

DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN
The draft third report on policies and proposals 2017-2032
Written Evidence from Paths for All
February 2017

1. We welcome the opportunity to respond to this inquiry. Our comments are limited to those aspects that have direct relevance to the work and objectives of Paths for All. We would be delighted to offer more information if required.

Summary

2. **We welcome the report – there is a need for major steps to reduce emissions and limit the effects of climate change.**
3. **The outcomes and policies on transport, behaviour change and planning are most relevant to our work**
4. **The National Walking Strategy is key to promoting and sustaining increased levels of walking with the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland the equivalent for cycling**
5. **More resources will be needed to meet the aspiration of increased levels of walking and cycling**
6. **Increased walking and cycling will bring multiple benefits to our health, environment and economy.**

Background

7. [Paths for All](#) is a Scottish charity founded in 1996. We champion everyday walking as the way to a happier, healthier Scotland. We want to get Scotland walking: everyone, everyday, everywhere.
8. Our aim is to significantly increase the number of people who choose to walk in Scotland - whether that's for leisure or walking to work, school, the shops or to a nearby public transport hub. We want to create a happier, healthier Scotland where increased physical activity improves quality of life and wellbeing for all. We work to develop more opportunities and better environments not just for walking, but also for cycling and other activities, to help make Scotland a more active, more prosperous, greener country.
9. Our work supports the delivery of the [Scottish Government's Active Scotland Outcomes Framework](#), [National Walking Strategy](#) and the [Long-term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland](#), community and workplace health walking, path network development and active travel policy development. We are a partnership organisation with [29 national partners](#). Our funders include the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Macmillan, The Life Changes Trust and Awards for All.
10. If we want to get significant numbers of people more active, then walking is of overwhelming importance – as both a recreational activity and as part of everyday life. This is particularly the case if we want to get inactive people more active.

Paths for All is a partnership organisation; for a full list of our current partners please visit our website.

Paths for Partnership is a recognised Scottish Charity No: SC025535 and a Company Limited by Guarantee No: 168554 incorporated 19 September 1996 at Companies House, Edinburgh. Registered Office: Office 8, Forrester Lodge, Tullibody Road, Alloa FK10 2HU.

11. The desire and intent to encourage more walking and embedding it in our daily lives is reflected in the Scottish Government's National Walking Strategy and Action Plan <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00452622.pdf> <http://www.stepchangescot.scot/>
12. It has three strategic aims:
- Create a culture of walking
 - Better walking environments throughout Scotland
 - Ensure easy, convenient independent mobility for all

General Comments

13. We welcome the publication of the report – there is a need for major steps to reduce emissions and limit the effects of climate change. In our area of interest the outcomes and policies on transport, behaviour change and planning are most relevant.
14. We support The Scottish Government's use of the ISM approach to support policy development and are pleased to participate when this is appropriate.
15. We welcome the priority given to transport – and within that to sustainable travel.
16. We also welcome the emphasis on behaviour change in combination with interventions – something that we have experience of.
17. We support the emphasis on the importance of the planning system. We very much support the principle that travel opportunities should prioritise walking and cycling before public transport and cars. Development in town centres, new housing and mixed development will assist in this. We will also be responding to the Scottish Government consultation on the future of the Scottish Planning System.

Sustainable Travel

18. We particularly welcome and support policy outcome 8:
19. *Proportion of total domestic passenger journeys travelled by active travel modes has increased by 2032, in line with our Active Travel Vision, including the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland Vision that 10% of everyday journeys will be by bike by 2020.*
20. We are pleased to see the policies which contribute to the delivery of outcome 8 and we would intend to play a significant part in delivering these
- 1) *Active travel: maintain funding for infrastructure and behaviour change programmes until at least 2021.*
 - 2) *Support the Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) programme to encourage travel behaviour change.*
21. Policy outcome 8 will indeed account for a small proportion of overall emissions reduction, as most journeys under a mile are already undertaken by walking. That said, the additional health and social benefits associated with increased active travel are very significant – as the report correctly identifies. Increased walking and cycling will bring multiple benefits to our health, environment and economy.
22. Making walking, cycling and public transport (usually encompassing walking as well) attractive options is key to encouraging less car use.
23. We welcome the specific mentions of the role of Paths for All and the National Walking Strategy in infrastructure and behaviour change programmes and support for the Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) programme to encourage travel behaviour change.

