

The Highland Council

Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee
7 November 2013

Agenda Item	10
Report No	TEC 82/13

Green Transport Strategy - Update

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.

1.1 Background

- 1.1. Sustainability and Green Travel are playing an ever increasing role in our society as we strive to protect the environment while fulfilling 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 main principles and objectives for achieving an efficient and sustainable transport network are set out in the Council's Local Transport Strategy (www.highland.gov.uk/lts).
- 1.4. The Green Transport Strategy will aim to compliment the LTS by providing a bespoke document which will set out the aims and initiatives of The Highland Council, recognising the contrasting urban and rural nature of the region and the challenges this brings.
- 1.5. The strategy will also explore the concept of smart technologies and how these can be used to improve the existing transport network, and reduce the need to 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. A workshop was held on 4 October 2013 to engage with key stakeholders and partners and was the first step in the process of producing the Green

Transport Strategy.

- 2.3. The workshop was well attended with approximately 40 participants from a wide range of backgrounds and transport sectors. A number of presentations and workshop sessions were held, with participants asked for their views on various potential objectives that could be included in the Green Transport Strategy.
- 2.4. Responses from the workshop are being collated but the early feedback has established a number of specific issues which will be examined in further detail.
- 2.5. In addition to the workshop, some further discussions are being held with individual stakeholders who were unable to attend the event.
- 2.6. The Council is holding a Carbon Clever Workshop on the 8 November when one of the themes will be Carbon Clever Transport. The outputs from this workshop will be included in the Green Transport Strategy.
- 2.7. Highland Youth Voice Conference in November will include a session on transport and again the outputs will be fed into the Green Transport Strategy.

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 the end of December 2013 which would allow for further consultation before the final document is produced.

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

Date: 25 October 2013

Author: David McKechnie, Integrated Transport Manager