The Scottish Government Initiative Tackling the School Run 2006 - 2007

A report on the Tackling School Run initiative managed by Sustrans during 2006 - 2007

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Executive Summary

In November 2006 the Scottish Executive awarded Sustrans Scotland a grant of £3.8m for the development and implementation of projects to increase the number of children walking and cycling to school and to raise awareness of the importance of the benefits of active modes of travel on the school journey.

Funding was awarded to thirty local authorities and eight independent organisations throughout Scotland. In total 105 projects were delivered in the 5-month period. Sustrans also worked to deliver six projects, working in partnership or with a steering group on two of these projects. Tackling the School Run funding was awarded to projects according to three different categories:

- On-site infrastructure – principally for the installation of cycle parking
- Soft measures – broad range of measures ranging from walking and cycling buses, bicycle loan schemes, theatre productions etc
- Links to Schools projects – the construction of new or the upgrading of paths for cycling and walking

In total 1482 schools throughout Scotland benefited from at least one Tackling the School Run funded measures. Two of projects funded under Tackling the School Run, Travelling Green and the DVD resource 'Healthier Routes: School Travel Planning in Action', will be available as a resource to all primary schools in Scotland. A formal assessment of the impact the initiative has had on cycling and walking levels will not be known until November 2007 when the monitoring of the projects by Sustrans is published. However, limited monitoring by School Travel Co-ordinators and anecdotal evidence suggests a clear rise in walking and cycling levels as a result of the Tackling the School Run Initiative.

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Tackling the School Run 2006 – 2007

Introduction
In November 2006 the Scottish Executive awarded Sustrans Scotland a grant of £3.8 m for the development and implementation of projects to increase the number of children walking and cycling to school and to raise awareness of the importance of the benefits of active modes of travel on the school journey.

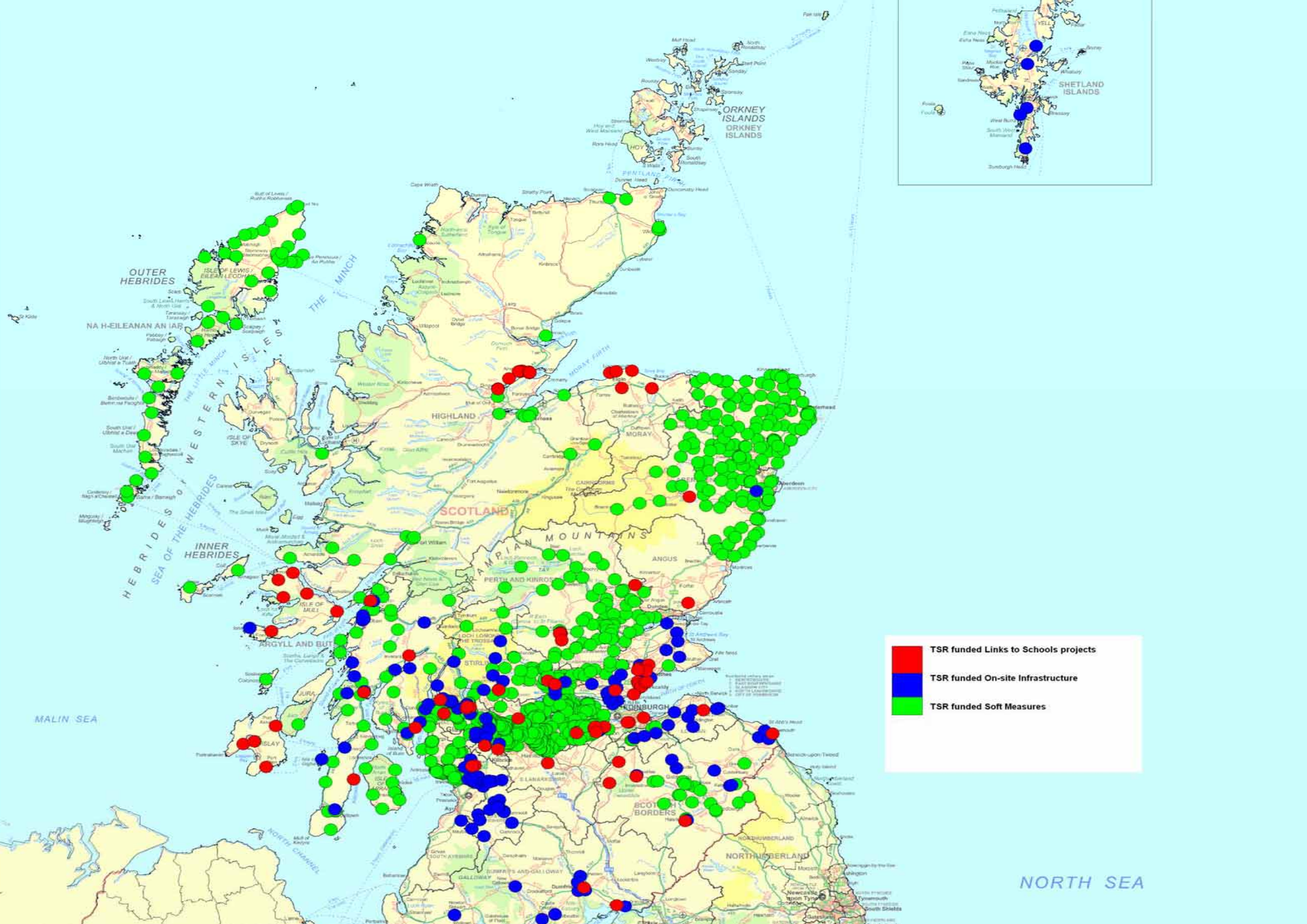
Funding was awarded to thirty local authorities and eight independent organisations throughout Scotland. In total 105 projects were delivered in the 5-month period, with 11 Local Authorities requiring extensions. Tackling the School Run funding was awarded to projects according to three different categories:

