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## Report to Partnership Meeting Meeting 24 November 2017

### RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

#### Midnight Train to Georgemas

##### Purpose of Report

To update Members on the study investigating the provision of an overnight rail service from Caithness/Orkney to Central Scotland.

##### Midnight Train to Georgemas- aims

The aims of the study were to:

- Investigate current passenger and freight markets and connectivity from
- Orkney/Caithness to Central Belt;
- Investigate train pathing to permit the sleeper to operate, including access to Central Belt for passenger and freight;
- Review possible rolling stock and traction options;
- Appraise freight opportunities;
- Review of mixed train operations; and
- Provide indicative costings for the service.

##### The study

Consultants Systra were appointed to carry out this piece of work. Timetabling, train planning, demand forecasting and stakeholder interviews have been conducted. A draft final report will soon be available.

### RISK REGISTER

#### RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

#### Policy

Impact - Positive

#### Financial

Impact –Fully funded

#### Equality

Impact – Neutral

### **Recommendations**

1. Members and Advisors are asked to note the report

**Report by:** Frank Roach  
**Designation:** Partnership Manager, HITRANS  
**Date:** 13 November 2017