Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee
Draft Budget 2018-19
Written submission from Paths for All

Paths for All would like to submit evidence regarding our work that is supported by funding from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

Summary

- Paths for All receives SNH funding for work supporting community path projects
- This work delivers across a number of Scottish Government objectives including the National Walking Strategy
- Demand for support from communities far outweighs the available funding
- This is an area of work that can be readily scaled up if more resources were available

Background

Paths for All was established in 1996 as part of the SNH Policy Enjoying the Outdoors. We are currently primarily supported by the Scottish Government to promote physical activity and walking for health in Scotland and is a key delivery partner for the Scottish Government’s National Walking Strategy and the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework.

We champion everyday walking in Scotland and we want to get more people walking - everyone, everywhere and every day.

Paths for All aims to significantly increase the number of people who choose to walk in Scotland - whether that's leisure walking or active-choice walking to work, school or shops. We want to create a happier, healthier Scotland, where increased physical activity improves quality of life and wellbeing for all.

We work to create more opportunities and better environments not just for walking, but also for cycling, horse riding and other activities, to help make Scotland a more active, more prosperous and greener country. www.pathsforall.org.uk

SNH funding

Since its establishment, the work of Paths for All has been supported by funding from SNH and this has been of great value in delivering our objectives. This funding currently supports our Active Environments project work with community path groups – providing resources to create, maintain and improve local paths.

We consider that SNH’s role in Improving health and addressing inequalities (Green Infrastructure, Natural Health Service, community empowerment, outdoor learning) is of great value to communities across Scotland and should remain a priority. Our work supports the delivery of these outcomes and we work in partnership with a wide range of bodies to deliver this.
Path networks and good walking and cycling infrastructure have an important role in helping to reach physical activity targets. Walking has been shown to be the most effective way of getting inactive people active and it is important to encourage and support this at a local level.

**SNH funding to PFA 2016/17**

Our Community Paths Project provides advice, support, training and funding to community organisations throughout Scotland that are actively involved in the development, promotion and maintenance of their local community paths.

In 2016/17 we received funding from SNH to:

- cover the staff cost and work of our Active Environments Team which is responsible for the delivery of the Community Paths Project.
- Provide grants of up to £1500 to community organisations

**Advice and Support**

A total of 55 community organisations were provided with advice and support in 2016/17.

32 community organisations received onsite technical advice and support.

8 days technical advice and support was also provided to SNH to help with the delivery of the National Walking and Cycling Network.

**Community Path Training Courses**

A total of 102 volunteers participated in our programme of training courses for community organisations.

**Working with Young People –**

A pilot project aimed at engaging with organisations who work directly with disadvantaged young people was developed and delivered.

12 young people from Clackmannanshire and Midlothian were trained to develop and manage a community path project as part of the pilot project.

**Community Paths Grants**

A total of £60,854 in funding was awarded to 45 community organisations.

SNH contributed £29,000 to the grant scheme which allowed us to offer funding to 21 of those community organisations - who secured £17,493 of funding from other sources and contributed an additional £44,368 in kind funding bringing the total value of projects to £90,861.

The 21 projects were delivered by 376 volunteers taking part in 195 workdays.
Scottish Access Technical Information Network – administration and promotion of the networks activities. The networks website received 6,410 hits in 2016/17.

Publications

Outdoor Access Design Guide - was reviewed, updated and published. The guide provides advice on the design, construction and installation of outdoor access infrastructure.

Client CDM guidance – was published. The guidance provides advice on the steps organisations need to take when carrying out maintenance work to ensure that they are compliant with the Construction (Design and Management) regulation 2015.

We would very much hope that SNH can continue to fund us at least at the current level. Our experience is that the significant demand for support for path development, community involvement and capacity building far outstrips the available funding. We would be keen to scale up what we do if more funding was available.

Contribution to the Scottish Government’s national objectives


Relevant National Indicators [http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/indicator](http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/indicator)

- Improve access to local greenspace
- Increase people’s use of Scotland’s outdoors
- Increase physical activity
- Increase the proportion of journeys to work made by public or active transport


- We live longer, healthier lives.
- We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
- We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
- We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
- Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it.

We would be very happy to discuss this further or provide more detail on any of the points we have raised – particularly the role of the National Walking Strategy and projects we support.