

## 6. Scotland's National Marine Plan

### Application: Rosskeen to Invergordon Active Travel Improvements

#### Summary Note

The proposed activity closely relates to:

**GEN 2:** Economic Benefit - a improved cycle track linking Invergordon and Alness would provide the two towns with a valuable asset, with the potential for population growth and improved economy.

**GEN 3:** Social benefit - the cycle track will offer a more comfortable and pleasant route than existing. Locals can keep active and improve and wellbeing. Local contractors will be invited to tender.

**GEN 4:** Co-existence - the cycle track will literally improve the connection between the towns of Alness and Invergordon. A Feasibility Study found that space constraints between the B817 and the railway meant that building out onto the shore was the only option to improve the track.

**GEN 5:** Climate change - construction will re-lay existing rock armour where possible. This will make up approximately one quarter of the rock armour construction. Construction of the revetment will provide protection to the cycle track, the B817 road and green space amenity. This will preserve an existing asset and will mitigate future maintenance. Promotion of active travel may also reduce the number of people using motor vehicles and increase walking, wheeling or cycling, thereby reducing carbon emissions.

**GEN 7:** Landscape/seascape – routeing the cycle track to the shore side of the B817 will give a more enjoyable route with views of the Cromarty Firth. It will also give a sense of place, economic livelihoods and quality of life. With cruise ships docking at Invergordon, tourists may walk or cycle along this route, thereby supporting a valuable recreation and tourism sector.

**GEN 9:** Natural heritage – construction will comply with legal requirements for protected species and will not have adverse significant effect on the conservation objectives for any qualifying features of Cromarty Firth SPA and Cromarty Firth Ramsar, and that site integrity will be maintained for both sites.

#### **Sector Policy 12**

Objective 1 – Improved recreational asset, improved marine tourism

Objective 2 – Revetement will provide protection to the existing coastline

Objective 3 – Improved diversification. Design complies with the Equalities Act (2010), making the cycle track accessible for all

Objective 4 – Improves access to the Invergordon Boating Club

Objective 5 – shared-use cycle track improves active travel for all.