

**Report to Partnership Meeting 8th February 2013
RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY**

Active Travel Audits Progress Report

Purpose of Report

To update Members on the Active Travel Audit programme, proposed monitoring strategy and capital project funding for 2012/13.

Background

Active Travel Audits have now been completed by consultants Halcrow for the following seventeen key regional settlements within the HITRANS area;

Keith, Stornoway, Fort William, Kirkwall, Oban, Thurso, Alness/Invergordon, Elgin, Rothesay, Campbeltown, Lochgilphead/Ardnish, Inverness, Dingwall, Dunoon, Wick, Aviemore and Forres/Kinloss/Findhorn.

Outputs

The Audits have produced the following outputs for each settlement;

- Active Travel Prioritised Action Plan
 - Identifying areas and potential interventions where there is the greatest potential to achieve modal shift or where there is the greatest need for infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists
- Active Travel Master Plan
 - Establishes a core network for pedestrians and cyclists that provides direct, convenient, safe, attractive and coherent links between journey origins and journey attractors

Since they have been commissioned, the Audits have provided an invaluable evidence basis for securing a significant amount of external funding including:

- Kirkwall Smarter Choices Smarter Places project (£1.5m),
- Elgin Urban Freedom project (£1.2m, including £200,000 contribution from Sustrans and c£500,000 ERDF),
- Highland Green and Active Travel project (£560k including £50,000 from Sustrans and £229,000 ERDF).

In addition, the Audits have also helped secure significant investment for walking and cycling improvements in Argyll and Bute through the CHORD programme, while they have been used on an annual basis by Local Authorities to apply for match funding contributions from Sustrans Community Links Fund.

Finally, member Local Authorities, have been embedding the Audits within the planning process by adopting them in their respective Local Transport Strategies and Local Development Plans. This will help ensure that both new development caters for walking and cycling and investment is secured for the improving the existing cycling network.

Review and Monitoring

An extensive review of each audit has recently been undertaken and a brief presentation of this work will be provided at the Partnership Meeting on 8th February by the HITRANS Intern.

It is the intention to update each of the Audits with 2011 census data when it becomes available later this year so that the Active Travel Audits will continue to provide the main resource for determining spending priorities for the foreseeable future.

Funding

A £40,000 allocation has been identified from the 2012 / 2013 Research and Strategy Delivery Plan, with a similar allocation proposed for 2013 /14.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report and invited to support the proposed allocation of the £40K from the HITRANS Research and Development Budget.

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	-	The project is identified in the 2012/13 Business Plan and supports HITRANS and member Local Authorities secure external funding and developer contributions.
Equality	-	HITRANS support for Active Travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and removes a number of physical accessibility barriers

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