

Report to Partnership Meeting 5 February 2016

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Regional Transport Strategy Update.

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update on Regional Transport Strategy Refresh.

Introduction

Following the report taken to the last Partnership meeting on 25th November 2015, HITRANS officers appointed consultants Elyand Skyn to assist the HITRANS team in undertaking a number of Work Packages to update the Regional Transport Strategy based on the scope outlined below.

This report provides a short update on progress made to date and proposed next steps.

Background

HITRANS was established as one of the seven Scottish Regional Transport Partnerships in December 2005. The Transport Scotland Act 2005 requires these Partnerships to prepare Transport Strategies for their regions which will enhance economic wellbeing; promote safety, social inclusion and equal opportunity; plan for a sustainable transport system; and integrate across boundaries with other Partnerships. These Strategies must take account of future needs and set priorities for transport development and improvement.

The Regional Transport Strategy should provide a framework for the transport activities of constituent Councils, Health board and other key agencies.

HITRANS have now commenced an update of the original 2008 Regional Transport Strategy and Delivery Plan. This update should be objective led and apply the principles of Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance.

RTS Refresh Progress and Next steps

An inception meeting was held with Naomi Bremner of Elyand Skyn and Tom Matthew of Reference Economic Consultants in December 2015. Since then the consultants have begun reviewing the wider policy context for the Regional Transport Strategy and updating the transport baseline.

An email to an extensive list of key stakeholders in the area was sent out on 18th January advising them of the intention to refresh the Strategy and inviting them to participate in helping to shape it. The consultants will then follow this invitation with a series of face to face and telecall interviews.

A workshop was held on 21st January with HITRANS Partnership Advisors and a further workshop with Members will be held in advance of the next HITRANS Partnership Meeting on 4th February. The workshop will seek to review the objectives of the existing Strategy and

discuss priorities for the Refresh. The intention is to have developed a Main Issues Report with which to consult more widely by the end of February 2016.

Following this there will be an 8 week public consultation on the draft RTS and associated documents after which final versions of the full documents incorporating any subsequent revisions will be developed for submission to the Transport Minister for approval. The final version should incorporate any subsequent revisions.

Two key elements of the updated Regional Transport Strategy will be the incorporation of area wide Low Carbon and Active Travel action plans. These plans should align with the Scottish Government's proposed strategic Interventions for the 2014-2020 round of ERDF funding.

The Active Travel and Low Carbon Strategy / Action plans are being developed as discrete commissions with AECOM currently preparing a draft Regional Active Travel Strategy. HITRANS officers are also in dialogue with consultants Urban Foresight to undertake work on the Low Carbon Action Plan. Urban Foresight having recently delivered the Switched in Scotland Roadmap for Transport Scotland and are retained by Transport Scotland to develop this Roadmap further and support its implementation.

Budget

A budget of £20,000 including expenses (exc. VAT) has been set for this project with an additional £10,000 in place for the development of the Active Travel Strategy and £5,000 for the Low Carbon Action Plan.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the report and support the proposed extension of the work to incorporate a Low Carbon Action Plan as an element of updating the Regional Transport Strategy.

Risk	impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	
Policy	√	
Financial	-	An allocation of £20,000 for updating the Regional Transport Strategy has been identified in the 2015/16 Business Plan. An additional £5000 has been identified to undertake work on a low Carbon Action Plan for the region.
Equality	√	

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