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Report to Partnership Board Meeting 2 February 2024

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Purpose of Report

This Report provides Board Members with an update on Active Travel projects in which HITRANS are currently involved.

UPDATE ON REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL BUDGET 2023-24 (Transport Scotland)

For **2023/24 financial year** HTRANS has been granted an additional £45,000 for Mobility Hubs, and £10,000 as Resource Support to develop proposals for the Behaviour Change and Access to Bikes funding in 2024-25. This brings the total budget to £1,010,000 from Transport Scotland’s Regional Active Travel Fund. A progress update is provided below.

2023-24 Regional Active Travel Fund Programmes		
Programme	Progress Update	Budget
1. Monitoring	<p>£37,303 allocated to THC for monitoring routes associated with Inverness City Active Travel Network and Beaully Firth Active Travel Network.</p> <p>£38,885 allocated to CnES for monitoring routes identified in Active Travel Masterplans for Stornoway, Tarbert and Lochmaddy.</p> <p>Partner Local Authorities have been invited to submit proposals for the remaining budget for projects which can be implemented within the remainder of the financial year.</p>	Available £100,000
		Allocated £76,188
2. Transport Integration	<p>£17,176 allocated to Orkney for cycle parking on islands.</p> <p>£3,000 allocated to CnES towards Lochboisdale travel hub.</p> <p>£40,000 allocated to CnES for feasibility and design work linked to Stornoway AT Delivery Plan.</p> <p>£20,000 allocated to cycle parking in Stornoway town centre, linked to AT Delivery Plan.</p> <p>Partner Local Authorities have been invited to submit proposals for the remaining budget for projects which can be implemented within the remainder of the financial year.</p>	Available £100,000
		Allocated £80,206
3. AT Masterplans & 20 Minute Communities	<p>£3,370 spent on design of Drumnadrochit active travel link.</p> <p>£38,000 allocated to MC for AT Masterplan engagement and delivery.</p> <p>£31,000 allocated to contract Arup to support CnES with developing a delivery plan for Stornoway Active Travel improvements, & to prepare bid to fund delivery in 2024.</p> <p>£6,804 allocated to consultant support for preparing Fort William Wayfinding Strategy for funding bid in 2024.</p> <p>£40,000 allocated to improving AT links over railway in Fort William.</p> <p>£20,000 allocated to cycle parking in Stornoway town centre.</p>	Available £150,000
		Allocated £147,331

4. Mobility Hubs & Micromobility	The bulk of this funding is allocated to supporting the HI-BIKE eBike share scheme in Inverness and Fort William, and the additional funding from Transport Scotland will cover the cost of recovering assets from the closed schemes in the Central Belt and expanding the Inverness scheme. We have retrieved the redundant assets from the Falkirk and East Lothian schemes, and employed a mechanic to begin working through the secondhand bikes while also maintaining the existing fleet. We have a budget of approximately £100,000 for the remainder of the financial year for HI-BIKE and wider Mobility Hubs and Micromobility.	Available £295,000
5. Quiet Routes & NCN	The Glencoe route has been installed and data is being gathered on use by all modes, and local feedback collected. We are still awaiting installation of the two Skye routes, and the final report on the pilot is due by mid-2024. Multi modal counters will be installed in the Spring in Orkney on potential routes in 5 areas in Orkney, and preliminary speed data will also be gathered before deciding which routes to take forward.	Available £150,000 Allocated £148,000
6. Path Improvement	£95,000 has been allocated to 4 our 5 partner Local Authorities (Argyll & Bute have not taken up their allocation) and our Partner Local Authorities have been invited to submit proposals for the remaining budget for projects which can be implemented within the remainder of the financial year.	Available £125,000 Allocated £95,000
7. Resource Support	Resource Support increases the capacity of HITRANS to deliver projects with increased active travel budgets and support partner Local Authorities, by increasing staff resource. This supports HI-BIKE Customer Service, eBike Technician, and eHUBS Project Officer.	Available £90,000

ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING IN 2024-25

REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL GRANT

This fund, which has been made available to RTPs by Transport Scotland for the past 5 years will no longer exist. Instead, funding for Behaviour Change and Access to Bikes will be channeled through Regional Transport Partnerships – this is covered in a separate paper. RTP’s are also invited to bid in to the Active Travel Infrastructure Fund for capital projects which can be delivered within the financial year 24-25; see below.

ACTIVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

In addition to the Behaviour Change funding, RTPs are invited to bid for “shovel ready” capital infrastructure projects for delivery in 2024-25. This fund is for construction only, with an emphasis on path construction and no allowance for design funding. We propose to submit the following bid to Transport Scotland for the 2nd February deadline:

- Drumnadrochit Active Travel Link: 225m of shared use path from the Loch Ness Hub towards the school, alongside the A82 trunk road. This project came out of our Mobility Hubs work in 2022-23 when HITRANS funded a design to improve the existing footway infrastructure to enable shared use, and build a new shared use path through the car park at Loch Ness Hub. This will enable both local people and visitors to access the Hub and the local path network by bike without having to travel

on the A82. The project requires co-ordination between the two landowners, Highland Council and Transport Scotland. Cost: £330,000 (including Project Management allowance).

- Quiet Routes: learning from the pilot in Highland, we have requested funding to expand Quiet Routes across the region in Orkney, Western Isles and Highland. Cost: 100,000.

Board Members are asked to note the report and approve funding requests to Transport Scotland for next financial year.

Risk Register

RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports both relevant RTS objectives and those of the Active Travel Framework.

Policy

Impact – Positive

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

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is supported by Transport Scotland through the Regional Active Travel Grant (2023-24), Behaviour Change and Access to Bikes fund (2024-25) and Active Travel Infrastructure Fund (2024-25).

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS support for active travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and makes walking, cycling and wheeling available to all, including by providing access to bikes.

Report by: Vikki Trelfer
Designation: Active Travel Officer
Date: 23rd January 2024