- On-site infrastructure – the majority of the funding being used to install cycle shelters although some local authorities also installed parent and pupil waiting shelters

- Soft measures – this covered a broad range of measures ranging from walking and cycling buses, bicycle loan schemes, theatre productions, promotional materials, incentive schemes, DVDs and school bike clubs amongst others

- Links to Schools projects – the construction of new or the upgrading of paths for cycling and walking, signage and physical safety improvements

The map (map 1) overleaf provides a broad outline of where different projects were funded in Scotland by pinpointing the individual schools benefiting from Tackling the School Run projects.


TSR funded Links to Schools projects
TSR funded On-site Infrastructure
TSR funded Soft Measures
ORKNEY ISLANDS
SHETLAND ISLANDS
OUTER HEBRIDES
NA H-EILEANAN AN IAR
INNER HEBRIDES
HEBRIDES OF WESTERN ISLES
SEA OF THE HEBRIDES
THE MINCH
HIGHLAND
MORAY
SCOTLAND
GRAMPIAN MOUNTAINS
ANGUS
PERTH AND KINROSS
ARGYLL AND BUTE
EDINBURGH
SCOTTISH BORDERS
NORTHUMBERLAND
MALIN SEA
NORTH SEA

Tackling the School Run project overview

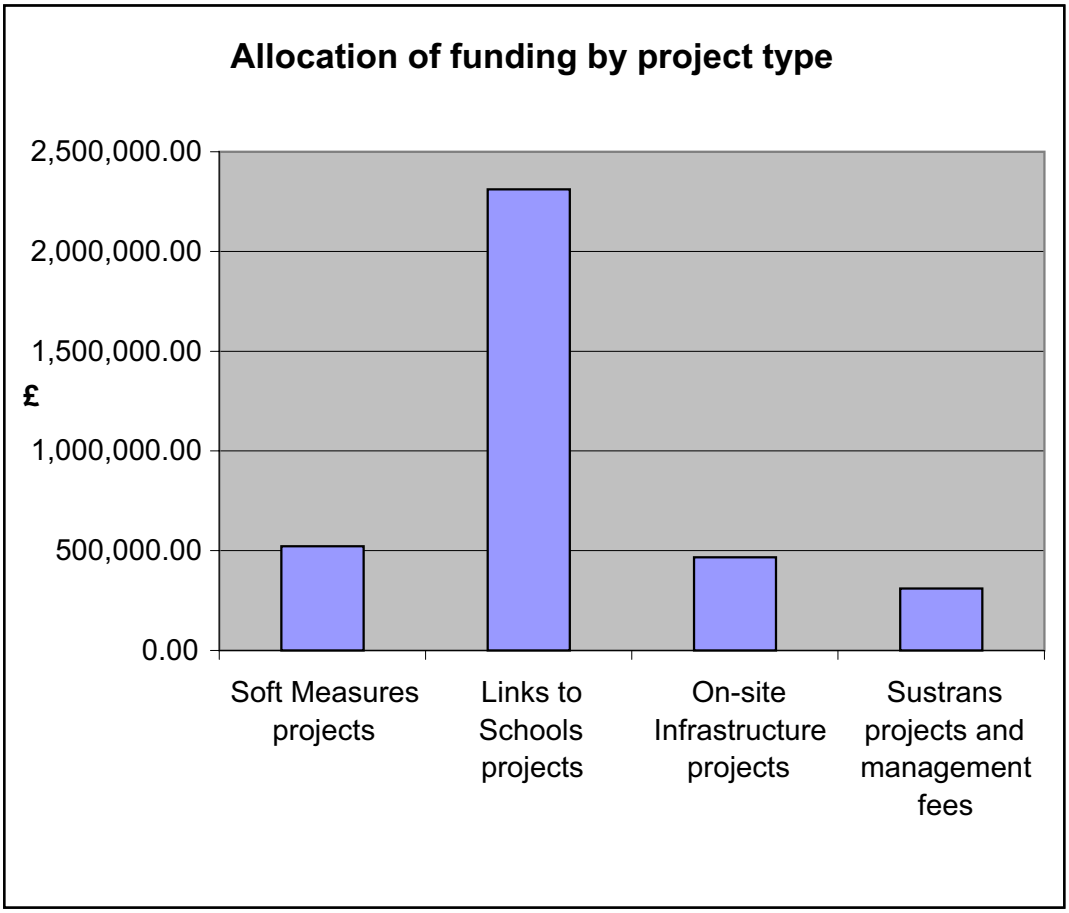
Allocation of funding
In October 2006 Sustrans contacted School Travel Co-ordinators and Cycling Officers/Access Officers to let them know that it was likely that funding would be made available for local projects that would increase walking and cycling to school and that the projects would be divided into:

