

## **Falkirk maps the way to walking and cycling**

A map produced by Falkirk Council's Transport Planning Unit to encourage sustainable transport is set to deliver health dividends through increased walking and cycling for everyday trips.

The impetus for the Falkirk Green Travel Map came from the need to support local organisations developing travel plans by providing information on walking and cycling routes, as well as public transport information. The aim is to reduce the number of car trips by making people more aware of sustainable travel options and particularly by increasing active commuting. The map will also encourage leisure walking and cycling.

The map data is now on the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS), and will be used in planning applications to promote the linking of new developments to the walking and cycling network.

The map shows routes for walking and cycling including sections of proposed National Cycle Network Route 76, the Round the Forth route which runs for 91 miles along both coasts of the Firth of Forth and goes through Grangemouth and Bo'ness, and traffic-free routes including the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Union Canal towpaths.

The initial print run is 20,000 copies, which will reach a significant proportion of Falkirk's 145,000 population. Copies have been distributed to local businesses and the map is available free of charge through all council offices, libraries, one stop shops, bike shops, Falkirk Royal Infirmary, tourist information centres and tourist attractions such as the Falkirk Wheel. The plan is also for every child receiving cycling proficiency training or participating in the development of a school travel plan to be provided with a copy.

In order to keep the map to a manageable size, it covers the main urban areas within Falkirk Council, including, besides Falkirk itself, Bo'ness, Grangemouth, Airth, Denny and Bonnybridge. A further map covering the remainder of the Council area is under consideration.

In line with the Council's sustainability policy, the map was printed on 100% recycled paper, using soya-based vegetable oil inks.

The project was funded by Fresh Futures([www.fresh-futures.org.uk](http://www.fresh-futures.org.uk)).

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