

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 15 September 2023

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Bottlenecks!

Purpose of Report

To inform the Board on a new whisky logistics study.

Background

In 2011 MVA Consultancy and Caledonian Solutions were commissioned by HITRANS to review the current and future logistics requirements of the whisky industry and the corresponding impacts on the strategic transport network in the HITRANS area.

The study was designed to collate information on current logistics of the industry, focusing on the movement of products to, from and between facilities in the HITRANS area; and forecast how the relevant supply and demand may change over time and the likely impact of these changes on the transport infrastructure.

The study led to the successful Lifting The Spirit rail trials in 2013.

Bottlenecks!

HITRANS has been asked by the Scotch Whisky Association to update that work in the light of increased output, new production sites, and changes to the freight network including ferries.

Bottlenecks! seeks to identify current and future freight needs of the industry, identify any related freight transport issues, and make recommendations for addressing those issues. It will also identify how future transport options can address the climate emergency and help the Scotch Whisky industry deliver its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2045. The project will additionally explore resilience issues of the region's transport infrastructure that could arise in relation to Scotland's changing climate. Cross-border links are also to be considered.

Project requirements

1. Assessment of the Scotch Whisky industry's current and future freight needs

2. Current and future transport issues that may affect the Scotch Whisky industry's operations within the H&I region and connections to and from the region in respect of the industry operations.
3. Recommendations for how issues identified in 2. can be addressed.
4. Identifying decarbonisation options for the industry's freight transport.
5. Identifying future resilience issues that may arise as a result of Scotland's changing climate.

Funding

HITRANS will procure the study (valued at £45k) which will be funded and managed jointly by HITRANS and SWA.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery

Impact – Mode shift, resilience, economy, freight competitiveness

Policy

Impact – Decarbonisation, transport efficiency, mode shift

Financial

Impact – The study will be 50% funded by HITRANS

Equality

Impact – Nil

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report.
2. Members are asked to approve the £22.5k contribution to the project.

Report by: Frank Roach
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Date: 28 August 2023