- New or improved links to school
- On-site infrastructure
- Soft measures

In addition funding was allocated to a number of Sustrans projects that would have benefits across Scotland. These included the development of the Active Travel 'Get Active, Getting There' mapping and signage project in Dundee, the implementation of the initial stages of a TravelSmart pilot based on the catchments area of four primary schools in Inverness, the production of an STP DVD and the delivery of training to Road Safety Officers. It was a condition of the grant that the projects were to be completed by the end of March 2006.

Project type	**Expenditure (£)**
Soft Measures	**521,887**
On-site infrastructure	**471,892**
Links to Schools	**2,309,717**
Sustrans specific projects and management fees	**310,832**
Total	**3,614,330**

With agreement from the Scottish Government £185,668 in under spend was carried through to be deducted from the 2007 – 2008 Tackling the School Run allocation to Sustrans.

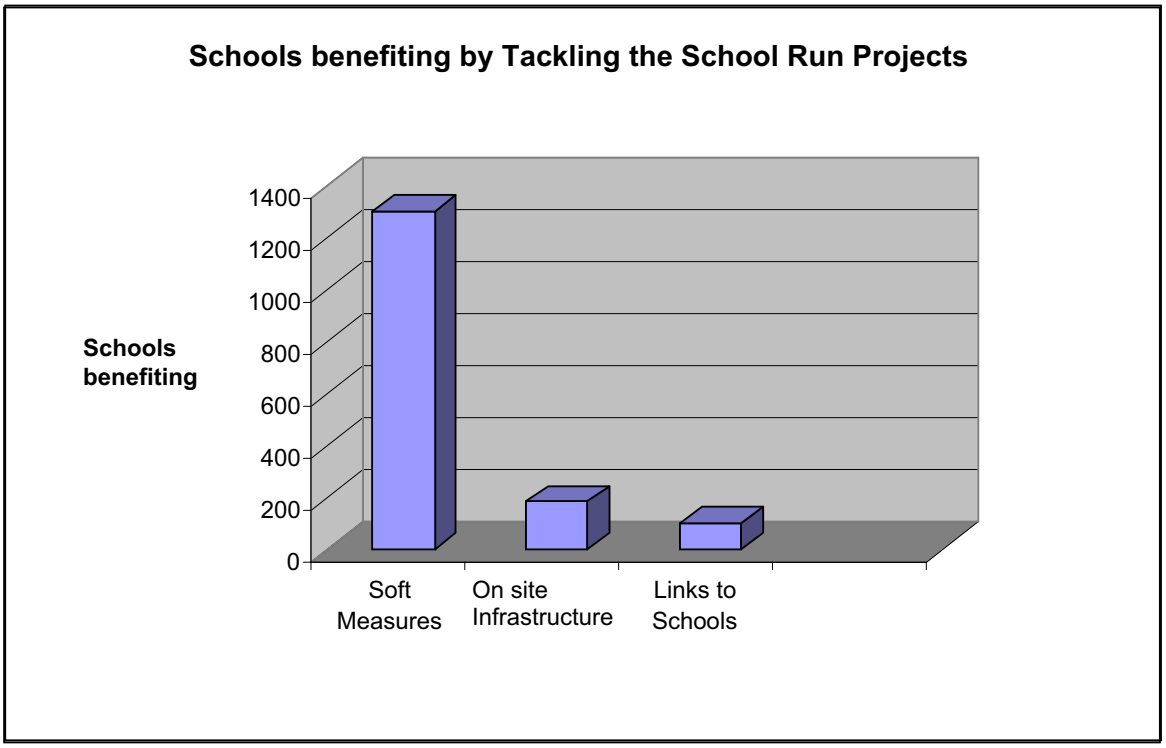


Number of schools benefiting from Tackling the School Run projects
For all the local authorities and independent organisations who were successful in their bids for Tackling the School Run 2006 -2007 funds we asked them to list the schools that would directly benefit from the projects when implemented*.

