

Report to Partnership Meeting 2 February 2018

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Strategy

Purpose of Report

To introduce a final draft of HITRANS Regional Active Transport Strategy.

Introduction

As part of the wider work of updating the HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy, HITRANS have also committed to develop a both a Regional Active Travel Strategy and an Electric Vehicle Strategy to help ensure that the Partnership identified policies and priorities for these two key areas of focus in the following years.

The Strategy provides an action plan for walking and cycling within the region which identifies priorities for HITRANS to adopt to help the area maintain progress towards the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland target of 10% of everyday journeys by bike and also increased levels of walking within the area. A copy of the full final draft of the HITRANS Active Travel Strategy is attached as a separate document with the papers for this Partnership Meeting.

Background

The Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS, 2017) requires local and regional transport authorities to develop area-wide cycling strategies, focusing on 'cycling as a form of transport'.

A key policy within the original HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy was to undertake Active Travel audits and produce action plans for all the regional centres and other key settlements in the HITRANS area. This meant HITRANS and its partner Local Authorities were among the first areas in Scotland to develop Active Travel Masterplans with a total of 17 of these documents being produced between 2008 and 2013. The Proposed Network Masterplan for each of these settlements has been included as an appendix to the Strategy.

It was recognised though that the development of a region wide Active Travel Strategy would help support HITRANS work in a number of key areas including; Integration of walking and cycling as part of longer multi-modal journeys; Identification of key links between settlements not covered by the town Masterplans; Longer distance routes and trails; Development planning; and Improved promotion and marketing of Active Travel within the region

HITRANS Active Travel Strategy: Action Plan and Priorities

A full copy of the final draft of the HITRANS Active Travel Strategy is attached as a separate document within the papers for this Partnership Meeting

The Regional Active Travel Strategy has been developed with reference to "Active Travel Strategy Guidance" published by Sustrans and Transport Scotland in July 2014.

The guidance advises that this type of Strategy should include four key elements which the Strategy adopts;

- an action plan;
- walking and cycling infrastructure, including a network plan;
- behaviour change, promotional and training activities;
- and a monitoring plan.

A series of measurable objectives were identified in developing the Strategy.

1. Increase mode share of walking to work, in each HITRANS local authority area, between 2017 and 2021
1. Increase mode share of cycling to work, in each HITRANS local authority area, between 2017 and 2021
2. Increase mode share of walking to school, in each HITRANS local authority area, between 2017 and 2021
3. Increase mode share of cycling to school, in each HITRANS local authority area, between 2017 and 2021
4. Increase number of people cycling using selected key routes, utilising counter data between 2017 and 2021
5. Increase number of people walking using selected key routes to monitor impact of interventions
6. Maintain local, regional and national investment in active travel between 2017 and 2021

The Action Plan can be found on page 10 of the draft Strategy. This sets out a series of key actions under the following areas;

- Marketing & Promotion
- Planning & Policy
- Public Transport Integration
- Maintenance
- Infrastructure
- Development Planning

Finalising the Strategy

In order to finalise the Strategy, Members are invited to provide comments on the content of Strategy including the Active Travel priorities for the region as set out in the Action Plan. The intention is that this document will not only provide a high level support for our partner Councils but also sets out the actions which our Active Travel Officer and other members of the team will seek to prioritise.

Following the Partnership meeting a final version of the document will be prepared and then published on the HITRANS website. This final version will include a number of formatting changes and also include additional images.

Recommendation

Members are invited to;

1. Note the report.
2. Provide any further comments on the final draft of the proposed HITRANS Active Travel Strategy and delegate authority to the Partnership Director and Chair to make any final amendments prior to publishing a final version of the Strategy.

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work supports key Regional Transport Strategy objectives and the monitoring of their implementation.

Policy

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Active Travel policies and Delivery Plan set out in the updated Regional Transport Strategy

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – The development of this strategy has been supported the Sustrans active travel partnership funding. The Strategy will help provide an evidence base in support of future funding applications by HITRANS and local partners.

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.

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Date: 25th January 2018