

Item:  
**6**



## **Report to Partnership Meeting 22 April 2022**

### **RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY**

#### **Research/Strategy Development Programme for 2021/22**

##### **SUMMARY**

This Report provides the Partnership Board with an update on progress on delivering the Research and Strategy Development programme and seeks approval of amendments to the programme to reflect commitments made and changing priorities and funding opportunities identified since approval of the 2021/22 Business Plan at the Partnership meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

##### **DETAIL**

The Partnership at its meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> April agreed the HITRANS Business Plan for 2021/22 which includes a programme for Research and Strategy Development for 2021/22 in support of development, implementation and delivery of the HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy.

Work is progressing on delivery of the Programme as indicated in the Appendix to the report.

The Programme has been amended to reflect changes that have been identified to the circumstances surrounding some projects. The changes are summarised below and more information is provided on each change in Appendix A to this report.

Summary of key Programme changes:

- Increase Regional Active Travel budget to £601,000 to reflect additional year end Transport Scotland budget secured in February.
- No drawdown of Zero Carbon Aviation Budget needed but project progressed through SATE project.
- Increase PAV project budget by £20,000 to £170,000 to reflect progress on delivering the CAV Pilot.
- Reduce External Budget Bid Project support to £5,000 in line with actual spend.

With external funding from EU and Scottish Government in place and added to the Research and Strategy Delivery programme budget identified in the core programme there is currently sufficient funding in place to meet a £1,600,000 programme. This is made up of £350,000 of core budget and a draw down against funds secured from EU projects, MaaS Investment Fund, Local Rail Development Fund, Regional Active Travel Grant, Sustrans Partnership programme, CivTech and Smarter Choices Smarter Places.

Funding applications have been made to Energy Savings Trust e-Bike Grant Fund and Smarter Choices Smarter Places Open Fund. These additional projects provide the opportunity for further additionality to be achieved from our budget.

## **RISK REGISTER**

### RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment – The Research and Development Programme is the key mechanism by which HITRANS promotes delivery of the Transport Strategy for the Highlands and Islands

### Policy

Impact - Neutral

### Financial

Impact – Positive

Budget line and value – This item reports on the 2021/22 Business Plan research and strategy delivery programme

### Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – Actions within the programme will have a positive impact on Equalities including Accessibility.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Members are asked to note the amendments to the Research and Strategy Development Programme 2021/22 as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

**Report by:** Ranald Robertson  
**Designation:** Partnership Director  
**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
**Additional Information:** Appendix – Research and Development Programme

## Appendix – Research and Development Programme

Area	Project	2021/22	January update	March update	Comments
Active Travel	Smarter Choices Smarter Places Match Funding and CL/CL+ Support	30000	30000	30000	Match funding to help partner Councils draw down their allocation under SCSP.
	SCSP Western Isles Programme Management		100000	100000	HITRANS are managing the CNES programme of local authority SCSP measures.
	Regional Active Travel Fund	267000	267000	601000	Regional Active Travel Fund agreed with Transport Scotland for 2020/21. Including additional year end spend programme.
	SUSTRANS Partnership / Active Travel Projects	100000	100000	100000	Partnership with SUSTRANS for Active Travel Officer to deliver active travel projects across the region.
Aviation	Zero Carbon Aviation Region	10000	10000	0	Contribution to a collaborative effort to develop the opportunity set out in PfG for the Highlands and Islands to be a low carbon aviation region by 2040. Early demonstrator opportunities for the technology could include Skye Airport or development at Oban Airport / Argyll Isles.
	PSO Instrument to Secure Appropriate Air Access	10000	0	0	Support available should there be any commercial service route impacts post pandemic.
	Oban GNSS	5000	0	0	ABC applying for match funding from the CAA for GNSS approach design – total project value estimated at £140k. Same level of support needed in 2022/23
External Funding Match	Stronger Combined Project	100000	100000	100000	North Sea Region ERDF project with 50% intervention rate. Focus on MaaS.
	G-PaTRA	100000	100000	100000	North Sea Region ERDF project with 50% intervention rate. Focus on green public transport.
	eHubs Project	150000	150000	150000	North West Europe programme project with 60% ERDF intervention rate. Balance of funding sought through Transport Scotland and eBike Grant fund.

	ERDF Smart Mobility	50000	50000	50000	ERDF Smart Mobility Project. HITRANS are seeking new match funding to complete draw down of ERDF. CalMac are meeting 50% of the total cost of ferry information signs.
	MOVE Project	100000	100000	100000	MOVE NSR project focuses on low carbon passenger transport access to a key healthcare facility.
	FASTER Project	350000	350000	350000	This project is now live with match funding in place from Transport Scotland to ensure full costs are recoverable.
	PAV Project	100000	150000	170000	Project funds have now been finalised and it is anticipated some spend on staffing and planning will be achieved in 2020/21
	ERDF / INTERREG / SG Bid Project Support	30000	15000	5000	MaaS Investment Fund Development, KTP project and ETP project identified.
Travel Information	Intelligent Transport Systems	15000	15000	15000	Support towards ITS within Smart Cities including the project officer resource.
	Real Time Information Development	20000	20000	20000	Delivery of improved real-time information for public transport passengers
RTS	Regionally Significant Scheme Development	60000	60000	60000	Funding support to help partner Councils develop Regionally Significant Transport Projects e.g. Concessionary Travel on Ferry Service, Growth Deal Support etc.
	Sound of Barra / Harris Socio Economic Study		15000	15000	Project funded in partnership with HIE and CNES. HITRANS core budget contribution is estimated at between £10k and £15k.
	Fair Fares Study		10000	10000	Appraisal of opportunity to bring benefits of concessionary travel to island and rural areas by ensuring the primary public transport more for all areas is included in the scheme. This will feed into the review of fares policy committed to by the Green Party / SG Agreement.
	Post Pandemic Economic Recovery	15000	0	0	

	EV Strategy	10000	10000	10000	Funding to support the roll out of EV Strategy Projects.
Rail	Rail Policy Development	30000	50000	50000	Support for HITRANS rail project delivery. This will include the local rail development fund support to the Fastline Faslane project.
	Inverness Station Masterplan	25,000	0	0	HITRANS are lead local partner and will be supporting project delivery.
Bus / DRT	Bus Service Development, Bus Partnership Fund support and HiTravel	30,000	30,000	30,000	
	Total Identified Project Expenditure	1,607,000	1732000	2066000	
	Current Estimated Budget (R&D)	350000	350000	350000	NSR ERDF to Stronger Combined and G-PaTRA, ERDF Smart Mobility, H2020 to INCLUSION, Sustrans to Regional Partnership, Regional Active Travel Fund and Local Rail Development Fund.
	Current Estimated Budget (External - EU, Sustrans, Transport Scotland Ring Fenced Project Support)	1,150,000	1,600,000	1,934,000	