

Report to Partnership Meeting 8 February 2019

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel Update

Purpose of Report

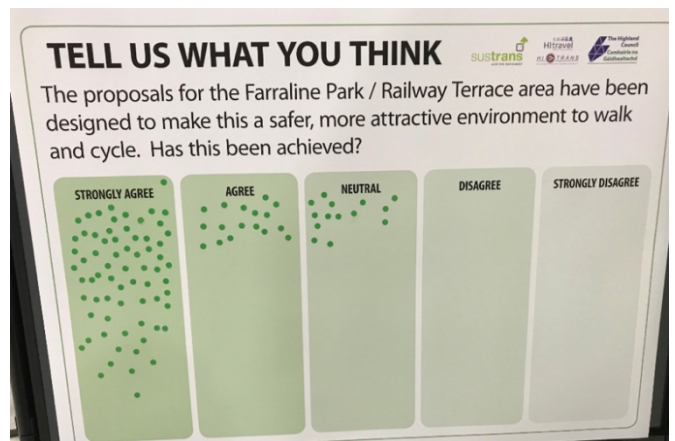
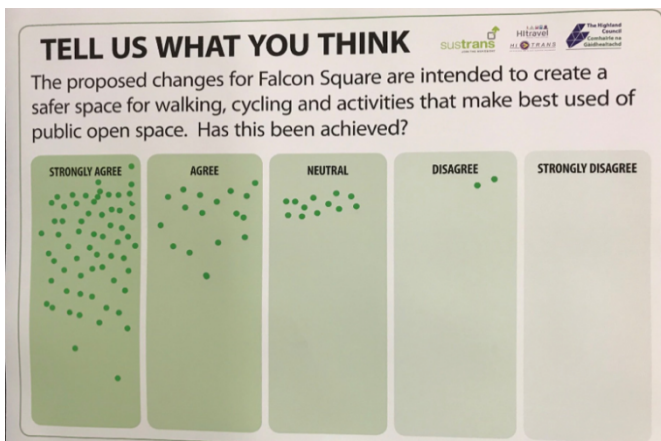
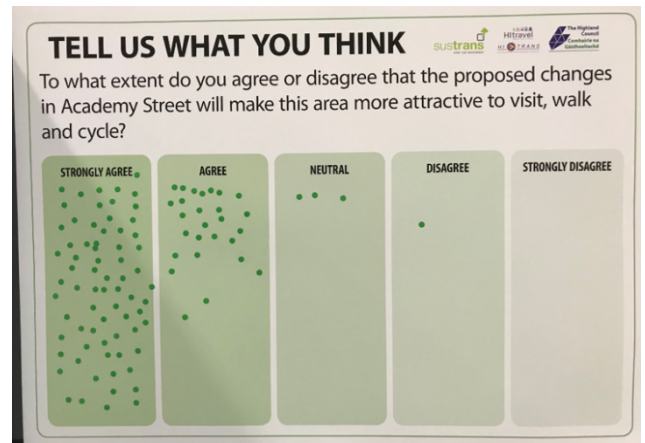
To provide Members with an update on Active Travel projects which HITRANS are currently involved.

Active Travel Officer

Following the secondment of HITRANS Active Travel Officer to The Highland Council to work on their Community Links Plus, Inverness City Active Travel Network project, the recruitment process for a new officer has been completed. The role has initially been filled on a 2 year fixed position starting in Jan 2018.

Sustrans Community Links Projects

Accessing Inverness: Public consultation runs until 1st February and responses will be shared on the consult.highland.gov.uk website under Accessing Inverness. Two successful public drop-in events were held, one in the Victorian Market in December 2018 and one in the Eastgate Centre on 11th January 2019. Images of responses to the Eastgate event are included.



Active Aviemore - Following the completion of initial feasibility and public consultation, The Highland Council will procure detailed design for Phase 1 (Dalfaber Drive, junction with Grampian Road and link to new hospital site via underpass) using Scotland Excel Framework / PCS; CNPA will then submit application to Sustrans for Community Links funding for design work.

Sustrans Community Links Partnership Funding

The HITRANS Active Travel Officer is involved in delivering a number of projects as part of a partnership agreement with Sustrans. Current projects include the following:

Active Travel Maps:

- Fort William AT map is ready to go out to Lochaber Transport Forum for local checking / comment.
- Inverness AT map has been updated and is ready to reprint, subject to final checks / amendments.
- Maps have been drafted for Aviemore, Dingwall and Stornoway, and will need local input to confirm routes.

Fort William Black Parks Improvements:

Following approval by local ward members, Officers are in the process of engaging a suitable consultant to develop detailed designs for improving the active travel network in the Black Parks area of Fort William which provides direct largely traffic free links between Fort William and the neighbouring communities of Inverlochry and Caol. The route has recently benefited from an upgrade to the Soldiers Bridge by Sustrans through funding for the National Cycle Network from Transport Scotland. The connecting section through Black Parks frequently floods after periods of high rainfall and has no lighting which means that the route is often impassable in winter. This commission will see detailed proposals developed for this link and others in the area which will then be taken to public consultation.

Other Projects:

Other projects funded so far this year include: Ebikes and storage at Barra Airport, Garadh a Bagh a Tuath also on Barra, installation of bike and people counters in Inverness, and the development of tender documents for the next stage of the Active Aviemore project.

The intention is to use any outstanding funding allocation for this financial year to update HITRANS Active Travel Town Audits / Masterplans. Argyll and Bute Council have already successfully applied for Community Links funding to update the Audits for the towns in their area but a number of the other documents now need to be updated to reflect recent new development and priorities.

Risk Register

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

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

Policy

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Active Travel policies.

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is supported by the Sustrans active travel partnership funding, and Community Links applications.

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.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note this report.

Report by: Vikki Trelfer / Neil MacRae
Designation: Active Travel Officer / Partnership Manager
Date: 30 January 2019