

Item:  
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## Report to Partnership Meeting 13 September 2019

### RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

#### Local Rail Development Fund 2

##### **Purpose of Report**

To inform members of the progress of Local Rail Development Fund 2 bids. The second round of projects was announced by Cabinet Secretary Michael Matheson at Kintore on 22 August.

##### **Fastline Faslane- success**

HITRANS was awarded £85000 to carry out the Preliminary and Detailed Options Appraisal stages of a multimodal transport appraisal in line with Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) which will look at transport problems and opportunities in Helensburgh.

This follows a previous award of £50k to investigate the Case for Change. Consultants PBA are already working on this first phase.

##### **Other bids- rejected**

HITRANS' other bids were rejected. The reasons are given below.

##### **Evanton Connectivity**

*The panel felt that this application would have benefited from additional information, particularly around the alignment with STAG and how the proposal would tackle local issues and promote economic growth.*

HITRANS response: the proposal may be considered as part of the mitigation for Longman Interchange works (cf Conon Bridge and Kessock mitigation), but timescales may work against this as Far North Line Review outputs( additional capacity and services) will require a long lead time.

##### **Skyefall (A890 & Kyle Railway between Ardnarff & Attadale)**

*The panel agreed that the transport problem was clearly explained and that the proposal has merit but there was insufficient evidence of an approach aligned with STAG. The panel also agreed that another funding option may be more appropriate to take this issue forward, for example, the proposal may fit with the criteria for the GB-wide Rail Innovation Fund.*

The bid explained that new information was now coming through as a result of the investigation work being done by HITRANS and Network Rail on a shared clearway. We will look into the Innovation Fund suggested by Transport Scotland

### **Oban Hub**

*The panel felt that this application would have benefited from a fuller description of the problem, how the approach would align with STAG and how it would tackle local issues and promote economic growth. However, the panel agreed that the proposal has merit and that there is potential for it to be considered under the auspices of the West Highland Line Review Team.*

We will pursue this through the WHLRG as suggested.

### **RISK REGISTER**

#### RTS Delivery

Impact – RTS compliant

#### Policy

Impact – Mode shift, connectivity, environmental benefits

#### Financial

Impact – Fastline Faslane study fully funded. Oban Hub and Skyefall will require funding.

#### Equality

Impact – Nil

### **Recommendations**

1. Members and Advisors are asked to note the report.

**Report by:** Frank Roach  
**Designation:** Partnership Manager  
**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019