



South West Community Cycles
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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND: CONSULTATION ON INITIATIVES RELATED TO THE SCOTRAIL FRANCHISE EXTENSION

About South West Community Cycles

South West Community Cycles (SWCC) is a registered charity that aims to relieve poverty, further advance the health and education of the people of the South-West area of Glasgow, and help to protect its local environment through the provision of bike-related services and activities.

The need for such services and activities originated from the concerns of a number of local residents about the illegal use of motocross bikes and the anti-social behaviour and health and safety concerns that resulted from this. The group also felt that there was a lack of organised youth activities despite a high level of interest in motorbikes and cycles within the area, a significant part of which is a recognised area of deprivation within Glasgow.

Its plans have drawn support from the area's population as well as a range of public, voluntary and private sector organisations. SWCC is developing three main projects to address the needs that it has identified:

- BMX Facility
- Motocross Track
- Cycle Resource Centre

Supported by the First Scotrail through its "Adopt-a-Station" initiative and by Glasgow Building Preservation Trust (GBPT), SWCC is currently participating in a single-use study to examine the potential for developing the station buildings at Glasgow's Pollokshaws West Railway Station (a vacant Category B listed, 1847 railway building) as its flagship Cycle Resource Centre.

Q21 What should we consider in station and community regeneration?

SWCC believes that regeneration should focus on activities and organisations that link stations and communities together and that promote stations as being a focal point for their communities for transport purposes and to meet other community needs. Particularly in recognised deprived areas such as South West Glasgow we believe that just as railway stations represent an access point for their communities to and from an area so too could they be used to support activities that reduce social exclusion in such areas. Accordingly, any such regeneration should consider how it:

- links with existing community organisations and activities rather than creating displacement through the constant development of new initiatives
- supports services shown to meet local needs
- ensures station buildings are treated sympathetically in relation to a station's heritage
- brings station buildings back into frequent use by their community and indirectly encourages greater use of the railways
- promotes the station, the railways and sustainable transport

Q 22 Where should we concentrate our efforts on the Station Community Regeneration Fund?

In order to maximise the impact of the fund we believe that it should:

- Make high-value, long-term investments in community organisations with the potential for developing sustainable local services rather than a larger number of small discretionary awards the value of which can be difficult to assess
- Seek evidence of the social return on its investment from the community organisations that are its beneficiaries
- Focus on supporting revenue costs to enable community organisations to develop their sustainability while fulfilling their social objectives
- Support activities that represent a genuine link with railways and sustainable transport and/ or focus on linking communities within the catchment area of a particular station
- Require the community organisations that it supports to evidence the relevance of their services to the station communities that they serve.

Donna Foote
Secretary, South West Community Cycles