

Item:  
**10**



**Report to Partnership Meeting 3 February 2023**

**RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY**

**Opportunity Cromarty Firth**

**Purpose of Report**

To inform Board Members on transport intervention arising from OCF.

**Opportunity Cromarty Firth and Transport**

On Friday 13 January UK and Scottish Governments jointly announced that Opportunity Cromarty Firth had successful bid for Green Freeport Status.

Opportunity Cromarty Firth is led by Port of Cromarty Firth, Global Energy Group, the Port of Inverness, Inverness Airport/Business Park and other sites around the Firth. The consortium has over 30 members including many from the energy sector. It aims to create 25,000 jobs and generate £4.8bn in investment, with a focus on floating offshore wind, nuclear and hydrogen.

This will invariably drive demand for new transport and infrastructure.

Below is a quick brainstorm of possible interventions.

<b>Cromarty Firth Freeport New Transport Infrastructure</b>
Rail freight terminal at Invergordon
Hourly Inverness-Tain electric rail services (30' peak) in both directions
Evanton Station reopening
Tain-Elgin IMF rail services
HIML electrification, frequency, journey time, gauge
Access to new housing Alness, Evanton, Invergd n, Seaboard -20 min n'hoods
Public Transport access to new developments
Bus priority schemes
Active travel interventions between settlements

Green travel plans for all new developments 20% vehicle miles reduction
Inverness harbour extension Nigg ferry all year round
Longman energy project Hydrogen blend into gas network at Invergordon District heating schemes Hydrogen fuel retail stations
Develop air connectivity Heliport
HGV parking HGV driver welfare facilities Longman -Kessock upgrade A9 dualling/crawler lane Tore-Cromarty Bridge Junction improvements at Tomich, Alness etc New road link A9 to Invergordon Port A96 dualling to past Tornagrain/IABP

## Next Steps

It would be useful to have further discussions with Board Members and partners, including cross referencing potential interventions against STPR2.

## RISK REGISTER

### RTS Delivery

Impact –Mode shift, integration, economy, population

### Policy

Impact –Transport efficiency, economic development, hydrogen strategy

### Financial

Impact – Nil currently

### Equality

Impact – Nil

## Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report.

**Report by:** Frank Roach  
**Designation:** Partnership Manager  
**Date:** 23 January 2023

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