

Item:

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## **Report to Partnership Meeting 24 June 2022**

### **RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY**

#### **Research/Strategy Development Programme for 2022/23**

#### **SUMMARY**

This Report provides the Partnership Board with an update on progress on delivering the Research and Strategy Development programme and seeks approval of amendments to the programme to reflect commitments made and changing priorities and funding opportunities identified since approval of the 2022/23 Business Plan at the Partnership meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

#### **DETAIL**

The Partnership at its meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> April agreed the HITRANS Business Plan for 2022/23 which includes a programme for Research and Strategy Development for 2022/23 in support of development, implementation and delivery of the HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy.

Work is progressing on delivery of the Programme as indicated in the Appendix to the report.

The Programme has been amended to reflect changes that have been identified to the circumstances surrounding some projects. The changes are summarised below and more information is provided on each change in Appendix A to this report.

Summary of key Programme changes:

- Reduce budget allocation for Western Isles Smarter Choices Smarter Places programme as the annual allocation from Paths for All is reduced from last year as there was an exceptional payment of £50,000 made available following an invitation to bid for extra funds. This exercise has not been repeated for 2022/23.

With external funding from EU and Scottish Government in place and added to the Research and Strategy Delivery programme budget identified in the core programme there is currently sufficient funding in place to meet a £2,650,000 programme. This is made up of £300,000 of core budget and a draw down against funds secured from EU projects, MaaS Investment Fund, Regional Active Travel Grant, Sustrans Partnership programme and Smarter Choices Smarter Places.

#### **RISK REGISTER**

##### RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment – The Research and Development Programme is the key mechanism by which HITRANS promotes delivery of the Transport Strategy for the Highlands and Islands

##### Policy

Impact - Neutral

Financial

Impact – Positive

Budget line and value – This item reports on the 2022/23 Business Plan research and strategy delivery programme

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – Actions within the programme will have a positive impact on Equalities including Accessibility.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Advisors are asked to note the amendments to the Research and Strategy Development Programme 2022/23 as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

**Report by:** Ranald Robertson  
**Designation:** Partnership Director  
**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
**Additional Information:** Appendix – Research and Development Programme

## Appendix – Research and Development Programme

Area	Project	2022/23	June Update	Comments
Active Travel	Smarter Choices Smarter Places Match Funding and CL/CL+ Support	20000	20000	Match funding to help partner Councils draw down their allocation under SCSP.
	CnES SCSP Programme	100000	50000	HITRANS are managing the CNES programme of local authority SCSP measures.
	Regional Active Travel Fund	1111500	1111500	Regional Active Travel Fund agreed with Transport Scotland for 2020/21. Including additional year end spend programme.
	SUSTRANS Partnership / Active Travel Projects	100000	100000	Partnership with SUSTRANS for Active Travel Officer to deliver active travel projects across the region.
Aviation	Zero Carbon Aviation Region Opportunities	15000	15000	SATE project activity support and development opportunities including the opportunity offered by Hybrid Air Vehicles and Zero Carbon Roadmap opportunities to be tested on routes including to Skye and Wick.
	Oban GNSS Approach Procedure Design	17500	17500	ABC applying for match funding from the CAA for GNSS approach design
External Funding	Stronger Combined Project	50000	50000	North Sea Region ERDF project with 50% intervention rate. Focus on MaaS.
	G-PaTRA	15000	15000	North Sea Region ERDF project with 50% intervention rate.
	eHubs Project	150000	150000	North West Europe programme project with 60% ERDF intervention rate. Balance of funding secured through Transport Scotland and eBike Grant fund.
	ERDF Smart Mobility	50000	50000	ERDF Smart Mobility Project. HITRANS are seeking new match funding to complete draw down of ERDF. Calmac are meeting 50% of the total cost of ferry information signs.
	MOVE Project	20000	20000	MOVE NSR project focuses on low carbon passenger transport access to a key healthcare facility.

	FASTER Project	500000	500000	SEUPB INTERREG project focussed on the delivery of 24 Rapid EV Chargers in Argyll & Bute, Western Isles and North West Highland.
	PAV Project	500000	500000	This project is now delivering Scotland's first passenger connected and autonomous bus service as well as logistics focussed trials of micro AVs in Orkney.
	ERDF / INTERREG / SG Bid Project Support	5000	5000	
Travel Information	Intelligent Transport Systems	15000	15000	Support towards ITS within Smart Cities including the project officer resource.
	Real Time Information Development	15000	15000	Delivery of improved real-time information for public transport passengers
RTS	Regionally Significant Scheme Development	50000	50000	Funding support to help partner Councils develop Regionally Significant Transport Projects e.g. Concessionary Travel on Ferry Service, Growth Deal Support etc.
	Skye Integrated Transport Plan	6500	6500	Support for the development of local transport plan / solutions. Match funding provided by Highland Council and NHS Highland.
	Lochaber Health and Social Care Transport and Access Action Plan	5000	5000	Support for the development of local transport plan / solutions. Match funding provided by Highland Council and NHS Highland.
	EV Strategy	10000	10000	Funding to support the roll out of EV Strategy Projects.
Rail	Rail Policy Development	30000	30000	Support for HITRANS rail project delivery. This will include the local rail development fund support to the Fastline Faslane project.
	Inverness Station Masterplan	15,000	15,000	
Bus / DRT	Bus Service Development, Bus Partnership Fund support and HiTravel	30,000	30,000	
	Total Identified Project Expenditure	<b>2830500</b>	<b>2710500</b>	HITRANS are lead local partner and will be supporting project delivery.
	Current Estimated Budget (R&D)	300000		

	Current Estimated Budget (External - EU, Sustrans, Transport Scotland Ring Fenced Project Support)	2350000	NSR ERDF to Stronger Combined and G-PaTRA, ERDF Smart Mobility, H2020 to INCLUSION, Sustrans to Regional Partnership and Regional Active Travel Fund.
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