



# Sustrans Connect2 Scheme

## Grant Application Form

### Main Contact Person

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### Scheme Title

Titanic Quarter

### Background to Sustrans and the Connect2 overall project

Sustrans is the charity that's enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. Our work makes it possible for people to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in.

Sustrans' Connect2 is transforming local travel in 79 communities across the UK. By building new crossings over busy roads, railways and rivers and linking these into walking and cycling networks. Sustrans' Connect2 will enable millions of people to travel on foot and bike for the local journeys we all make every day.

The primary objectives of Connect2 are to:

- \* identify examples around the UK where people are severed from essential services or facilities and prevented from walking or cycling around their community
- \* work with local partners and communities to overcome these barriers, creating inspirational local landmarks that create a sense of place and pride and enable people to walk or cycle
- \* promote all projects so that as many people as possible are aware of them and can benefit from them
- \* increase levels of walking and cycling and measure that change over the five year period of Connect2 funding
- \* involve communities in planning and delivering schemes that enable people to choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment
- \* identify and take opportunities to integrate Connect2 with other successful sustainable transport projects and initiatives.

The outcomes expected from Connect2 include:

- 1 improved quality of the local environment through attractive new community landmarks which help to increase civic pride
- 2 improved access for people to local places and services
- 3 increased community cohesion around this new popular public space
- 4 increases in numbers of people making trips on foot and by bike, with associated health benefits as they increase their levels of physical activity
- 5 reductions in congestion and pollution as people choose to walk or cycle rather than drive

### 2 - Scheme Cost and Duration

### 3 - Location of scheme

East Belfast

### 4 - Scheme Lead

Belfast City Council

### Endorsed by (Head of Department)

Gerry Millar

## 2 - Match Funding Details

Source	Contribution	Status
Translink	£250,000.00	Secured
DRD Roads Service	£83,810.00	Secured
Belfast Harbour Commission	£30,000.00	Secured
Belfast City Council*	£24,750.00	Secured*

### Notes on Match Funding

\* **BCC** – In addition to direct contribution and overall Project Management the Council will also ensure the integration with the Connswater Greenway at the junction between the two routes through the creation of a new shared public space and appropriate way finding information. Signage part of joint project with NITB awaiting final approval.

**Translink** – in addition to providing for full accessibility to the station Translink will refurbish and extend the station by Spring 2012 further enhancing connectivity to the cycle network.

**BHC** – are working with the Council to ensure that the connection of the Comber and Connswater Greenways can be achieved within the Harbour estate to enhance the local network.

**Roads Service** – Includes £45,000 for civil engineering works carried out to facilitate cycling on the Comber Greenway in 2008.

<b>Total Estimated Scheme Cost</b>	£551,998.00
<b>Total Match Funding</b>	£388,560.00
<b>Level of Grant Funding Required from Sustrans</b>	£163,438.00

When do you anticipate that works can begin? Sep-11

When do you anticipate the scheme being complete? Oct-12

## 3 - Site Location

Please include a map of the core network

**included?**

Yes

### Brief description of proposed scheme, specifications and standards to be used

Scheme is to provide the extension of National Route 99, the Comber Greenway. The main elements comprise four toucan crossings (Kings Road, Beersbridge Road, Dee Street and Sydenham Road); a new access to the Titanic Quarter area; integration with the upgraded Titanic Quarter rail halt; integration with the Connswater Greenway and enhanced connectivity to the City Centre / Titanic Belfast.

The formal Comber Greenway route in East Belfast currently ends at Ballymacarrett Walkway just after the point at which it will meet the proposed Comber Greenway. The proposed extension will enhance both the wider network and the local accessibility to the regeneration area at Titanic Quarter and via existing infrastructure to the City Centre.

The scheme will provide a quality extension of the Comber Greenway route through to Abercorn Basin within Titanic Quarter development area. This will link to the existing route from the City Centre and be provided via a quiet roads (Island Street), underpass (Titanic Halt), an existing shared pedestrian bridge (Sydenham Bypass) and new link through a presently closed off area that connects directly to Sydenham Road where a new Toucan Crossing and shared use pathway will then tie into existing recently built provision at Titanic Quarter.

