

Report to Partnership Meeting 24 November 2017

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Update

Purpose of Report

To provide Board Members and Advisors with an update on active travel projects being taken forward in the current Business Plan period.

HITRANS Community Links:

Inverness: Access and Movement

As previously reported to the Partnership Board, HITRANS were successful in securing a £75,000 allocation from the Community Links fund which is administered by Sustrans Scotland on behalf of Transport Scotland. This award was to support us to work in partnership with Highland Council to look at the active travel potential of the three access points to Inverness Railway station and the ongoing link from the Station to the National Cycle Network (NCN) and town centre.

The contract to deliver the feasibility, community engagement and design work was awarded to Civic Engineers. Since the contract was awarded, there have been initial meetings and workshops with key council staff including one to one sessions with key stakeholders from specific teams. Liaison with key external stakeholders including the Business Improvement District (BID), transport operators, and the local accessibility and active travel groups is crucial in ensuring a project that can deliver on the ground for all.

To help identify opportunities for the active travel and public realm improvements, Civic Engineers have suggested a study trip to Altrincham, which has a similar population and traffic flows to Inverness. To date £3million of a £6million urban realm project has been delivered in Altrincham. There are similarities between the transport interchange, the Victorian market and the potential to change streets for the benefit of pedestrians, cyclists and local businesses in Inverness to what has been achieved there. This visit is scheduled to take place early in 2018.

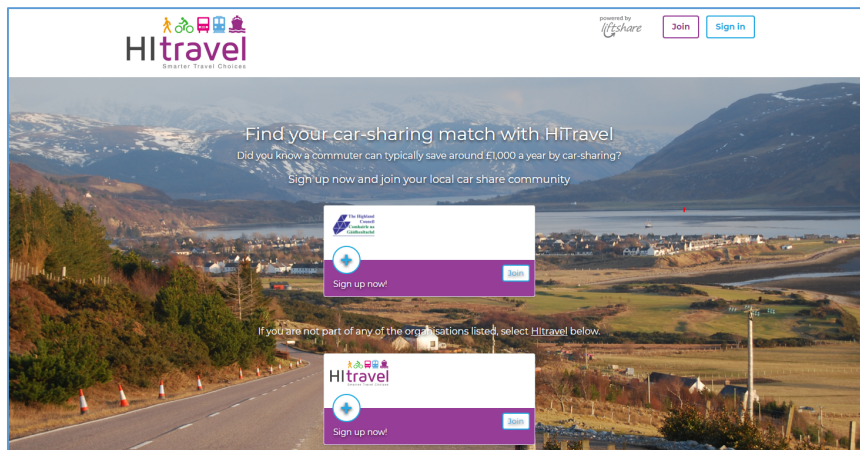
HITRANS support for Active Aviemore.

Cairngorm National Park Authority (CNPA) have asked HITRANS for support in procuring a similar project, to that underway in Inverness, for Aviemore. This project will also include feasibility, consultation and outline design and focus on the links between the rail and bus transport interchange, Grampian Road and the main local amenities. In particular the community hub, school site and the proposed new hospital development. The active travel officer is currently developing the brief for the project prior to issuing an Invitation to Tender. Following the award of the contract, a project board will be set up by CNPA, with

representation from other key stakeholders including HITRANS, to manage the delivery of the project.

Other Active Travel projects:

- **HITRAVEL Liftshare:** HITRANS have been working with partners to draw additional Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) funding to add value and promote the new www.hittravel.liftshare.com car sharing website which is now live. Following successful SCSP applications there will be promotions in Argyll, Highland and Western Isles. We will work with other partners going forward.



Hittravel Liftshare homepage

- **Lossiemouth to Hopeman cycle feasibility:** HITRANS are currently supporting the local community and Moray Council in developing a feasibility study to look at the cost and design required for a cycle route between the two settlements.
- **Cordon counts:** Cordon counts are to take place within Highland and Moray, focusing on active travel in Inverness, Elgin and Forres. These will help provide baseline data for active travel. The exercise is now complete and we are awaiting the final report and data for the Moray counts from Systra. These surveys will help prioritise Active Travel interventions. Going forward we are keen to carry out more surveys within other active travel masterplan / audit towns and we will speak with partners to gauge enthusiasm for this.
- **HITRANS Sustainable Transport Event:** On Saturday 28th October, HITRANS organised a Sustainable Travel Event on Inverness High Street in partnership with Local Car Club operators, local bus operators and Police Scotland.
- **Cycle to health Inverness:** This project was reported to the last Partnership. Since then it has been renamed from Green CHIPS to Cycle to Health Inverness, and has been affiliated with the cycling organisation cycling without age. The e-trike which HITRANS funded for the pilot is due to arrive in Inverness shortly. HITRANS are meeting with NHS Highland and those involved in the project to discuss support for the medical practices taking place in the pilot. Cycling Scotland are supporting the group to develop applications for funding towards cycle shelters and showers for staff, and will provide additional support as applicable.
- **Your Kirkwall Urban Design Framework:** HITRANS are attending Orkney Islands Council Urban Design Framework to support officers with the active travel element of the project. This work has been funded via Smarter Choices Smarter Places programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the report.

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment –The active travel projects link into strategic RTS priorities relating to Active Travel and Low Carbon solutions.

Policy

Impact - Positive

Comment –The work of the Active Travel Officer fits with RTS objectives particularly relating to Improving active travel and low carbon infrastructure.

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – Several of the projects utilise the £100k sustrans grant, or have been successful in receiving funding from other sources.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS support for active travel will help improve access for pedestrians and those with reduced mobility.

Report by: Fiona McNally
Designation: Active travel Officer
Date: 13/11/17