

## **Report to Partnership Meeting 2 June 2015**

### **RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **SCOTLAND'S 8<sup>TH</sup> CITY – THE SMART CITY**

#### **Purpose of Report**

To invite Members to support HITRANS making an application in partnership with The Highland Council to the Smart Cities workstream which is a collaborative ERDF funded Strategic Intervention entitled 'Scotland's 8<sup>th</sup> City – the Smart City'.

#### **Background**

Inverness is a member of the Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA), along with Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth and Stirling and the Scottish Government. Each city is represented by their respective local authority. The Scottish Government is also a member of the SCA. The SCA is focused on three workstreams including low carbon, infrastructure, and smart cities. A smart city uses data and technology to enhance the delivery of city services, promote economic growth, increase sustainability and engage more actively with its citizens.

To further the smart cities workstream Scotland's cities, led by Glasgow City Council, are undertaking a collaborative ERDF funded Strategic Intervention entitled 'Scotland's 8<sup>th</sup> City – the Smart City'.

Projects undertaken as part of this strategic intervention must be centred upon data and technology, and be undertaken in collaboration with at least one other Scottish City. The Strategic Intervention's outcomes include developing innovative city services, opening up data sets, and increasing citizen engagement. The Strategic Intervention will receive £10m of ERDF funds over the period 2015-20, of which £1.8m is ring-fenced to be used in Inverness and the Highlands. This ring-fenced money must be matched by an additional £1.8m of funding.

As programme lead, Glasgow City Council submitted the application for the Strategic Intervention in March 2015 to the Scottish Government. At the time of writing, the application for these funds is still awaiting formal approval. However, presuming the Scottish Government approves the Strategic Intervention, the second phase of the '8<sup>th</sup> City' programme will involve writing and submitting applications for the ERDF funding required to support individual projects.

#### **Proposed Projects**

To inform the Strategic Intervention submitted, The Highland Council has developed a number of projects in outline form including areas such as Energy Monitoring, Digital Health and Transport Smart Cities.

#### Transport Smart Cities Projects

Under the Transport Smart Cities stream it is proposed that HITRANS and the Traffic Section of the Highland Council will lead on coordinating three transport projects. The first initiative will see the upgrade of traffic signal sites to carry technology that will enable priority for public transport as well as making junctions more energy efficient. This will compliment ongoing work to upgrade the traffic signal network in the east of the Inverness (as part of the current

Bus Investment Fund Project) by enabling its roll out across the rest of Inverness and potentially beyond to places such as Dingwall.

The second element involves investment in the gathering, coordination and application of public transport, traffic, parking and roadworks data to deliver a number of innovative Intelligent Transport Solutions (ITS). These solutions will provide opportunities for officers to more effectively manage and integrate the transport network, and open up real time traffic and public transport information to passengers that will enable more informed decision making before and when making a journey.

The third transport project will focus on expanding the use of 'smart ticketing' to enable people to use multiple forms of public transport using the same payment system or ticket.

The indicative budget for these transport initiatives is £1million over five years. The ERDF contribution to these projects will be £500k while the same amount is required in match funding. It is proposed that HITRANS and The Highland Council each contribute 25% in order to make up the necessary match funding required for this ERDF programme. This would involve a contribution from HITRANS in the order of £50,000 each year over the 5 years of the project.

## Recommendation

1. Members are invited to support an application in partnership with The Highland Council to the Smart Cities workstream under a collaborative ERDF funded Strategic Intervention.
2. Members are invited to support further work finalise the project detail and costings before a second stage application is submitted for ERDF resources.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Comment</b>
RTS Delivery	√	This work supports several strategic objectives of the RTS.
Policy	√	This work supports the development of Policies H29, H30 and H33 as set out in the RTS Delivery Plan
Financial	√	A funding commitment of £250,000 over five years to match the contribution of The Highland Council in order to draw down £500,000 of ERDF funding towards the initiatives outlined in this report. HITRANS Partnership Manager will provide project manage resource for the project.
Equality	√	Improvement of public transport services helps reduce social exclusion by improving access to employment and services

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**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015