1482 schools in total benefited from at least one Tackling the School Run measure. This can be broken down into the following:

- **1306** schools benefited from soft measures projects
- **185** schools benefited from on-site infrastructure improvements
- **103** schools benefited from links to schools projects

*Figures are approximate



Monitoring
Monitoring of the projects has been carried out throughout this period by Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit, Newcastle, and a report will be published in November 2007. Additionally five cycle counters to monitor the impact of the Links to Schools project and the 'Getting Active Getting There' project in Dundee have also been installed, the data being forwarded to our Research and Monitoring Unit in Newcastle

A condition of all grants was that where relevant before and after surveys would be carried out. Only a few of the results from these surveys have been included in this report, mainly because there was not enough time for after surveys to be included in the project report as these reports were compiled in March 2007.

A programme is already underway through Sustrans to revisit projects funded through Tackling the School Run to find out more about the impact of the implemented measures. Refer to the final paragraph of this report titled '**Next Steps – following on from Tackling the School Run 2006 - 2007 initiative** on page 210.

Submission of final claims
Many of the local authorities and independent organisations were able to submit final claims by the end of the financial year on the 31st March. However, we had some difficulty tidying up final claims from a few local authorities.

Project completion
Whilst many of the Links to Schools projects were completed by the end of the financial year extensions were given to several local authorities. This was done on the basis of factors having impacted upon their ability to complete the work on time.

Preliminary findings

Monitoring of the projects is still ongoing and is being managed by the Sustrans' Research and Monitoring Unit in Newcastle. This report is due for publication in November 2007.

The following is an extract from included reports where monitoring by local authorities and partners has shown significant increases in levels of walking and cycling, and reduction in car use as a direct result of 'Tackling the School Run' funded measures.

On site Infrastructure

Aberdeen City Council:
Waiting shelter installation for parents and pupils at Milltimber School.
Increases from 2005 figures via hands up surveys
Reduction in car use of 7.0%
Increase in walking by 6.1%
Successful beginnings of walking bus and Park and Stride scheme

Dumfries and Galloway Council:
Cycle parking installations at 10 schools
Of the 658 pupils (at six schools) were results have been collated
5.2% mean rise in cycling up from 0% on 2005 figures – equivalent to 33 more pupils now cycling where as they did not before

Links to Schools projects

Dumfries and Galloway Council:
Cummertrees PS – new path creation, improved road layout and speed reduction measures.
5.6% increase in walking up from 2005 figures from the local villages of Cummertrees and Powfoot.

East Ayrshire Council
New path link created between Boghead and Holy Family PS
Anecdotal evidence to show an increase in walking and cycling on a new path linking Boghead to Holy Family PS

Inverclyde Council
New path link created to St. Patrick PS, Lenzie
35% reduction in car parking around the school down from 2005 figures
11% increase in pupils walking to school from 2005 figures??

Soft Measures

Aberdeen City Council:
Parking awareness promotion, Park and Stride and Walking Bus initiatives, Cults PS.
8% increase in pupils walking
9% uptake of users in a new 'Park and Stride' scheme
2.8% uptake of use in a 'Walking Bus' scheme
2.1% decrease in car use

Aberdeen City Council:
Skene Square PS, package of soft measures – Walking bus, Walk to School Week and considerate parking scheme.
10% increase in pupils walking
10% decrease in car use

Aberdeen City Council:
Hi Vis vest purchases, St. Peters RC.
10% increase in pupils walking
5% reduction in car use

Glasgow City Council:
Bike Loan Scheme – Bannermans HS, Govan HS, Eskbank Academy, Whitehall Secondary and St.Mungo's Acedemy.
Innovative bike loan scheme in area of high social deprivation.
This scheme has shown a marked increase in modal share for travel to St Mungo's Academy specifically. **Bike use has increased from 0% to 7% within 3 months of the School Bike Loan scheme being introduced.**

North Ayrshire:
'Go on – Get Out There': Phase 3 project
Project encouraging sustainable travel use amongst pupils and parents throughout North Ayrshire.
5.5% increase in walking levels
7% reduction in car use
2.5 increase in cycling levels
0.5% increase in bus use