

Report to Partnership Meeting 10 April 2015

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Active Travel Update

Purpose of Report

To update the partnership board of the latest developments in the active travel work area.

REPUTE PTP Pilot and toolkit development, Fort William

As reported previously JMP Consultants were successful in gaining the tender for the PTP pilot and toolkit development. This work is now moving forward, with two local travel advisers recently employed by JMP for the duration of the project. Training of local staff, THC Graduate Transport Planner, and HITRANS active travel officer on the engagement method used in PTP took place on the 26/27th March.

The targeted approach for the PTP interventions will focus on:

- Workplaces
- Schools (both primary and secondary)
- NHS Highland buildings (both staff, patients and visitors)
- THC
- UHI Lochaber Campus
- Community groups and key events in local area.

The initial engagement for the PTP exercise will take place in these larger areas, where more people can be targeted in one location. Each individual will be asked to complete a travel challenge to change their behaviour, which will be followed up 2-3 weeks later to see if any change has been made.

The active travel officer will update the board at the next meeting in June as the project is wrapped up.

NCN78 Developments

Following the support of the Partnership Board we have been working with BEAR, TS and Sustrans to improve the 'on A82' alignment of the Corran Ferry to Ballachulish cycle route, especially around Onich.

Following a successful public open event and meeting on the 16th March, the community council and local residents are now in full support of the cycle route alongside the trunk road, with several working with BEAR to provide land from their own properties to enable a 2.5m width route throughout the main sections of the community, which is a very positive outcome.

Active Travel Maps

Both the Inverness and Fort William maps are being finalised at present, with aims to complete the two THC areas which underwent 'action town' charrettes next: Nairn and Tain.

Following this discussions have taken place with Orkney and Western Isles regarding Kirkwall and Stornoway as the next locations for map development.

Htravel brand for active and multi modal travel



The HITRANS team have been involved in the brand development for Htravel to link into the active travel and public transport officers' roles. This logo brings together the many different modes of transport in the region, while still having a Highlands and Islands focus. We will be working with partners going forward to utilise the brand in HITRANS projects throughout the next year, and Transport Scotland are keen to engage with us on this.

Active Travel Funding

HITRANS supported each of the partner areas with both their Smarter Choices Smarter Places Applications and Community Links applications during January and February. All 5 partners received the full amount of funding requested during SCSP, including additional funding where requested- such as THC.

The Community Links funding scoring criteria is talking slightly longer than last year. An advisory panel was held on 16-19th February and both Argyll and Bute, and Highland were invited to present regarding specific projects. Following this the advisory panel have made recommendations on the applications.

Steering group meetings are taking place on the 2nd, 7th and 14th April to decide which projects are funded for the 15/16 financial year, with the award announcements expected on 17th April. HITRANS active travel officer is likely to be involved in the steering group where applications for the Highlands and Islands are discussed.

Baseline Data and Cycle Friendly Pilots

Both Orkney and Highland have received funding from the 14/15 budget for the order and installation of cycle friendly roads. These are for AT Route 6 in Inverness, and the Scapa Road in Orkney. Both of these have been mentioned in previous reports, and will be look to engage with other partners during 15/16 to establish additional locations including those in Argyll.

To assist with data gathering in the region, HITRANS have purchased infrared cycle and pedestrian counters which can be moved from location to location to enable some baseline data to be compiled for specific routes in each local authority, linked to future developments or active travel master plans, and where monitoring can take place over a short, medium and annual basis in set locations to determine any changes in walking and cycling levels. These will be helpful when developing PTP projects in specific locations in determining whether there has been a modal shift in travel behaviours.

National Walking Strategy Action Plan

HITRANS have submitted a response to the Scottish Government National Walking Strategy Action Plan following attendance at a workshop in January and a discussion on the consultation documents at the Partnership Advisers meeting in Feb.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report. Further progress reports will be brought to future Partnership Meetings.

| Risk | Impact | Comment |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RTS Delivery | √ | This work supports RTS objectives and the monitoring of their implementation. |
| Policy | √ | This work supports the development of our Active Travel Policies H27a to H27d |
| Financial | - | A budget of £100k in 2014/15 has been allocated. AT funding through REPUTE and CL funding for Onich to Ballachulish. |
| Equality | √ | HITRANS support for Active Travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and removes a number of physical accessibility barriers. |

Report by: Fiona McInally
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