



Report to Partnership Meeting of 3 June 2011

Research/Strategy Development Programme for 2011/12 June 2011 Review

SUMMARY

The Report provides the Board with an update on progress on the Research/Strategy Development programme and seeks approval of amendments to the programme to reflect commitments made and changing priorities and funding opportunities identified since approval of the 2011/12 Business Plan at the Partnership meeting in April.

DETAIL

The Partnership at its meeting of 8 April agreed the HITRANS Business Plan for 2011/12 which includes a Programme for Research/Strategy Development for 2011/12 in support of development, implementation and delivery of the HITRANS Transport Strategy.

Work is progressing on delivery of the Programme as indicated in the Appendix to the report. At this early point in the year the opportunity has been taken to review progress, priorities, and the level of available funding for work that can be undertaken recognising the impact that the commitment to the new Inverness Amsterdam air service has made to the Programme as a whole. The intention of the revisions is to focus expenditure on actions that support the Government and Councils in delivering the Government's overall purpose of sustainable economic growth by supporting transport improvements across the HITRANS area that deliver the Regional Transport Strategy.

The Partnership's Permanent Advisors and Officers discussed and developed the proposed revised Programme at their Meeting in May and agreed to recommend it to the Partnership.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Partnership is asked to approve the amendment to the Research/Strategy Development Programme 2011/12 as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

Risk	impact	comment
RTS delivery	√	The Research and Development Programme is the key mechanism by which HITRANS promotes delivery of the Transport Strategy for the Highlands and Islands
Policy	-	
Financial	√	The Programme can be delivered within the 2011/12 Budget
Equality	√	Actions within the programme are aimed where applicable to improving equality in accessibility.

Report by: Dave Duthie
Designation: Partnership Director
Date: 23 May 2011

Report 8 - Appendix

Research/Strategy Development Programme for 2011/12 – June 2011 Review

Area	Funding	May 11 review	Delivery timetable	Lead	Comments
ERDF - TransTourism	35000	35000	Apr 11 –Mar 12	FR	Funding to support delivery of the Interreg Project as previously agreed by the Board
ERDF - Active Travel Highland	45000	15000	Apr 11 - Mar 12	FR	Support for Highland Council ERDF project as previously agreed by the Board, and completion of the Active Travel Audit programme to include Forres.
ERDF - AFLOAT Project	30000	20000	Jan 12 - May 12	RR	Atlantic Area project aimed at improving access to and travel by ferry services including initiatives such as Smart Card Ticketing, Interchange Improvements and Information Sharing.
ERDF - START Project	25000	20000	Apr 11 - Mar 12	RR	Support to allow HITRANS to increase the effectiveness of support provided from the START project for enhancing service delivery within the Highlands and Islands transport network.
ERDF - EFFIPLAT	10000		Apr 11 - Mar 12	FR	Funding towards proposed European partnership bid for intermodal biomass/ roundwood transport system, which did not proceed.
TSB - CHRONOS	5000	5000		RR	Part funding to support the introduction of CHRONOS solar powered passenger information displays at more rail stations in the Highlands.
Road - Severe Weather Transport Information Project	30000	30000	Apr 11 - Mar 12	RR	Introduce live eye cameras and severe weather alerts to points on the local road network.

Rail - Severe Weather Info	20000	20000	May 11 – Oct 11	FR	Introduce live eye cameras and severe weather alerts at locations on the regional rail network.
BRDG - Elgin to Aviemore (Perth) and Campbeltown / Glasgow	40000	20000	Apr 11 - Mar 12	RR	Support to kick start bus services between Elgin and the Central Belt and Campbeltown to Glasgow.
Airport Security Arrangements	10000		Sep 11 – Mar 12	DD	Review the level of security that could be required in a fit for purpose scenario considering CAA guidance, as recommended in the H+I Air Services Review. The UK Government has chosen not to proceed with changes to guidance at this time. Work on this topic will be held in abeyance until revised Guidance is issued.
Community and Health Transport	15000	15000	Sep11 – Mar 12	DD	Part funding to support the delivery of Healthcare Transport Frameworks in the Highlands and Islands.
Fixed Links - Renewable Energy Development	5000	5000	Sep 11 –Mar 12	JF	Part fund investigation into viability of fixed links through energy generation with interested Councils and Crown Estate. Awaiting lead agency action by Orkney Islands Council, funding carried forward to 2011/12
Business Model for Virtual Infrastructure Investment - Rail Freight	20000	20000	July 11 – Mar 12	FR	Study to investigate business case for investment in freight rolling stock that maximises the existing envelope
Timber Freight Futures	10000	10000	Apr 11 - Mar 12	FR	Continuing development work on establishing strategic partnership to overcome the transport problems of remote forests

ScotRail Franchise 2014 Input	15000	15000	Sep 11 – Mar 12	FR	Work to identify the requirements for service enhancements in our area in the new ScotRail franchise
Rail Forecasting Refresh	10000	10000	Sep 11 –Mar 12	FR	A revisit of previous work taking into account actual passenger growth since the original forecasting which has been higher than previously forecasted.
Ferry Hull Study	10000		Jun 11 – Nov 11	RR	To inform ferry hull configuration on major routes from a desk top study of options for the Minch. Work to initially draw on previous research and identify gaps. Parallel work has been undertaken by CMAL in this area, and when combined with the work previously undertaken by CalMac, this now provides a basis on which Government can take the matter of optimum hull design forward. No further action by HITRANS is proposed at this time.
Inverness - Amsterdam		50000			Board commitment to support the new daily air service carried forward from 2010/11, now confirmed
Total Identified Project Expenditure	335000	300000			
Current Estimated Budget	298750	298750			