

Report to Partnership Meeting 16 September 2016

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Inverness Rail Station Redevelopment/Platform4Change

Purpose of the Report

This report provides members with information on Inverness Station developments.

Inverness Station Enhancement

Abellio ScotRail (ASR) plans to invest up to £2M on station improvements as part of its franchise agreement with Transport Scotland. In March 2016 ASR submitted their business case for improving the station for approval by Transport Scotland. The business case was based on an options appraisal of costed design proposals for a wide range of station improvements to promote greater engagement with the travelling public, passers-by and the wider city environment.

The design proposals were developed by Dundee based architects NRS through a commission that was jointly funded by ASR, the Council and HITRANS. Options included improvements to all three entrances and Station Square, a refurbished concourse, expanded commercial and retail opportunities, and upgrading the walking route between the Station, bus station and Rose Street car park.

Funding

In anticipation that additional funding will be needed to deliver the optimum range of station improvements, ASR submitted a bid to the Scottish Stations Fund (SSF) in June 2016. The SSF is a £31M grant pot administered by Network Rail on behalf of the Scottish Government, of which £6m is for Caledonian Sleeper projects. It is the responsibility of Scottish Ministers to agree which projects are supported by the fund and a decision on the Inverness Rail Station bid is expected shortly.

SSF grant is contingent on the availability of third party funding, albeit not match funding. Council officials and HITRANS continue to scope options to secure funding for improvements that are outwith the scope of the ASR project. Already £320K of Inverness Townscape Heritage Project funding has been earmarked for improving the public realm of Station Square. More information on funding options will be reported as soon as the outcome of the SSF bid has been clarified.

The redevelopment of the station is an integral part of the Council's regeneration efforts for city centre. HITRANS is therefore asked to continue to support efforts in drawing down funding and collaborating in the delivery of the scheme.

Project Progress

ASR has also begun the process of tendering for design services for the next phase of work. The design team is expected to be appointed by November 2016, with delivery for a final design, tender package and appropriate consents being in place by later next year.

Information

ASR has commissioned a wayfinding study, looking at the current signage and identifying improvements eg to signing taxis, buses etc. This has not been changed since the installation of the ticket gates.

HITRANS is also in discussion with ScotRail on co-funding rail CIS at the bus station and Eastgate, and bus info at the rail station.

Future Capacity

The Network Rail Scotland Route Study has been published. This endorses the need for a Masterplan to prepare the station for the growth in services over the next 10 years. This has taken cognisance of early work commissioned by HITRANS to look at platforms on the Rose St curve, the closure of Raigmore Level Crossing, Seafield Junction and Seafield Station. This exercise must also include improvements to the freight yards to allow greater efficiency of operation.

When ScotRail Alliance MD Phil Verster was recently in the north, the need to create a dedicated fuelling/CET discharge facility down by the washer road was stressed in order to maximise operational flexibility.

HITRANS is also in discussion with Serco Caledonian sleepers to understand their future requirements at the station.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

1. Note the progress with Inverness Rail Station Improvements; and
2. Agree to support efforts in drawing down funding and collaborating in the delivery of the scheme.

Risk	Impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	This project fits well with a number of RTS Horizontal themes.
Policy	√	This project has integration and environmental benefits.
Financial	√	These project has funding impacts on HITRANS
Equality	-	No impact on equalities issues.

Report by:

Malcolm Macleod (THC) Frank Roach (HITRANS)

Date:

7 September 2016

APPENDIX A

Inverness Rail Station: options for improving frontage to Station Square



Option 1: Steel columns



Option 2: Overcladding of Existing Building



Option 3: Masonry columns

Inverness Rail Station: Option for improving entrance to/from Falcon Square



Option for enhanced station entrance viewed from Falcon Square



Cross section through enhanced station entrance