

Report to Partnership Meeting 7 February 2014

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Bus Real Time Information

Purpose of Report

To update Members on the delivery of bus real-time information provision in the HITRANS area and seek approval for a proposed means of funding the operation and maintenance of the system and associated infrastructure in the future.

Background

HITRANS and our partner local authorities have been working closely on developing real time information provision for local bus services in the Highlands and Islands for a number of years with provision now in areas of Moray, Orkney, Highland and Argyll.

HITRANS have agreed a one year extension to the existing real-time information contract with real-time supplier VIX. VIX supply almost all of the on vehicle equipment and on street infrastructure for the systems in Highland, Argyll and Orkney. The total cost of this extension is £49,335.

Following liaison with our partner local authority HITCOG representatives, it is proposed that HITRANS meet 50% of the future operation and maintenance costs with our partner local authorities contributing the other 50% on a pro rata basis according to the amount of equipment and infrastructure deployed in their area.

The intention is that any future agreement would also seek to include the Moray real-time system and likewise in CNES as and when an opportunity arises to develop the system on their local bus services.

Future Development and Maintenance

The investment provided by the recent successful East Inverness Bus Improvement Corridor application to the Bus Investment Fund provides an opportunity to deliver real-time information across the city network but will also enable the purchase of software that will help the monitoring of all the real-time systems provided by the supplier VIX.

The on bus equipment required for real-time information is now supplied as an integrated solution within the next generation of ticket machines. For example, the 23 new ticket machines being deployed in Moray, as part of the Smart and Integrated Ticketing project in partnership with Transport Scotland, will all be equipped with the necessary software for Real-time information. This and similar developments will help ensure that the maintenance

liability should be significantly reduced in future years with ideally support restricted to the operating software and on street infrastructure in the form of electronic displays.

It is proposed to restrict any expansion of on street displays to the busiest bus stops and transport interchanges with a focus on supporting the Traveline Scotland App which already provides scheduled or real-time (where provision exists) timetable information for any bus stop in the Highlands and Islands on any smartphone or tablet device.

It is the intention of HITRANS officers to work with our partner local authorities in the next financial year to procure a flexible new framework contract for real-time information and maintenance across the Highlands and Islands. This will help ensure that best value is achieved for a resource that provides a vital service to those currently using public transport in our area but also an opportunity to help encourage more to do likewise.

Recommendation

1. Members are invited to note this update.
2. Members are asked to approve the proposal for HITRANS to meet 50% of the cost of supporting the bus real-time information systems deployed within the HITRANS area with our partner Local Authorities meeting the other 50% on a pro rata basis.
3. Members are asked to support Officers in their efforts to reduce ongoing maintenance liabilities in the future and within any new maintenance contract for real-time information systems.

Risk	Impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	This project will support RTS objectives for improving passenger information.
Policy	√	This project will support HITRANS transport information policy objectives.
Financial	-	Funding is identified in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 Business Plan.
Equality	-	Improvement of public transport services helps reduce social exclusion by improving access to employment and services

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