

Islands Transport Forum
Report to Meeting of 18 January 2018
Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) ERDF

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update on European Regional Development Fund opportunities for active and low carbon transport within the Low Carbon Travel and Transport funding call and the emergent project proposals from Island areas.

Second round of ERDF Low Carbon Travel and Transport Hubs

The information below has been circulated by Energy Saving Trust who administer the Low Carbon Travel and Transport (LCTT) fund on behalf of Transport Scotland. The fund opened on 25th October:

Transport Scotland's Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund is now open for Round 2 applications. Energy Saving Trust administers the fund on behalf of Transport Scotland.

Public, community and third sector organisations can apply for funding under the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 Programme to facilitate the delivery of active travel and low carbon transport hubs.

Following the first round of funding awards, there remains £2.25 million of uncommitted ERDF funds to invest in projects from the Highlands and Islands (H&I) area and £2.15 million of ERDF funds for projects from the Lowlands and Uplands (LUPS) area of Scotland. Transport Scotland is also making available a limited amount of funding - up to £1 million - to support a proportion of the funding requirements of projects.

Transport Scotland has made the following changes to the criteria for the second funding call:

- *Total eligible project costs are set at a minimum of £250,000 and a maximum of £2 million.*
- *Transport Scotland's match funding support enables organisations to bid for up to 80% (in H&I) or 70% (in LUPS) of the total project costs.*
- *Path-only applications will be considered provided they can demonstrate that the path works are of sufficient scale and strategic importance, supporting functional trips.*
- *Projects must be completed by December 2019.*
- *Please note the deadline for all applications is Friday 19 January 2018. For more information and to apply visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/lcttchallengefund*

HITRANS have made £50,000 per annum available to our partner Councils as match funding support to help them draw down the 80% ERDF LCTT intervention rate available

within the Highlands and Islands. A maximum of £30,000 would be available to any individual partner Council to support applications.

A number of projects are being developed by HITRANS partner Councils including two projects in island areas. These are:

1. Orkney Active and Low Carbon Hub – This project would see a mix of low carbon and active travel hub investment. The project would include testing cold ironing whereby the MV Hamnavoe would use shore power (taking advantage of Orkney's renewable energy production) while docked overnight in Stromness. The project would also see active travel hub and satellite facilities across the county and the development of an active travel path.
2. Western Isles Active and Low Carbon Hubs – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar are developing a project that would see an island wide network of active travel hubs developed in partnership with several local stakeholders. Active travel information including on the Hebridean Way would be available at transport hubs throughout the islands acting as satellite sites from a main hub in Stornoway. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure would be improved at several the hub and satellite sites.

These projects will support the delivery of priorities identified in HITRANS Electric Vehicle and Regional Transport Strategies which have just been prepared.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members are invited to note the report.

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Date: 8th January 2018