

Report to Partnership Meeting 4 September 2015

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Active Travel / Sustrans Partnership and Community Links Update

Purpose of the Report:

To provide an overview of current Active Travel projects.

To provide an overview of HITRANS Community Links project 2014-2016 and annual Sustrans £100k budget.

Active Travel / Sustrans Partnership Update:

As part of HITRANS partnership agreement with Sustrans Scotland £100,000 is provided for 2015/16 to develop and enhance active travel projects within the area.

Ideally the budget should be allocated towards projects that link into the active travel audits for the main towns within the area or which will result in achieving CAPS targets. However, there is an opportunity for HITRANS to work alongside partners to provide added value to additional local projects where possible. This funding cannot be matched against Community Links applications made by partners and is for predominately capital spend.

The AT officer is liaising with officers in each Local Authority to identify suitable projects. Potential areas of work include:

- Small infrastructure projects.
- Feasibility studies and design specifications for projects.
- AT events
- Monitoring of AT behaviour
- Working with local universities and colleges to establish a 'package of measures' to encourage AT
- Encouraging AT through art and community projects on local paths*

Sustrans Community Links Funding Update 14-16 projects.

HIE / HITRANS South Bridge

This project is reaching completion with grant funding of £255,000 from Sustrans received. The Active Travel Officer is meeting with the Inverness Campus staff on Tuesday 1st September for a site visit and update meeting.

HIE/HITRANS North Bridge

This project has not progressed as quickly as anticipated due to discussions between HIE, Network Rail and the Inverness Retail and Business Park. The update meeting on the 1st September should provide more detail as to next steps to progress design and options for utilising the Community Links funding.

NCN78 Corran Ferry to Ballachulish

Following the successful public meeting in Onich in which the community supported the NCN78 utilising the existing footpath and re-designating this to a mixed use path with optimum width of 2.5m where possible. HITRANS have been liaising with Transport Scotland, their operators BEAR and Sustrans to progress this project.

HITRANS received their share of funding for the project, £500k, which has been provided to TS for BEAR to start engineering works on this route. The first phase from Corran Ferry to the start of Onich should start in September 2015 and it is anticipated that the whole project will be completed by November 2015. The Active Travel Officer is awaiting details of the finalised design and land agreements to ensure the proposed cycle provision is satisfactory.

The local community council are keen to use the change in use of the footway to mixed use, as a method of campaigning for a speed reduction through the town from an 40mph to 30mph, as part of the speed limit review which has suggested the trunk road either side of Onich be reduced from 60mph to 50 mph.

Abellio Scotrail: Stations cycle parking

Falco have been awarded the contract to provide 3500 new cycle parking spaces over the next 3 years as part of the new franchise. By the end of September 2015, Falco need to provide Abellio with recommendations for stations to receive improvements and audit stations accordingly.

In the HITRANS region Inverness was expected to receive 200 cycle parking spaces, plus bike and go, cycle hire provision. Falco have since audited the site and estimated that in the current layout around 140 spaces could be provided. They have asked HITRANS for feedback into other stations which would utilise the remaining spaces and the AT officer has discussed opportunities with each Local Authority.

The initial recommendations for other stations in the area included:

- Aviemore- bike and go facilities
- Elgin- cyclepark with 24 spaces.
- Oban –Bike hub (details to be confirmed)

Falco were recently made aware of our previous bid to the Scottish Stations fund for cycle parking improvements at stations in the HITRANS area and have received a copy of our application in the hope that they will discuss further improved provision in our region. We know that Fort William, Nairn and Tain all highlighted the need for better provision as part of their charrette process with THC last year.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to note the report. Further progress reports will be brought to future Partnership Meetings.

Risk	Impact	Comment
RTS Delivery	√	This work supports RTS objectives and the monitoring of their implementation.
Policy	√	This work supports the development of our Active Travel Policies H27a to H27d
Financial	-	A budget of £100k in 15/16 has been allocated.
Equality	√	HITRANS support for Active Travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and removes a number of physical accessibility barriers.

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Designation: Active Travel Officer
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