

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 8 February 2019

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Branchliner - Wood You Use Rail

Purpose of Report

To update Members on the progress of the Branchliner / Wood You Use Rail workstream.

London Calling

Following a meeting between HITRANS and Fergus Ewing it has been agreed to hold a round table meeting at Scotland House, London on Mon 25th March 2019 to discuss opportunities for transporting Scottish Timber by rail.

All MDs of Freight Operating Companies (FOCs) are to be invited. The aim is to highlight to the key decision makers in the UK's main railfreight operating companies:

- i. the importance that the Scottish Government places in forestry and timber processing and the environmental credentials to be gained from modal shift from lorry to rail
- ii. the scale of the forest resource in Scotland, the rate of expansion, the current growth in timber production and the level of investment by the processing sector
- iii. the freight growth plan, and specific opportunities that exist now and the grant support available to enable modal shift within Scotland.

HITRANS' role is to sell the business opportunity to the FOCs, focussing on Crianlarich, Rannoch, Altnabreac, Kinbrace, Geogemas, Aberdeenshire, Keith etc.

Meanwhile, discussions continue on getting a flow to start this spring, with enthusiasm from a number of processors.

RISK REGISTER

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Policy

Impact - Positive

Financial

Impact – Nil

Equality

Impact – Neutral

Recommendations

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

Report by: Frank Roach
Designation: Partnership Manager, HITRANS
Date: 25 January 2019