

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 25 April 2025

PARTNERSHIP

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Purpose of Report

This report provides a summary of the HITRANS Asset Management Plan. This summary provides an overview of the key elements of the Asset Management Strategy that has been developed in response to the 2023/24 Annual Audit Report.

Introduction

The Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) is focused on the efficient management, maintenance, and development of its transport assets. The Asset Management Plan included as Appendix A to this report outlines a structured approach to managing these assets, ensuring they are well-maintained, cost-effective, and aligned with regional economic and social goals.

Objectives

The key objectives of the strategy are:

- To ensure the longevity and reliability of transport assets.
- To optimise the performance and sustainability of assets.
- To support economic development and enhance accessibility in rural and island communities.
- To integrate technological advancements and innovative transport solutions.
- To align with national and regional transport policies.

Asset Categories and Management Approach

HITRANS manages a variety of assets, including:

- Bikes and eBikes: Components of the HI-Bike system, including bicycles, electric bicycles, and related infrastructure.
- IT Equipment: Technology supporting HITRANS' operations, including computers, servers, and communication systems.

Asset Management Approach

- Lifecycle Management: The strategy will encompass all stages of asset life, including acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal, and decommissioning, ensuring the optimal performance of assets.
- Condition Assessment and Performance Monitoring: Regular inspections and performance tracking will guide interventions and ensure assets remain reliable.

Risk Management

A risk-based approach will prioritise investments, focusing on:

- Climate Resilience: Ensuring assets can withstand extreme weather.
- Funding Constraints: Balancing budget limitations with asset needs.
- Technological Obsolescence: Addressing the evolving landscape of transport and IT technologies.
- Operational Disruptions: Minimising service interruptions.

Investment and Funding Strategy

HITRANS will seek funding from:

- Government Grants
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Revenue-Generating Initiatives (such as user fees or sponsorships)
- Efficiency Savings in maintenance and procurement.

Sustainability and Innovation

HITRANS is committed to:

- Promoting low-carbon transport solutions.
- Using sustainable materials and methods in asset management.
- Incorporating smart technology to enhance efficiency.
- Encouraging a shift towards active and sustainable transport.

Governance and Implementation

The strategy will be overseen by HITRANS Senior Management ensuring regular reviews to ensure successful implementation.

Conclusion

This strategy aims to ensure HITRANS' assets, including the HI-Bike system and IT infrastructure, are sustainable, resilient, and meet the evolving mobility needs of the Highlands and Islands region in the long term. The approach prioritises sustainability, technological innovation, and efficient asset management to support the region's transport infrastructure.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery
Impact – Neutral

Policy
Impact - Neutral

Financial
Impact – Neutral

Equality
Impact –Neutral

Recommendation

1. Members and Advisors are asked to note the report.
2. Members and Advisors are asked to approve the Asset Management Plan.

Report by: Ranald Robertson
Designation: Partnership Director
Date: 17th March 2025
Background Paper: Appendix A – Asset Management Plan

Appendix A – Asset Management Plan



Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) Asset Management Plan

1. Introduction

The Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) is committed to ensuring the efficient management, maintenance, and development of its transport-related assets. This strategy provides a structured approach to asset management, ensuring assets are well-maintained, deliver value for money, and support economic and social objectives.

2. Objectives

The key objectives of this asset management plan are:

- To ensure the longevity and reliability of transport assets.
- To optimise the performance and sustainability of assets.
- To support economic development and accessibility in rural and island communities.
- To integrate technological advancements and innovative transport solutions.
- To align with national and regional transport policies.

3. Asset Categories

HITRANS oversees a range of assets, including:

- **Bikes and eBikes:** Assets related to the HI-Bike system, including bicycles, electric bicycles, and associated infrastructure such as docking stations.
- **IT Equipment:** Hardware and software used by HITRANS staff to manage operations, including computers, servers, and communication systems.

4. Asset Management Approach

4.1 Lifecycle Management

A whole-life approach to asset management will be adopted, considering:

- **Acquisition and Commissioning:** Ensuring assets meet required standards from the outset.
- **Operation and Maintenance:** Regular inspections, preventive maintenance, and responsive repairs.
- **Renewal and Replacement:** Timely upgrades to extend asset life and improve performance.
- **Decommissioning and Disposal:** Environmentally responsible decommissioning strategies.

4.2 Condition Assessment and Performance Monitoring

- Routine inspections and condition assessments will be conducted.
- Performance metrics such as reliability, availability, and usage will be tracked.
- Data-driven decision-making will guide asset interventions.

5. Risk Management

A risk-based approach will be taken to prioritise investment and interventions. Key risks include:

- **Climate Resilience:** Ensuring assets can withstand extreme weather conditions.
- **Funding Constraints:** Balancing budgets with maintenance and expansion needs.
- **Technological Obsolescence:** Keeping pace with evolving transport and IT technology.
- **Operational Disruptions:** Minimising service interruptions due to asset failures.

6. Investment and Funding Strategy

Funding sources will include:

- **Government Grants:** Securing funding from national and local authorities.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Leveraging private sector investment.
- **Revenue-Generating Initiatives:** Exploring user fees and sponsorships.
- **Efficiency Savings:** Optimising maintenance and procurement costs.

7. Sustainability and Innovation

HITRANS is committed to integrating sustainability into asset management by:

- Promoting low-carbon transport infrastructure.
- Using sustainable materials and construction methods.
- Incorporating smart technology to enhance efficiency.
- Supporting modal shift towards active and sustainable transport solutions.

8. Governance and Implementation

- Establishing an Asset Management System to oversee implementation.
- Regular reviews and updates to the Plan.
- Stakeholder engagement with partners.

9. Conclusion

This asset management strategy will ensure that HITRANS' transport assets, including the HI-Bike system and IT infrastructure, are sustainable, resilient, and capable of supporting the mobility needs of the Highlands and Islands region for the long term.