

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 5 February 2016

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Update / Sustrans Partnership Report

Purpose of the Report:

To provide an update on active travel.

Active Travel Strategy

As noted in a report to the HITRANS Partnership meeting of 25th November 2015, transport consultants AECOM were appointed to support the development of a Regional Active Travel Strategy.

The Regional Active Travel Strategy will seek to identify both where investment to address the actions within the 17 Masterplans should be prioritised and also set out those parts of the strategic network where walking and cycling facilities need improved, aligning this with the aspiration for developing a National Cycling and Walking Network in National Planning Framework 3. It shall also identify an investment plan for improving opportunities for multi-modal travel within the area and make recommendations as to which behaviour change interventions will have the most significant impact within the different urban and rural contexts of the HITRANS region.

AECOM are currently in the process of preparing a draft version of the strategy having held a workshop with a wide range of stakeholders in Inverness on December 2016 and undertaken further consultations in January. Michael Nimmo who has led the work on behalf of AECOM will provide a short presentation to Members at the Partnership Meeting on 5th February.

Staffing

After a recruitment process using the Scottish Governments Adopt an Intern scheme, Andrew McKay has been appointed as Graduate Business Support Officer (Walking & Cycling) for HITRANS. The post is initially a 6 month contract for 25 hours per week. Andrew will support the Partnership Manager in providing maternity cover for HITRANS Active Travel Officer.

Active Travel Budget:

A small element of the £100,000 is still to be assigned at the time of writing this report. Officers have been in dialogue with Partnership Advisors and local authority colleagues with responsibility for Active Travel to identify suitable projects to supplement the list below:

- Active Travel Strategy - £10k
- Active Travel Maps - £15k
- Feasibility studies:
 - Moray, Cycle Hub - £15k
 - Orkney, Stromness to Kirkwall cycle route options - £10k
 - Highland, Spaces by the water - £10k *

- Cycle Counters:
 - Argyll And Bute - £4k
 - Moray - £4k

- Other initiatives:
 - Moray, cycle lights for Police Scotland initiative - £3k
 - Argyll and Bute, repairs to Dunoon cycle shelter - £1,335
 - Highland, Cycle parking provision for Inverness - £9k
 - Highland, quick fix signage improvements - £6k
 - Piloting Bike Repairs @ Transport Interchange / UHI Campus' - £5k

*Highland feasibility for *Spaces by the Water* is assigned against the separate R+SD £10K for feasibility as the AT budget cannot be matched against community links.

Discussions are continuing with all of our LA partners to confirm additional spend for this financial year.

Community Links +

At the Cycling Scotland Conference on 12th December Derek Mackay MSP announced a new innovative design competition, involving a staged application process for local authorities and statutory bodies to conceptualise, design and deliver exemplar, high profile and inspirational cycling projects.

Applications for ambitious projects in Inverness and Elgin, that were submitted by The Highland Council and Moray Council respectively, were both successful in advancing to the next stage which involved the submission of a more detailed application by 25th January 2015. Success at this stage would result in the award of £30k of additional funding to work up detailed for the projects.

As noted in the proposed HITRANS 2016/17 Research and Development Budget an allocation has been made of £25,000 for each project should they be successful in being awarded the match funding from Community Links + to implement the overall projects.

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 there implementation.
Policy	√	This work supports the development of our Active Travel Policies H27a to H27d
Financial	-	A budget of £100k in 2015/16 has been allocated. A proposed budget of £50,000 in the 2016/17 budget to support match fund Community Links + funding for project applications for Inverness and Elgin
Equality	√	HITRANS support for Active Travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and removes a number of physical accessibility barriers.

Report by: Neil Macrae
 Designation: Partnership Manager
 Date: 26th January 2016