

Short-term contract for Skye Cycle Way – Phase 2 Development

Background

The Skye Cycle Way – Bridge to Broadford Path is a community-initiated project to provide a safe route for cyclists, walkers and wheelers between the Skye Bridge and Broadford. This trunk road is the extremely busy main route onto the island and the main connecting route for a number of population centres. The path will promote low carbon and active travel, link communities and improve local access. It also has the potential to act as a gateway to a future island-wide network.

Significant progress has been made over the past four years including feasibility studies, community consultation and concept design. The project is supported by Transport Scotland through the Sustrans Places for Everyone programme and features in the Highland Council's Skye & Raasay Future Investment Plan. The project is overseen by Broadford & Strath Community Company (BSCC).

The 9km path has been divided into two discrete development phases: Phase 1 (6km) from the Skye Bridge to Ashaig is being taken forward to detailed design and construction; Phase 2 (3km) from Ashaig, through Breakish to Harrapool, is at a less advanced design stage.

To date work on the entire route has been progressed by a part time Project Officer, supported by a volunteer working group. Henceforth this Project Officer will focus on the delivery of Phase 1 through to technical design and approval. We are therefore seeking to recruit a self-employed contractor to progress work streams that relate to the development of Phase 2.

This will entail working with stakeholders and influencers at all levels to secure the access agreements, design input and other support necessary to ensure effective delivery of detailed design for Phase 2.

Remuneration and nature of employment

- Self-employed and home based
- Duration: 5 months (20 weeks) contract, part-time. (There may be scope to extend this post to include more project development work subject to confirmation of additional funding.)
- Budget: £9000 (incl. VAT if applicable), plus reasonable travel expenses as agreed.
- Time commitment: there is some flexibility as to how the commission is carried out, but we expect an average commitment of 3 days per week.
- Reports to: Broadford & Strath Community Company (BSCC) board of directors (overall responsibility for line management); Skye Cycle Way working group (day to day operational liaison), Sustrans (funder).

Ideally the applicant will be resident with Skye and Lochalsh. However, applications will be considered from anyone living within a daily commute of Broadford.

Role & responsibilities

The Contractor will engage with Highland Council staff and our design and engineering consultants, Arvika Ltd. They will also undertake community engagement work and landowner contact relating to Phase 2 of the project. The post holder will work closely with the current Project Officer and the volunteer working group. Regular review meetings will be held to monitor progress and offer support/advice.

Key tasks:

1 Route development (Phase 2)

- Liaise with local residents along the proposed route, BSCC's professional consultants and public bodies in order to progress the design of Phase 2 to Detailed Design (Sustrans Stage 3 completion)
- Maintain regular contact with key Highland Council staff to explore and develop aspects of the project which can be delivered by Highland Council.
- Building on work completed by BSCC in 2020-21, establish contact with (approx. 35) crofting landowners, tenants and private occupiers along the Phase 2 route, to progress voluntary access agreements for the path
- Agree terms with individual occupiers for accommodation works and path design modifications.

2 Community engagement

- Together with the volunteer working group, continue to build strong and positive relationships with local businesses, schools, clubs and other community stakeholders
- Help deliver a community engagement event to (1) capture input and ideas about Phase 2 path design, (2) raise awareness about the project and (3) encourage future users of the path
- Together with the volunteer working group, consult with key stakeholders and a wide representation of other groups through Future Users Group advisory panel, events, workshops, meetings, online platforms and social media.

3 Contract management and reporting

- Ensure key targets are delivered to time, budget and agreed quality standards
- Ensure communications and reports of meetings, agreements, decisions are recorded and documented.

Person specification

Skills and personal qualities

- Strong consultation and negotiating skills, including proven ability to influence
- Excellent communication skills including written, verbal and inter-personal
- Excellent organiser with good time and task management skills
- Ability to work unsupervised and self-directed
- Possessing diplomacy and perseverance

Experience

- Experience of successfully delivering projects in a multi-discipline environment
- Experience of stakeholder management and community engagement, including working effectively with equalities groups
- Experience of working in rural areas and with land managers, farmers or crofters
- Experience of working with 3rd sector or community bodies
- Experience in the field of land and property, planning, access or transport would be an asset

Knowledge

- An understanding of the social and economic character of Highland rural communities
- Some knowledge of land and property law, and/or planning and transport, is desirable

For further information about the project please visit Skye Cycle Way Facebook page www.facebook.com/SkyeBikeRunWalk/ and the BSCC website www.broadfordandstrath.org/

Deadline for applications: 5pm Monday 24 January 2022

How to apply

To apply for this post please email your CV and a cover letter outlining how you match the skills, experience and knowledge required for this post, to: mail@broadfordandstrath.org. Please use the subject line Skye Cycle Way Short-term Contract.

Please address any enquiries about this post to mail@broadfordandstrath.org in the first instance.