

Report to Partnership Meeting 2 June 2015

EUROPEAN

EU Funding Update

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

In December 2014 the European Commission formally adopted the Operational Programme (OP) for the ERDF 2014-2020 Programme. The ERDF was set up in 1975, championed particularly by the UK and Italy to ensure that EU membership could show tangible economic benefits. It has become the main way that the EU has implemented its regional policy.

Transport Scotland will act as Lead Partner to deliver the three interventions below which come under the key activity of a 'shift to low carbon economy' which is one of the eleven Thematic Objectives within the OP:

- Low Carbon Transport Hubs – hubs will provide reliable low carbon refuelling services, enabling an increasing number of sustainable connections between the places where people want to live, work and do business. While the specifics of each Hub may be tailored to suit regional requirements, the key principle of the proposal is that each Hub can support the requirements of all consumers, whether they are charging their car with an increasingly low-carbon grid mix, refuelling a hydrogen bus, filling up with Liquefied Natural Gas for their lorry, or topping up their environmentally friendly ferry/ship.
- Active Travel Hubs - active travel hubs will provide focal points for cycling and walking routes. The specifics of each Hub will be tailored to the location and based upon need but will typically include bike library initiatives, safe and secure facilities for personal bikes, improved links to public transport and travel information.
- National Smart Ticketing Scheme - the aim is to create a strategic and holistic approach to a National Smart Transport Card system acting as a catalyst for increased public transport use, reducing emissions and congestion from road transport as a result.

In February 2015 Ministers approved a proposal for Transport Scotland (TS) to deliver a Low Carbon Travel and Transport Programme which comprises the three interventions above and which has been allocated up to £25m from the ERDF 2014-2020 programme.

On 9 March TS was invited to submit a Strategic Intervention application for the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Programme to the Scottish Government, which is the Managing Authority (MA) for the ERDF Programme in Scotland and will be advised in April whether the application meets the MA criteria, and if approved will receive an offer letter for ERDF funding from the MA.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Members are asked to note this report.

Risk	impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	EU Funding provides an opportunity to achieve match funding to support the delivery of the RTS.
Policy	√	
Financial	√	EU funding offers an opportunity to add to the core budget.
Equality	√	Actions within the EU programme are aimed where applicable to improve equality in transport accessibility.

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