

Report to Partnership Meeting 15 April 2016
RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY
Active Travel Update / Sustrans Partnership Report

Purpose of the Report:

To provide Board Members with an update on active travel project delivery and the Sustrans partnership.

Active Travel Budget

With some amendments from the previous update (Nov 2015), the table below outlines the allocation of the £100,000 Active Travel budget. Discussions are continuing with all of our LA partners to confirm additional spend for this (Sustrans) financial year with all funds to be allocated by April and implemented by June 2016. Local Authority partners are primarily identifying strategic locations for the installation of active travel infrastructure/equipment.

Area	Project	Allocated Spend (£)	Status
HITRANS Area	Regional Active Travel Strategy (AECOM Contract + Workshop Costs)	10,678.50	Committed
Moray Council	Feasibility study for AT Hub	15,000.00	Committed
Moray Council	Pilot with Police Scotland on cycling safety in winter (lights)	3,000.00	Committed
Moray Council	Additional cycle counter for developing new AT priorities	4,000.00	Committed
Argyll and Bute Council	Cycle counter for developing new AT priorities	4,000.00	Completed
Argyll and Bute Council	Dunoon shelter (initiative for multi modal)	1,335.00	Completed
Orkney Islands Council	Feasibility study Kirkwall to Stromness AT route development (NCN1)	12,500.00	Committed
The Highland Council	Feasibility study for Active Travel Gateway (Millburn Road/Harbour Road, Inverness)	12,500.00	Committed
The Highland Council	Cycle parking provision for Inverness	9,000.00	Committed
HITRANS Area	Making Cycling Mainstream (MCM) venue hire (2-day event, Inverness)	204.66	Completed
HITRANS Area	MCM catering costs (2-day event, Inverness)	524.00	Completed
HITRANS Area	AT map cartography, design and printing	15,000.00	Committed

HITRANS Area	AT measures around ferry terminals and other key transport interchanges (Bike parking, public repair stations, etc.)	18,000.00	
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Detailed proposals for the 2016/2017 budget will be brought to the next Partnership meeting and the budget is confirmed within the 2016/17 Business Plan. The intention is to prioritise funding towards those projects and initiatives which best address the measures identified in the final HITRANS Active Travel Strategy.

Community Links

NCN 78: Corran Ferry to Ballachulish

Transport Scotland's operating company for the A82 Trunk Road, BEAR Scotland, commenced work on this Community Links project for which HITRANS successfully applied for funding to widen and re-determine the footway alongside the A82 between Corran Ferry and North Ballachulish. When complete the route will form a key section of the Sustrans NCN route No 78. Work began in November 2015 on the section between Corran Ferry and Onich and is now nearing completion.

Inverness Campus North Bridge

Work on the design of a 'North' Bridge that would link the new Inverness Campus UHI site with the Inverness Business and Retail Park is to be completed by the end of May 2016. The estimated cost of this element is £130,000.

Community Links +

Inverness Active Travel Network

The Highland Council has been successful in reaching stage 3 of the Community Links Plus competition with their proposal for developing the Inverness City Active Travel Network, which identifies routes broadly similar to those detailed in the Active Travel Audit/Masterplan for Inverness. Subject to its success at the final application stage, HITRANS have allocated a provisional sum of £25,000 as match funding per annum towards this project. The Graduate Business Support Officer (Cycling and Walking) is in ongoing communication with The Highland Council on this project.

Making Cycling Mainstream

Cycling Scotland have developed a range of CPD accredited courses for professionals working in Active Travel, or whose work area may link into this field. Peter Leslie and Mark Hughes from Cycling Scotland delivered two days of training at Inverness Aquadome on 27th and 28th January 2016 ahead of application deadlines for Community Links and Smarter Choices Smarter Places. The first day covered Planning and Design for Cycling with the second focusing on Behaviour Change. Each day's training was attended by HITRANS and Council personnel and counted as 3 hours recognised CPD time.

The training events were well-attended and positive feedback was received from LA representatives about the content and delivery of the training. Active Travel Intern to follow up with Cycling Scotland to discuss arranging future training.

Smarter Choices Smarter Places

Personalised Travel Planning (PTP)

JMP Consultants Ltd were awarded the contract for carrying out Personalised Travel Planning work in Inverness East/Nairn, and Stornoway. Planning for these projects is well underway (as per PTP Toolkit) and delivery is expected to be completed in line with the revised project schedule with work being completed in Stornoway by late April and in Inverness East/Nairn by late May 2016.

SCSP 2016/2017 Funding

At the end of January, Transport Scotland wrote to all Local Authorities indicating that the draft budget document includes further funding of £5m for Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) in 2016-17. At the time of writing this has still to be confirmed but the proposal is that the mechanism for distributing the funding will be in line with last year, i.e. an indicative allocation for every local authority, based on a formula of population, with a floor of £50k.

Argyll and Bute	80,540
Moray	87,054
Highland	214,167
Eilean Siar	50,000
Orkney	50,000

The policy intent of the funding is to achieve modal shift to active and sustainable travel, reducing driver only journeys. This is revenue funding which can be used for behaviour change or 'soft measures' to complement existing or new infrastructure e.g. promotion of a cycle route, a new bus route or a car club. The proposal includes a 50% match funding requirement, but part of this can be in-kind. Partnership working, e.g. with Regional Transport Partnerships and NHS Boards, will be required to deliver the projects.

As part of the programme, Transport Scotland has grant funded Paths for All to administer the programme and provide support for the projects, including the planning and implementation stages. As last year, high-level proposals will be required from each Local Authority on the programme of work they intend to take forward with this resource.

HITRANS and representatives from each Local Authority met on 16th March to discuss lessons learned from 15/16 initiatives with a view to sharing ideas and any opportunities for collaboration in 2016/17. Officers have estimated that HITRANS will be able to offer an estimated £20,000 in match funding contributions for each local authority within its 2016/17 Business Plan budget. This is made up of commitments to projects that fit with SCSP criteria and some direct financial support to partner Councils on new SCSP initiatives.

Active Travel Maps

The process of developing the Active Travel map for Inverness is nearing completion. Updates have been made to the existing draft map in consultation with key stakeholders and content for the reverse side of the map created. The revised map is now with the printers; a proof will be signed off on 11th April 2016 and the first print run will be completed by 16th April

to coincide with the delivery Personalised Travel Planning work being undertaken by transport consultants JMP as part of Highland Council's Smarter Choices Smarter Places work.

Other active travel maps are being developed with the Active Travel Intern working closely with cartographer Helen Stirling to move this process along. Maps for Nairn, Fort William, Stornoway, Dingwall, Forres and Aviemore are currently furthest advanced and are likely to be brought to completion in this approximate order.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the report and consider projects for 2016/2017 which support the priorities identified in the HITRANS Active Travel Strategy.

Risk	Impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	This work supports RTS objectives and the monitoring of their implementation.
Policy	√	This work supports the development of Active Travel Policies H27a to H27d
Financial	-	A budget of £100,000 has been confirmed by Sustrans for continuation of the partnership project in 2016/17.
Equality	√	HITRANS support for Active Travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and removes a number of physical accessibility barriers.

Report by: Andrew McKay
Designation: Graduate Business Support Officer (Cycling and Walking)
Date: 5th April 2016