

Report to Partnership Meeting 6th June 2008

ENGAGEMENT

HITRANS RAIL – ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Recommendation

The Board is asked to agree the proposals in the Report for engagement with stakeholders on matters pertaining to rail services.

Detail

As part of the Partnership's commitment to positive involvement of stakeholders the following regular engagement structure is proposed in matters relating to rail transport. The intention is to take forward the valuable input that has previously been received and delivered through the Highland Rail Partnership in developing improvements in rail services across the highlands and islands.

1. **The HITRANS Rail Advisory Group** will be the advisory group to the Partnership for rail and take forward, among others, matters raised at the HITRANS Stakeholders Group. It will meet 4 times per year to:
 - Develop rail proposals for inclusion and subsequent delivery through the Regional Transport Strategy
 - Work with partners on cross-boundary National Transport Strategy rail and intermodal objectives
 - Develop proposals to support delivery of modal shift to rail, in both the passenger and freight sectors
 - Build on the good practice and experience of the Highland Rail Partnership
2. The following are the suggested members of the group, as previously discussed with stakeholders within HRP during the integration of HRP and HITRANS.

Representatives from the following organisations:

Representatives from each of the 5 Local Authorities, both at Officer and Member level
Rail Freight Group
Transport Scotland
Network Rail
Freight Operating Company
Freight Operating Customer
Heritage Railways
First ScotRail
National Express
Passenger Focus
Highlands & Islands Enterprise
One representative from FOKL, FOFNL, FOWHL

3. The HITRANS Rail Stakeholder Group, which will invite wide engagement across the sector, will meet on two of the four occasions as above. Stakeholders will include Members of the Advisory Group and additionally:

Virgin Trains
Network Rail
ATOC
Highland Timber Transport Group
Argyll Timber Transport Group
GB Railfreight
TACTRAN
Mull Railway
SCDI
West Coast Railways
WH Malcolm
Scottish Association for Public Transport
Cairngorms National Park
Freightliner
Victa Rail
Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park
EWS
Highland Railway Heritage
CalMac
NESTRANS
Strathclyde Passenger Transport
Scottish Railway Preservation Society
Direct Rail Services
Visit Scotland
Confor
Railfreight Group
Northlink
J G Russell
Colas Rail

4. The Groups will be chaired by a HITRANS Board Member.
5. The first meeting of the Advisory Group will be on Weds 18 June in Kingussie.

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