

Report to Partnership Meeting 15th April 2016

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Low Carbon Strategy

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update and opportunity to comment on the Low Carbon Strategy which has been developed in association with the RTS refresh.

Background

HITRANS have commenced an update of the original 2008 Regional Transport Strategy and Delivery Plan. This update is designed to capture developments and actions that have occurred since the original RTS was published and set out area where HITRANS will focus on in the future. One area officers identified where significant national policy change and targets needed to be reflected in the RTS refresh is the area of low carbon transport. It was agreed that a separate Low Carbon Strategy should be prepared as a related document to the RTS and this could form the basis of a chapter within the RTS.

Introduction

The Scottish 'National Transport Strategy', refreshed in 2016, identifies the need to reduce emissions in order to tackle climate change, reduce air pollution and reduce adverse impacts to health. Similarly, 'Cleaner Air for Scotland: The Road to a Healthier Future' draws together Scottish Government Policies under one framework and sets out a series of actions to deliver improvements on air quality. Both make reference to the role low and zero emission transport in reducing emissions, through biofuels, electric and hybrid vehicles.

Transport Scotland's Roadmap to Widespread Adoption of Plug-in Vehicles'¹ establishes an ambitious vision that by 2050 Scotland's town cities and communities will be free from the damaging emissions of petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles, and establishes a comprehensive series of enabling measures to achieve this ambition.

HITRANS appointed consultants Urban Foresight to develop the Low Carbon Strategy. Urban Foresight also prepared the Transport Scotland Roadmap on Plug in Vehicles so they can ensure the approach HITRANS set out for our region is consistent with national policy while allowing a greater emphasis to be made on issues and opportunities for the Highlands and Islands.

Following a presentation and workshop on the Regional Transport Strategy at the last Partnership meeting on 5th February 2015 Urban Foresight have developed a draft Low Carbon Strategy for consideration, comment and approval by the Partnership Board and Advisors. This forms Appendix A to this report.

Next Steps

The Low Carbon Transport Strategy is designed to provide a useful framework and guidance document to Officers in developing project activity in the future. Early work in this respect should focus on EU funding opportunities including the ongoing development of G-PaTRA and the ERDF Low Carbon Fuel Hubs ERDF Strategic Intervention.

Budget

A budget of £5,000 plus travel expenses was approved for this working the 2015/16 Business Plan Strategy Delivery Programme.

Recommendation

Members are invited to:

1. Note the report.
2. Submit any comments on Appendix A.
3. Propose projects that could be developed as Low Carbon Transport and Travel Hub projects in association with the direction of travel outlined in the Low Carbon Strategy.

Risk	impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	
Policy	√	
Financial	-	A budget allocation of £5,000 for developing the low Carbon Strategy in association with the Regional Transport Strategy is allowed for in the 2015/16 Business Plan.
Equality	√	

Report by: Randal Robertson
Designation: Partnership Director
Date: 1st April 2016

Appendix A: Low Carbon Strategy

