

The Highland Council

Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee
19 September 2013

Agenda Item	10
Report No	TEC 70/13

Green Transport Strategy

Report by Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Summary

This report updates Members on the work which is being undertaken in partnership with HITRANS and other key stakeholders to produce a Green Transport Strategy for the Highlands.

1. Background

- 1.1. Sustainability and Green Travel have an ever increasing importance in our society as we strive to protect our environment while at the same time meeting the needs of the population through growth and development.
- 1.2. The Highland Council has recognised this, and the Programme for the Highland Council contains a commitment to work with partner agencies to produce a Green Transport Strategy.
- 1.3. The Highland Council area, with its contrasting urban and rural nature, requires careful consideration when examining transport. The needs of one demographic do not necessarily fulfil the needs of another, and it is not a “one size fits all” society.
- 1.4. There are however emerging and improving technologies which can be capitalised upon to improve existing transport networks, and indeed lessen the requirement for travel.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

- 2.1. The Regional Transport Authority (HITRANS) has agreed to work with the Council to produce a Green Transport Strategy for the Highlands. While the strategy will be prepared for the Highlands, there will be common themes, and it is proposed that these can be shared with our neighbouring Councils.
- 2.2. The first step in the process of producing the Green Transport Strategy will be to engage with key stakeholders through a workshop to be held at the beginning of October. The key stakeholders include:

- Elected Members
- HITRANS
- CALMAC
- Serco Ferries
- Pentland Ferries
- Transport Scotland
- Bus Operators
- HIAL
- Easyjet
- Loganair
- CMAI Assets
- SUSTRANS
- Network Rail
- Neighbouring Councils

2.3. Through engagement with the key stakeholders, the specific needs and issues for the various modes of travel can be established, as well the “vision for the future” in terms of sustainable travel and transport technology.

2.4. This will help to inform the early initiatives and goals of the Green Transport Strategy which will then be refined to suit the needs of the Highlands and its people.

3. Programme

3.1. The Green Transport Strategy will be produced by the end of March 2014, however it is intended that a draft be prepared for consultation by the end of December 2013.

4. Implications

4.1. There are no resource implications arising from this report.

4.2. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

4.3. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

4.4. The Green Transport Strategy will make a significant contribution to Carbon Clever Highlands.

4.5. There are no known risk implications arising from this report.

5. Recommendation

5.1. Members are invited to note progress on the work which is being undertaken in partnership with HITRANS and other key stakeholders to produce a Green Transport Strategy for the Highlands.

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

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