24. We do however have a concern over whether current levels of resources can meet the aspirations in the report. Specifically, we consider that:

- **there will need to be an increase in resources to meet the CAPS target and**
- **walking as active travel will also require a significant increase in resources.**

25. Levels of walking for travel are currently stable and not increasing significantly (unlike recreational walking which has increased for the last five years).

Active Travel

26. Our vision is for walking and cycling to be the natural choice for short journeys, creating a healthier, socially inclusive, economically vibrant, environmentally friendly Scotland.

27. Active Travel is about improving quality of life and quality of place. And with over 50% of all driven journeys in Scotland being less than 5km, and 26% less than 2km, there is plenty of scope for achieving a significant shift to walking and cycling as the most sustainable forms of transport.

28. With partners we have published *Scotland on the move Active travel for liveable, healthy and prosperous local communities* <http://transformscotland.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ActiveTravelManifesto-2016-FINAL-web.pdf> and *ACTIVE TRAVEL, . ACTIVE SCOTLAND, Our journey to a sustainable future* <http://bit.ly/2kjpFFr>

29. Promoting active travel is not just the responsibility of local authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships. Community and voluntary groups, employers, non-governmental organisations and charities can all make an important and valuable contribution to increasing levels of everyday walking and cycling in Scotland. [Active Travel Case Studies](#) show how a diverse range of groups and organisations have encouraged active travel.

30. Active Travel Hubs are one of three key operations of [Transport Scotland's Low Carbon Travel and Transport \(LCTT\) Programme](#), which is being administered by the [Energy Saving Trust](#). Active Travel Hubs should all aim to increase walking. [Paths for All - Active Travel Hubs and Walking \(1.76 MB\)](#)

Importance of walking

31. There is a risk that active travel work focusses too much on cycling - walking must be emphasised as it is ideal for shorter trips and walking forms part of much public transport use – walking to and from buses, trams and trains. Walking is key to getting more people choosing to not use the car.

Workplace walking

32. The Step Count Challenge is a workplace walking challenge run by Paths for All. Research by the University of Edinburgh shows an increase in the amount of time people were walking each week. The biggest increase was around active travel (e.g. walking to work) where there was a weekly increase of 109 minutes. There was also a 55-minute increase in walking as part of people's leisure time. <http://stepcount-staging.linux-live.stormid.com/2015/02/step-count-challenge-research-results/>

Smarter Choices, Smarter Places

33. The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) Programme is Paths for All's grant scheme to support behaviour change initiatives to increase active and sustainable travel. The programme is funded through Transport Scotland and aims to make walking and cycling the

modes of choice for short local. <http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/pfa/get-involved/smarter-choices-smarter-places-fund.html>

Placemaking and street audits

34. These are important tools in designing and planning walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods
<http://www.placestandard.scot/#/home>
<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/walking-communities-scotland>

Active Travel Task Force

35. The Active Travel Task Force, recently convened by the Transport Minister, will have an important role in achieving increased levels of walking and cycling.

Examples of relevant work we currently deliver or support:

36. [Health walks](#) – local walking projects across Scotland - training, resources and support

37. [Step count challenge](#) – workplace team walking challenges

38. [Workplace](#) – training, resources and support

39. [Community paths](#) – training, resources and support to create active environments

40. [Active travel](#) – including the Smarter Choices Smarter Places Fund – encouraging travel behaviour change

41. [The Big Fit Walk](#) takes place annually in June and aims to inspire communities across Scotland to come together for a short walk to celebrate the benefits of being active

42. Working with NHS Health Scotland in developing the Exemplar Physical Activity Employer Award

Paths for All

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