

Report to Partnership Meeting 13 September 2019

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Update

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update on Active Travel projects in which HITRANS are currently involved.

REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL BUDGET (Transport Scotland)

2018/19 Budget Update:

- *Bikes on Buses*

Due to size restrictions & health & safety concerns on the coaches deployed on the identified routes, this project did not progress and funding was diverted into providing sheltered cycle parking at bus stops and transport interchanges. These will be delivered in the following locations, where secure cycle parking has been identified as a priority in the Active Travel Audits and more recent Town Centre Health Checks:

- Thurso (at Caithness Horizons building on High St)
- Wick (at Riverside Car Park)
- Invergordon (on or close to High St)
- Alness (on or close to High St)
- Portree (The Green or Bayfield Car Park)
- Fort William (High Street)

HITRANS Active Travel Officer is working with ward managers and local elected members to identify the best site for cycle parking in each town.

2019/20 Budget Proposed Projects:

As in the previous financial year, this budget will fund projects under five headings:

- *Bikes on Buses*

The intention is to renew dialogue with Stagecoach/Citylink to explore cycle carriage in the storage lockers of the X99 service to Thurso/Scrabster, to investigate cycle carriage options in the Outer Hebrides, and explore alternatives to cycle racks for carrying cycles on other Highland routes.

- *Cycle Parking*

To install cycle parking at transport terminals and interchanges across the HITRANS area; this can include docking stations and e-bike charging. We have received a request from a local officer at Highland Council on Skye to install cycle parking at strategic locations including Broadford and Portree. There is also the opportunity to explore strategic cycle parking provision along the length of key routes (eg. Inverness – Scrabster, Inverness / Fort William – Uig).

- *Active Travel Service Points*

Local officer within CnES has requested funding towards installing a Mini Travel Hub at Ballivanich, to match Town Centre Regeneration funds deployed there.

- *Active Travel Masterplan Action Plan*

Design and minor works to carry out priority interventions identified in the HITRANS Active Travel Masterplans, to design out and remove barriers to utility active travel.

There may be an opportunity to take forward some of the actions identified in the updated Fort William Active Travel Masterplan if match funding can be identified.

- *Active Travel Project Design*

Small fund for design and appraisal work, particularly detailed design of the small works programme to support the delivery of the Active Travel Masterplan Action Plan.

SUSTRANS PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

2018/19 funding delivered the following projects:

- Barra Airport E-bikes: e-bikes, accessories and storage
- Garadh a Bhagh a Tuath: contribution towards accessible toilets and shower facilities on Barra
- Bike & people counters – Inverness
- Active Aviemore tender production
- Cycle parking – Belford Hospital, Fort William
- Fort William Active Travel Masterplan update
- Black Parks Active Travel design – Fort William
- Active Travel Maps – Inverness (update) and Fort William (new)
- Stromness Active Travel Hub – display and maps

£100,000 is available again this year, and suggestions are invited for projects which could be carried forward and completed by May 2020.

Planned projects:

Active Travel Map for The Strath

HITRANS Active Travel Officer is setting up a working group to develop an active travel map linking communities from Grantown on Spey to Newtonmore, which will show suggested routes within and between settlements.

Inner Moray Firth Active Travel Masterplan

Developing a strategic masterplan for active travel connecting settlements within the Inner Moray Firth area, to feed in to the IMF Development Plan. This will include a refresh of the Active Travel Audits for Invergordon, Alness, Dingwall and Nairn.

HITRANS is also supporting The Highland Council's Development Plans team to develop a modal shift strategy to be incorporated into the IMF Local Development Plan, to gather baseline data against which future improvements to active travel infrastructure can be monitored.

Inverness Active Travel Route Monitoring

Cordon Counts in Inverness to compare data with that collected 2 years ago.

LOW CARBON TRAVEL & TRANSPORT (LCTT) ERDF FUNDED PROJECTS

HITRANS contributed match-funding to three Local Authority led projects in the last round of LCTT funding in 2018/19:

- Highland: Inverness LCTT hubs at Rose Street and Raigmore
- Orkney: Stromness Multi Modal Low Carbon & Active Travel Hub
- Moray: Speyside Low Carbon Hub and Speyside Way Active Travel Path Development

The third round of LCTT funding is now open, with £2.48 million available for projects from the Highlands and Islands (H&I) area. Transport Scotland is also making available a limited budget to support a proportion of the match funding requirement, enabling organisations in the H&I area to bid for up to 80% of eligible project costs. Path-only applications will be accepted as well as those incorporating Low-Carbon Hubs. Projects must be completed by September 2022, and this is likely to be the final round of LCTT funding.

HITRANS will work with partners to develop projects which would benefit from this funding, and is able to offer match-funding at a similar level to previous rounds.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note this report and consider opportunities for advancing projects within the different Active Travel funding streams which will support HITRANS wider policy objectives and priorities.

Risk Register

RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports both relevant RTS objectives and those of the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland.

Policy

Impact – Positive

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

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is supported by Transport Scotland's Regional Active Travel Grant Fund and Sustrans active travel partnership funding.

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: Vikki Trelfer

Designation: Active Travel Officer

Date: 2nd September 2019