

Item:
17



Report to Partnership Meeting 26 April 2013

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

HITRANS / SUSTRANS Cycling Officer

Purpose of Report

To seek Members approval for a proposed partnership project with Sustrans Scotland that would involve the recruitment of a Senior Project Officer with responsibilities for promoting and developing cycling across the HITRANS area.

Partnership Proposal

Following the recent consultation by Transport Scotland on the re-fresh of the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (The Scottish Government's plan to deliver on a vision for 10% of all trips to be made by bike by 2020) Sustrans Scotland have approached HITRANS with a view to developing a new partnership initiative to assist in developing a plan to deliver more comprehensive, coherent and high quality active travel networks for the HITRANS region. Sustrans have recently entered into a similar agreement with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT).

The partnership would see the recruitment of a Senior Project Officer with primary responsibility for supporting the management of strategic planning, day-to-day operation and co-ordination of active travel projects. The post-holder will be expected to progress the plan for a cohesive active travel network across the HITRANS catchment area, detailed multi-year work plan development for capital projects, overall project delivery and oversight, time and budget planning and reporting. They will also be expected to work closely with the Sustrans team based in Edinburgh to coordinate work on the delivery of the National Cycle Network route No. 78 between Inverness and Campbeltown which has recently received capital funding from the Scottish Government.

It is intended that the post-holder will also be able to where applicable support member Local Authorities in such areas as; the promotion and marketing of walking and cycling within the HITRANS area, development and delivery of active travel projects, submission of applications for external funding, monitoring of cycle usage and prioritisation of infrastructure projects.

It is proposed that the post-holder would be based at the HITRANS Partnership offices at Inverness Airport but that there should be flexibility to take account of the successful applicant's circumstances and workload.

Funding

The HITRANS draft Research and Strategy Delivery Programmes for 2013/14 and 2014/15 have a provisional allocation of £50,000 per annum for Active Travel Infrastructure Delivery.

Sustrans proposal for a jointly funded post on an initial two year contract would involve a £25,000 (50% of total) contribution from HITRANS.

In order to protect the original HITRANS capital allocation, a provisional agreement has been reached with Sustrans Scotland that would see Sustrans match fund our remaining capital allocation and preserve an estimated budget of £100,000 for the new post-holder over their initial contract period. In effect the appointment would be cost neutral for HITRANS but provide for a member of staff that could act as lead coordinator for encouraging active travel across the region.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to approve the appointment of a Senior Project Officer (initial two year contract) as part of a partnership initiative with Sustrans Scotland subject to the agreement of the job specification, line management and funding arrangements by the Partnership Director.

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	-	On the basis of match funding proposed by Sustrans there would be no impact on the funding allocation identified in the draft R&D programme for 2013/14 and 2014/15.
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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