

Report to Partnership Meeting 6th June 2008

ENGAGEMENT

Development of Freight Transport through HITRANS

1. Freight transport features as a horizontal theme in the Regional Transport Strategy.
2. Key policies for freight within the RTS are:
 - the development of a Freight Quality Partnership
 - address the causes of inefficiency in the transport network
 - review of grant funding to better fit with market needs
 - evaluation of programme to reduce the cost of moving goods to and from the region's islands, including a potential review of ferry fare tariff structure
 - take forward the outcomes of the HITRANS sea freight study
 - work with partners to shift the transfer of freight to rail where feasible
3. It is proposed to investigate the potential remit and benefits of setting up of a Freight Quality Partnership and identifying what form it should take by looking at best practice and experience elsewhere, and having discussions with other RTPs and RHA, FTA and then setting up a meeting later in the year with stakeholders including:

Local Authorities
Transport Scotland
Scottish Government Transport Division
RHA FTA
Transerve
Trust and local authority ports
Network Rail
Rail freight operators
Logistics providers
Ferry operators
TACTRAN
NESTRANS
4. A Freight Quality Partnership should only be established if clearly identified aims and objectives of such an organisation in the highlands and islands are identified that add value to delivering better and more effective movement of freight.
5. A Report on the outcome of the investigation will be brought back to the Board at its December Meeting

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