

Report to Partnership Meeting 15 September 2017

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Update

SUMMARY:

To provide Members with an update on active travel work supported by HITRANS

Scottish Government Programme for Government: Active Travel Funding:

The Scottish Government, through their Programme for Scotland 2017-18 announced that the annual investment in walking and cycling will double to £80M from 2018-19. This includes funding for Low Emission Zones in Scotland four largest cities. Below is an extract from the detailed Programme;

“We will build an Active Nation, boosting investment in walking and cycling and putting active travel at the heart of our transport planning. Our actions will include:

- making our towns and cities friendlier and safer spaces for pedestrians and cyclists by increasing investment that supports active travel from £40 million to £80 million per year from 2018-19
- appointing an Active Nation Commissioner to ensure delivery of world-class active travel infrastructure across Scotland
- stepping up promotion of the use of electric bicycles to ensure as many people as possible can benefit from active travel
- delivering projects which help older people benefit from our network of walking and cycling routes

We will work towards delivering a long distance walking and cycling route, offering an experience equivalent to the successful North Coast 500 and continue our investment for walkers, cyclists and equestrians on the A9 corridor, including 35 km of new cycle track to connect the A9 route with the wider National Cycle Network.”

Community Links Projects:

An overview of the 2017/18 projects within the HITRANS region are provided in the table below, along with an overview of area wide spend from 2014 onwards*

Partner name	Project name	Grant Claimed	Year
Argyll and Bute Council	Carradale design work	£ 10,000.00	2017/18
Argyll and Bute Council	Helensburgh and Lomond Cycleway – Cardross Link	£ 115,000.00	2017/18
Argyll and Bute Council	B833 Rosneath to Rosneath Castle Park - Shared Use path	£ 250,000.00	2017/18
Argyll and Bute Council	South Shian Path	£ 50,000.00	2017/18
Argyll and Bute Council	Dunoon Esplanade Phase 2 – West Bay to Town Centre	£ 11,500.00	2017/18
Argyll and Bute Council	Oban High School detailed designs for path and road crossing	£ 15,000.00	2017/18
Argyll and Bute Council	Cruachan Cottages, Taynuilt	£ 10,000.00	2017/18
Cairngorms National Park Authority	Active Aviemore	£ 40,000.00	2017/18
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	Inverness Campus North bridge	£ 700,000.00	2017/18
Hitrans	Inverness Rail Station Access - Community Links	£ 75,000.00	2017/18
The Mull & Iona Community Trust	Fionnphort Village to Community Hall Link	£ 10,000.00	2017/18
Moray Council	Connecting Elgin Town Centre with residential and commercial areas to the	£ 50,000.00	2017/18
Orkney Islands Council	Kirkwall Harbour Flood Prevention - Harbour Street Improvements - Implem	£ 363,724.00	2017/18
Orkney Islands Council	Unsegregated Cycle Track at Muddisdale, Kirkwall	£ 20,000.00	2017/18
The Highland Council	Cavell Gardens Cycle Contraflow	£ 35,000.00	2017/18
The Highland Council	Link Bridge and Path Stoneyfield Business Park to Retail Park	£ 75,000.00	2017/18
The Highland Council	Inshes Park Phase 2	£ 175,000.00	2017/18
The Highland Council	Tain 3-18 campus	£ 10,000.00	2017/18
Scottish Canals	Inverness - Space by the Water	£ 65,000.00	2017/18
		£ 2,080,224.00	

