

Report to Partnership Meeting 3 February 2017

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Update

Purpose of Report

To provide the partnership board with an update of active travel projects, in particular the upcoming round of funding for the ERDF (2014-2020 Programme): Low Carbon Transport and Travel (LCTT) Strategic Intervention which is being administered by Transport Scotland as Lead Partner.

Background: Pre Application Support Fund (PASF)

In October 2016, interested eligible organisations were invited to apply for up to £10,000 to develop potential projects for submitting under either or both of the two operation areas of the LCTT Strategic Intervention below:

- **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/bike hire, safe and secure facilities for personal bikes, bike repair/maintenance facilities, improved links to public transport, local path networks, travel information and associated outreach activity.
- **Low Carbon Hubs** - Low Carbon Transport hubs will provide refuelling facilities for a range of alternative fuels and transport modes. We envisage that the locations and composition of these hubs will be determined by local circumstances and demand but typically are likely to include a mixture of low carbon vehicle refuelling infrastructure, such as electric vehicle charging points, hydrogen refuelling stations and gas refuelling facilities.

Transport Scotland are managing a third element of the ERDF funding, which involves developing a National Smart Integrated 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. developing a National Smart Ticketing Integrated Scheme.

The following projects were provided with £10,000 to complete feasibility studies and stakeholder engagement for LCTT potential hubs in the HITRANS area.

- Active Travel Argyll and Bute (CHORD towns)
- Elgin Active Travel Hub

- Hoy Green Transport Hub
- Inverness Active Travel Hub
- Inverness the ElectriCITY
- Lochaber Active Travel Hub

Summary reports from these feasibility studies were submitted to Transport Scotland by deadline of Monday 9th January 2017.

LCTT Challenge Fund Administration and key dates:

Transport Scotland has been awarded up to £13.9m until the end of 2018 under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020 programme to deliver a Strategic Intervention.

The intervention rate for funding in the Highlands and Islands is 50%. Within the LCTT challenge fund it is estimated that there will be:

- 6 Active/Low Carbon Travel Hubs, 2 of which will be in the Highlands and Islands.
- 57km of paths developed.

Energy Savings Trust (EST) have been appointed by Transport Scotland to administer the LCTT Challenge Fund. The fund went live on 19th December 2017.

The deadline for submissions for the LCTT challenge fund is 4pm Tuesday 28th Feb 2017. Following our Partnership Advisors meeting there is concern that lack of suitable match funding available from partners within the HITRANS region may prevent any projects progressing towards a full application.

Webinars and Workshops:

EST are running online webinars to explain the application form and key requirements of the LCTT on either:

- Thursday, 19 January, 10-11am
- Tuesday, 24 January, 10-11am

There are also workshops to discuss your project on a one-to-one basis with Transport Scotland and the LCTT Challenge Fund team, in Glasgow or Inverness:

- Glasgow - Thursday, 2 February, time tbc
- Inverness - Tuesday, 7 February, time tbc

Funding Deadlines:

In addition to the LCTT funding, there are several other funding opportunities currently available for active travel.

Sustrans Community Links: The fund went live on 23rd January for 2017, and the initial round deadline is 24th February, with decisions on successful projects to be made towards the end of April. The match funding required is 50%, but this year a Local Authority can use any funding for active travel across the authority area, and use this as match towards an application which may be taking place in another town.

Community Links + : Highland and Moray both have Expressions of Interest into the first round of the competitive round of funding. The deadline for the 2nd stage of applications is the 3rd February, and HITRANS will provide a letter of support for both projects which would result in better active travel networks in Inverness and Elgin if successful.

Smarter Choices Smarter Places: This grant offered to each LA, depending on 50% match funding is open for behaviour change projects, focussing on revenue spend rather than infrastructure. The deadline is 3rd Feb.

Workplace Challenge

HITRANS in partnership with Highland and Moray have awarded Sustrans the contract to provide a 6 week workplace challenge between the 20th feb and 31st March, utilising the current year SCSP funding. An example of the marketing is provided below.



Join the Hitravel Challenge!

20 February - 31 March 2017

Find out more and sign up today at
hitravel.getmeactive.org.uk

In association with



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Recommendation

Advisors are invited to note the Active Travel Update and consider whether any written response should be made in advance of the ERDF: LCTT application deadline to highlight the concern of partners that the unavailability of suitable match funding may result in the fund being undersubscribed.

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work supports RTS objectives and the monitoring of their implementation.

Policy

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Active Travel Policies H27a to H27d

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment - There may a budget commitment should any application be submitted to the ERDF: Low Carbon Travel and Transport Fund.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – 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: 25th January 2017.