) and increase the profile of the fund.

Network sessions are themed by topic or geographic location and presenters discuss their project followed by questions and discussion.

During 2021-22 the following sessions were delivered reaching 177 representatives of organisations funded through the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme:

Network Sessions			
Event Type	Event	Attendees	Total
Thematic	Supporting and Reaching BAME Communities	6	89
	Supporting and Reaching Rural Communities	23	
	Supporting and encouraging Sustainable Travel for People with Disabilities	18	
	Shared Transport Mobility Hubs	42	
Geographical	Highlands	16	88
	Edinburgh	14	
	North East	12	
	Forth Valley	22	
	Glasgow	24	

# Lessons Learned and Areas for Improvement

**2021-22 was another year of adaptation to ever-changing Covid restrictions. Whilst it could be argued that it will be hard to apply lessons learned in this year to future ones, the ability of organisations to adapt and change their projects and to continue to meet SCSP Outcomes is a very positive step forward. This ability to adapt and change should be celebrated and shared with other projects to show that new and innovative solutions can almost always be found and, with this in mind, the SCSP Network has proven its value as a fantastic conduit for knowledge sharing and sharing of experience.**

The use of online events and activities has continued to engage with a wide range of stakeholders and whilst they may not have the personal interaction of face-to-face events, they did allow the continued awareness raising of active and sustainable travel opportunities.

With restrictions gradually being relaxed, many organisations took the opportunity to re-evaluate their projects and to introduce more hybrid ways of working with both face-to-face and online activities being run. This approach will continue to adapt as projects establish the best way of working with their target audiences.

During the Covid period it has been difficult to encourage projects to work towards the following priority outcomes: 'More people choose to walk and cycle for short local journeys' and 'More people choose sustainable transport options for longer journeys'. However, we are coming out of that period now and the Grants for All management system is being used to track trends in activities so that information gathered can be used to steer projects towards more of the action-based outcomes and towards more walking projects.

# Conclusion

**The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme recipients continued to successfully implement a wide range of projects despite the ever-changing Covid restrictions during 2021-22. Flexibility in the approach to working with grant recipients was the key to ensuring that outcomes were still achieved.**

There were notable success stories with the introduction of several e-bike loan schemes, the under 22 bus pass projects in Glasgow and a wide range of work with schools as part of the Local Authority Fund. The Open Fund awarded grants to 83 projects with social prescribing in Dundee being very successful with high levels of engagement. Paths for All took on the administration of the Capability Fund on behalf of Transport Scotland and this allowed work to be undertaken by nine well-established delivery partners across Scotland. The introduction of the SCSP Network has allowed the sharing of good practice and promotion of collaboration and partnerships whilst supporting more applicants to access the fund and to increase its profile.

After the inevitable stalling of progress during 2021-21, the programme's momentum is starting to increase again with a continued emphasis on enabling local agencies to deliver activities that respond to local need.

We are in a very strong place coming out of the Covid situation and due to the excellent relationships we have built across the network we will be able to influence better, more effective applications and projects as organisations move into what will be their new normal.

The next few years will be crucial in using the learning across the network to establish more projects that deliver on actual behaviour change towards the outcomes 'more people choose to walk, cycle and wheel for short local journeys' and 'more people choose sustainable options for longer journeys' which in turn deliver on the Transport Scotland Active Travel outcomes framework and support Scottish Government to meet its commitments.





## Smarter Choices, Smarter Places

Supporting Sustainable Travel



TRANSPORT  
**SCOTLAND**  
CÒMHDAIL ALBA



FOR A HAPPIER,  
HEALTHIER SCOTLAND

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