

Subject HITRANS Inner Moray Firth Masterplan Stakeholder Information

Date 1 February 2021

Job No/Ref 279859-00

Project Background

In 2009-2010 HITRANS commissioned active travel audits for a number of towns within the Inner Moray Firth area. These audits looked at the existing provision for walking and cycling and suggested several routes within the individual towns, as well as strategic improvements for the region as a whole.

As ten years have passed since the original audits, HITRANS have now asked the consultant Arup to look again at the original routes identified, and to work with local people to identify improvements that could be made to encourage more people to walk and cycle more often for their everyday journeys.

New reports will be created for the towns of Tain, Aness, Invergordon, Dingwall, and Nairn. These will include masterplans with improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure and creating places where people can walk and cycle safely in a pleasant environment. In addition to this, missing gaps will be identified within the Inverness active travel network and proposals will be suggested to infill these gaps. HITRANS will then work with Highland Council and other local partners to deliver the actions and priorities identified within the reports.

Who is being approached to provide input?

A targeted group of stakeholders have been selected by HITRANS and Sustrans to provide input. There is no formal public consultation exercise planned for the time being, this will take place as part of the later stages in the project.

Arup will arrange **virtual site audits** with each of the stakeholders. The aim of site audits is to gain

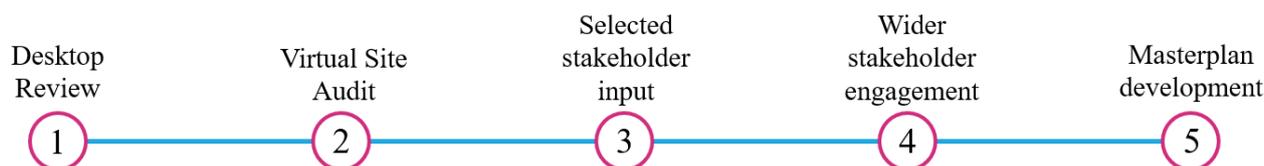
What information will be asked for?

an understanding of the way the towns function and to find out where existing active travel infrastructure exists, works well, or needs improving.

Land use and topography play important roles in influencing how an area is used and this can be deciphered from maps to some degree. However, the real detail comes from people who know the area intimately.

This workshop format allows for a discussion of any barriers and constraints for active travel users within the Inner Moray Firth area, as well as examples of where things work well.

What are the stages of the project?



There are five main stages in this project.

- 1) Desktop Review – collecting information about the Inner Moray Firth area and reviewing current baseline transport data and the audits previously completed.
- 2) Virtual Site Audit – focusing on targeted locations informed by the desktop research.
- 3) Selected stakeholder input - approaching selected stakeholders to provide your own insights and information and holding virtual site audits to discuss targeted locations. This is the stage where we would appreciate your involvement.
- 4) Wider stakeholder engagement - consultation with wider stakeholder groups to build on insights from the previous stage.
- 5) Masterplan development – sifting through a range of actions, identifying straightforward interventions, and preparing final maps and reports.

Who can I contact for further information?

Arup's Consultation Manager for the project, Jodie Allan, can be contacted on Jodie.Allan@arup.com or by phoning 0131 635 6032.

The Client is Craig Baxter at the Highland Council, who can be contacted through craig.baxter@highland.gov.uk.