Sum of Grant Claimed	Column Labels	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18*	Grand Total
Partner						
Argyll and Bute Council			£ 303,360.63	£ 392,040.51	£ 461,500.00	£ 1,156,901.14
Cairngorms National Park Authority					£ 40,000.00	£ 40,000.00
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar			£ 14,833.56	£ 13,169.37		£ 28,002.93
Garden And Ecological Trail Sandwich					£ 55,000.00	£ 55,000.00
Highlands and Islands Enterprise					£ 700,000.00	£ 700,000.00
HITRANS		£ 255,000.00	£ 55,653.98		£ 75,000.00	£ 385,653.98
Moray Council		£ 676,331.06	£ 452,138.92	£ 332,634.00	£ 50,000.00	£ 1,511,103.98
Orkney Islands Council		£ 85,000.00	£ 153,477.18	£ 30,944.54	£ 383,724.00	£ 653,145.72
Scottish Canals		£ 982,411.00	£ 982,500.00	£ 259,092.00	£ 65,000.00	£ 2,289,003.00
Shetland Island Council		£ 495,000.00	£ 83,500.00	£ 227,781.38		£ 806,281.38
The Highland Council		£ 353,560.00	£ 334,133.41	£ 230,518.32	£ 295,000.00	£ 1,213,211.73
The Mull & Iona Community Trust					£ 10,000.00	£ 10,000.00
Grand Total		£ 2,847,302.06	£ 2,379,597.68	£ 1,486,180.12	£ 2,135,224.00	£ 8,848,303.86

*The second table also includes Shetlands islands Council and applications from local Community organisations.

HITRANS Community Links Application: Inverness Railway Station Active Travel Improvements.

As previously reported, HITRANS have been successful in receiving £75,000 in funding towards feasibility, community consultation and outline design for active travel routes linking into the three pedestrian entrances to Inverness Railway Station. This work seeks to provide additional improvements to the ongoing work led by Abellio ScotRail and The Highland Council that will help ensure the walking and cycling infrastructure providing access to and from the station is enhanced to better meet the needs of the local users and businesses. This contract has been awarded to Civic Engineers, in partnership with Optimised Environments and Doig+Smith. The inception meeting is taking place 12th September.

Community Links PLUS:

HITRANS have supported The Highland Council in their Community Links PLUS application for the 'Inverness City Active Travel Network'. This project has for the second year reached the final stage of the design competition, and HITRANS Active Travel Officer joined The Highland Council team presenting their application to the competition panel. If successful this project would see Inverness aim to increase its cycle to work figures from 5.5% to 11%,

and would see significant infrastructure changes throughout the town centre, and along the 'east to west' corridor, to promote walking and cycling, and links to key destinations.

Other Active Travel projects:

- Cordon counts: HITRANS have been working with Highland and Moray to deliver active travel/full traffic cordon counts as required in Inverness, Elgin and Forres to help gain baseline data for active travel, and to help prioritise active travel interventions. Going forward we are keen to carry out more surveys within other audit towns and will liaise with partners to assess interest.
- Maps: We are continuing to work with our partners to deliver active travel maps. In particular we are working to deliver maps for Stornoway, Aviemore, Elgin and Fort William at present, and will progress to other locations as required.
- Green CHIPS: HITRANS have been approached by contacts within NHS Highland to provide funding for a pilot e-trike to enable patients to be cycled from doctors surgeries to other healthcare settings for treatments in Inverness. The first engagement will be with Cairn Medical Practice but several other surgeries are also keen to be involved. This work links into the active health project being taken forward at the Inverness Campus and the active travel officer will report back on learning for other settings in the region.
- Urban Design Framework: HITRANS are working along with Orkney Islands Council officers to help deliver their UDF, in particular looking to update aspects of the Kirkwall active travel audit, and learning from their previous Smarter Choices Smarter Places 'Kickstart Kirkwall' project.
- National Cycle Network Route No.78: Work on the section of the NCN78 between Onich and Corran ferry is progressing well, with only the bridge over the Righ burn still to be installed. South of Ballachulish, Sustrans are working with the NCN steering group and Argyll and Bute Council to look at options for the two 'gaps' within the NCN78 route.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the report and consider future community links projects that may be developed under the HITRANS / Sustrans partnership funding allocation.

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work supports the RTS objectives and the monitoring of their implementation.

Policy

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Active Travel policies H27a to H27d.

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is linked to the Sustrans active travel grant, and community links applications.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS support for active travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and removes a number of physical accessibility barriers.

Report by: Fiona McNally
Designation: Active Travel Officer
Date: 5th September 2017