

Item:  
**10**



## **Report to Partnership Meeting 16 November 2018**

### **RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY**

#### **Local Rail Development Fund**

##### **Purpose of Report**

To update Members on the Local Rail Development Fund bid process.

##### **Local Rail Development Fund**

HITRANS submitted the following projects for the £2m LRDF pre-pipeline pot in June:

- Inverness Rail East- a new station to serve the burgeoning East of the city
- Evanton- reopening investigation
- Skyefall- continued work on the multi modal solution for Strome ferry
- Oban Hub- work on the benefits of integration
- Branchliner II- development of a timber rail network
- Caithness Orkney Connectivity- Midnight Train to Georgemas
- InJunction- Keith Regained
- Get Lossie- dedicated bus linking the town to Elgin's half hourly rail services
- Fastline Faslane- new station proposal for Scotland's biggest single site employer
- Orkabus- dedicated buses linking rail and Pentland Firth crossings
- West Highland Line Enhancements- train service options

##### **Award**

Fastline Faslane was awarded £50k. Site visits have been held and a meeting with the Base Commander has been set up. Following this a consultancy brief will be developed.

##### **Second Round**

We anticipate the announcement of a second round of funding soon, as only £681k out of the £2m budget has been allocated. We now have to consider which to resubmit, bearing in mind the limited resources we may have available for match funding. Having discussed this with Partnership Advisors at the most recent meeting of the Group we are considering resubmitting the following projects with the previous feedback addressed as needed:

- Evanton
- Skyefall
- Oban Hub
- Branchliner

Consideration will also be given to submitting a consolidated project that investigates the feasibility of virtual branch line rail to bus connections across the region drawing on the proposals set out in Get Lossie and Orkabus.

## **RISK REGISTER**

### RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

### Policy

Impact - Positive

### Financial

Impact – Funded by Transport Scotland if successful; HITRANS and other funding may be additionally allocated.

### Equality

Impact – Access for all to the rail network

## **Recommendations**

1. Members are asked to note the report.
2. Members are asked to consider the projects to be submitted to round 2 of LRDP and to delegate final decisions on re-submission to the Director and Partnership Manager.

**Report by:** Frank Roach  
**Designation:** Partnership Manager  
**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018