

Item:

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## Report to Partnership Meeting 7 February 2014

### RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

#### Active Travel Progress Report

##### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the Active Travel projects and the associated budget available during 2013/14 and 2014/15.

##### Active Travel Funding

As discussed at the November meeting, HITRANS have been provided with a budget of £100k per year for 2013/14 and 2014/15 from Sustrans to develop active travel projects within the area.

To ensure that projects provide added value, and will have a direct benefit to the local areas, HITRANS have developed an internal application process (outlined below) to justify the budget provided, and to monitor progress with local projects.

The money is required to be spent on capital works. This can include the development of feasibility studies, design specifications and signage associated with cycling infrastructure. It can also be used for innovative pilot projects. This budget cannot be used as match funding against Sustrans Community Links.

##### Outlined spend for 2013/14

Area	Project Title	Budget	Detail
Argyll and Bute	Towards Zero Carbon Bute	£8,000	£5,000 towards cycle signage on Rothesay. £3,000 towards development of map panels around Bute.
Highland	ERDF Green and Active Travel Project	£50,000	Towards the development of cycle route on Millburn Road in Inverness.

HITRANS staff have been in discussion with local authorities to identify various 'quick win' projects which can be delivered by March 2014 to ensure the remaining budget is allocated. An update of projects will be provided at the next meeting.

Internal application for AT budget



**Active Travel Grant Assessment and Recommendation:**

***Name of Project:***

***Local Authority area:***

***Main Contact(s):***

**Budget requested:**

***Total amount required for project to be delivered:***

**% Match funding requested from HITRANS:**

Provide details of other funding sources here.

***Project description:***

**Timescale required to deliver project:**

**Will the project:**

- Promote active travel?
- Improve infrastructure?
- Encourage behaviour change?
- Work in partnership with other agencies?
- Link into AT audits?

Total Score: /5

AT officer recommendation:

Grant approved/ declined:

Date:

Discussions are ongoing with local authorities for appropriate projects during 2014/15.

**Sustrans Cycle Counters**

There are two high profile cycle counters being installed within the HITRANS area, one at Benderloch near Oban on the NCN 78, the second in Millburn Road in Inverness. This is part of a national initiative which will see 10 counters across Scotland in a range of locations to monitor cycle usage as outlined in the November report.

Installation works for the underground components took place during November 2013, but the visible counters may not be in place until April/May 2014 due to an issue with the data cards and problems with power supply to various sites.

### **ERDF Green and Active Travel Project**

HITRANS staff are currently involved in The Highland Council's Green and Active Travel Project. In particular the Active Travel Officer has been working on the creation of an Inverness Active Travel Map to highlight suggested on road cycle routes, off road cycle routes and recreational routes. The map will also provide details of cycle parking, local cycle amenities and key information related to the town.

Once created, this will see the development of similar maps within Wick, Tain, Invergordon/ Alness, Fort William and Dingwall. These maps link directly into the work of the Active Travel Audits.

Part of this project includes the development of an interactive website highlighting the Active Travel Maps. Discussions are ongoing as to the technical detail and tendering processes involved.

### **Recommendation**

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

Risk	Impact	Comment
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 McInally  
**Designation:** Active Travel Officer  
**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014