The aim is to complete the scheme implementation to coincide with the opening of the Titanic Belfast visitor attraction and upgraded rail halt in April 2012. In addition to these new facilities the works will enhance the connectivity to the new Belfast Metropolitan College facility and PRONI (Public Records Office) which will be completed by autumn 2011.

Membership of the Steering Group for the project includes the Council, Belfast Harbour Commissioners, Titanic Quarter, Strategic Investment Board, Roads Service, East Belfast Partnership, Connswater Community Greenway and Translink. This membership encompasses the landowning interest along with the community representation for the surrounding neighbourhoods.

*Note: Use Alt+Enter to start a new line within the data field*

#### 4 - Which organisation will lead the scheme? How will this leadership be set up and taken forward?

Belfast City Council will lead the scheme implementation and seek to ensure integration with the work to enhance broader accessibility to the Titanic Quarter development.

A steering Group is already set up and meeting drawing together a plan for the wider area ensuring this project is not carried out in isolation of other activity. Consultants (RPS) have drawn up outline plans for a number of access improvement schemes. This work will ensure that parallel activity such as the ongoing Connswater Greenway project will complement the important link that the proposed Comber extension will provide.

#### 5 - Deliverability

Is planning permission required?

No

Has planning permission been obtained?

Yes

Are land agreements required?

No\*

Have land agreements been obtained?

#### Included?

**Please include a programme for delivery of the proposed scheme showing tasks/mile stones etc that are required.**

Appended .mpp

Please provide details of the above, or any other issues that might affect the deliverability of the scheme before 31 March 2013? e.g. environmental considerations or land purchase

Thin relation to "5 Deliverability" above it should be noted that the landowners Belfast City Council, Department for Regional Development (Roads Service), Translink, and Belfast Harbour Commissioners have confirmed their agreement in principle to the project and that complementary works by the Council (Connswater greenway) and Translink (Rail Halt) have already been programmed.

The land owners have provided agreement in principle subject to final conformation of the project details and consent. Elements of the project relating to the modification of highways and access are required to go through separate administrative processes prior to final agreement being possible.

#### 6 - Memorandum of Understanding

**All schemes must sign a Memorandum of Understanding in order to be eligible for funding.**

A draft copy of the MoU is available from [jamie.edwards@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:jamie.edwards@sustrans.org.uk).

#### Further aspects that require to be considered:

##### **Benefits**

Please indicate who in the community benefits and how.

The scheme will link the Comber Greenway into the City Centre and Titanic Quarter providing enhanced connectivity for East Belfast. In addition to Titanic Belfast, PRONI and new employment provision, Belfast Metropolitan College is developing a new facility in Titanic Quarter which it is proposed will serve all parts of the city. The new connection provides the opportunity for a broad range of users to utilise the path especially the local communities in the East of belfast.

What is the potential for this scheme to increase walking and cycling in the area?

The scheme proposes to establish a quality link from East Belfast in an area where the current access arrangements are very poor and convoluted. The road (Sydenham bypass) and rail (Bangor Line) infrastructure forms a significant barrier between East Belfast and access to the Titanic Quarter regeneration area. The future expansion of the Connswater and the linkages through Titanic Quarter provide the opportunity to establish a local network of quality routes within the East of the city. In addition to the direct connection this offers greater opportunity for leisure cycling and a quality network connecting areas of public open space from the city centre across the East of the city and beyond

## **Support**

What support is there from the community for this scheme? How would the scheme involve and engage the community?

The need to establish a quality link from East Belfast to Titanic has been a high priority for the local community and supported through the Council engagement with the communities under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Titanic Quarter Limited. The Steering Group for the project and broader Titanic Quarter (MoU) Access Group include community representation from the Area Partnership Board. The ongoing engagement will ensure community involvement in the project and wider initiatives.

What support is there within the council for this scheme? How does and will this support manifest itself?

In addition to direct contribution to the works and overall Project Management the Council will also ensure the integration with the Connswater Greenway at the junction between the two routes through the creation of a new shared public space and appropriate way finding information.

The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee has supported the scheme and endorsed the principle of the proposed partnership with Sustrans.

## **Monitoring**

As part of the Connect2 project the scheme requires to be monitored in partnership with Sustrans.

Any other comments

Separate Files:

**Please attach any other relevant information, including location plans indicating schools, hospitals, communities, stations etc and photos to your reply email.**