

**Report to Partnership Board 28 November 2014**

**RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY**

**Active Travel Update**

**Purpose of the Report:**

To provide an update on active travel.

**Active Travel strategy development:**

The Active Travel Officer has attended key workshops to ensure HITRANS are aware of national discussions on Active Travel. In particular the following 3 are of interest:

- **Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) delivery forum**  
-A bi-annual meeting to which all local authorities and RTP's are invited.
- **CAPS monitoring and evaluation sub group**  
-Cycling Scotland are developing an evidenced based approach to encourage cycling in Scotland which will analyse and map cycling potential in each area. The database and framework are currently being piloted in Clackmannanshire and East Renfrewshire.
- **National Walking Strategy workshop**  
-The action plan linked to the strategy is currently being developed, and will be available in draft form in January 2015 for comment.

**Upcoming AT events: Linked to future funding opportunities:**

All local authorities have been invited to the following events to ensure they are in a good position for future funding rounds.

- Community Links, Raising the Standards Event, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec, Edinburgh.
- Smarter Choices Smarter Places, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, Aberdeen and 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, Glasgow.

**Active Travel Budget (£100k):**

Following discussion at earlier PA's and Board meetings, the Active Travel Budget has been assigned to the following projects for 14/15:

## **Cycle Friendly Roads: £50k**

Discussions have been taking place with local authorities to identify the best routes for the pilot. At present the following routes have been identified.

Argyll and Bute:

- Ganavan to Oban (NCN 78 route) popular area with cyclists and pedestrians, double lane road with 2 very tight bends and bad sightlines for shared use.
- Glencruitten Road between Connel and Oban. The alternative NCN 78 route, avoiding the small section of trunk road. This is a popular single track cut through between communities, avoiding Oban town centre, but it is winding, steep and required improved signage to ensure it is safe for cyclists.

Highland:

- Active Travel Route 6, Inverness. Culduthel Road to Inverness Town Centre. This is one of the main arterial routes for cycling into the city. A feasibility of cycle improvements is taking place this year for the route, but it has been highlighted as a good opportunity for the pilot.
- Members of ATAG have highlighted the B817 in Easter Ross between Saltburn and Kildary as a good pilot area for the signage. This is being discussed as an option.

Orkney:

- The Scapa road has been highlighted as a pilot area due to the number of pedestrians and cyclists which use this route.

Discussions are ongoing with Moray and Western Isles to highlight any possible routes for the pilot. Costs are also being investigated for the design, creation and installation of the signs.

## **Active Travel Audit Refresh:**

CH2MHill have been in touch to highlight their delay in obtaining information from partner areas is delaying the production of the 5 page refresh to each of the audits. This was discussed at the Partnership Advisers meeting, and progress is taking place in moving the refresh documents forward.

## **HiBike Active Travel Maps: £25k**

Work on these maps has been slower than anticipated, but is progressing. Ongoing discussions with local authority staff and access staff are taking place as required.

## **NCN 78 Feasibility Study: Onich £3.5k**

HITRANS have commissioned a feasibility study for the option of a coastal alignment along the NCN 78 between Onich and North Ballachulish due to demand from the community council. Aecom have been appointed to carry out this work, which is currently being finalised.

## Scottish Stations Fund: £10k

£10k has been assigned to the SSF application, as match against funds from REPUTE and other budgets to make the case for Active Travel infrastructure improvements on the Highland Main Line and the West Highland Line.

### Recommendation

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

| <b>Risk</b>  | <b>Impact</b> | <b>Comment</b>  |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| 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 2013/14 and £100K in 2014/15 has been allocated.   |
| 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 McNally  
**Designation:** Active Travel Officer  
**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014