

Sustainable Economic Growth Statement

Introduction

Section 32(1)(a) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 provides that as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year each listed public body must publish a statement of the steps it has taken during the financial year to promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of its functions.

Nestrans is a listed body within the Act. This statement is intended to fulfil the requirement of the Act in relation to Sustainable Economic Growth. This statement should be read in conjunction with the statement on Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy and the financial information provided on the Nestrans website that are also required by the Act.

Government purpose and performance framework

The Government Economic Strategy, November 2007, sets out the Government's central purpose as: "To focus the Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. By sustainable economic growth we mean building a dynamic and growing economy that will provide prosperity and opportunities for all, while ensuring that future generations can enjoy a better quality of life too."

The National Performance Framework was developed to provide a clear focus and direction for the whole of the public sector in Scotland and all public bodies are expected to align their activity in support of the Purpose, Purpose Targets and the 15 National Outcomes set out in the Framework.

Aligning to the Purpose and National Objectives

The Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy, approved by Scottish Ministers in 2008, includes, at page 102, an Appendix outlining how the Regional Transport Strategy objectives align with the National Objectives. This can be found at:

http://www.nestrans.org.uk/db_docs/docs/Nestrans%20RTS%20final%20printed.pdf

Sustainable Economic Growth

Nestrans primary function is to produce and implement a Regional Transport Strategy.

Transport has long been recognised as a significant contributor to sustainable economic growth. The Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy was developed in conjunction with the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Futures (ACSEF) Economic Manifesto and the Strategic Development Plan Authority (SDPA)

Structure Plan. The ACSEF Manifesto sets out a vision for the economic growth of the North East region of Scotland. The SDPA Structure Plan sets out the spatial strategy for achieving that growth. The Regional Transport Strategy examines how the growth can be achieved without increasing congestion levels.

The principal ethos in setting and determining the Regional Transport Strategy has therefore been to encourage and permit sustainable economic growth.

Achievements in 2011/12

Planning

Aberdeen City Aberdeen City Council adopted its Local Development Plan on 29 February 2012. Aberdeenshire Council is expected to give notice of its intention to adopt their Local Development Plan at a meeting of the full Council on 26 April 2012. The Plans for each authority identify proposals for the development and use of land for a period of 10 years from adoption and contain the policies that planning applications will be assessed against.

Nestrans previously developed a Cumulative Impact Assessment of the proposals across both Council areas. This assessment considered the transport impact of development with the Regional Transport Strategy in place and what further interventions are likely to be required to assist in the objective of achieving sustainable economic growth.

- This assessment resulted in agreement between the Councils to develop joint and complementary Supplementary Planning Guidance for issue as part of the Structure and Local Development Plans. The supplementary guidance for the Structure Plan 2009 has been developed and formally adopted. It determines a framework for assessing developer contributions towards improvements to the strategic transport network. The contributions will be made to a Strategic Transport Fund that will be held and administered by Nestrans.

Nestrans has worked with Government and Network Rail to ensure that the aspirations of the North East are taken into account in developing our railways.

Nestrans have been active in discussing with both the Scottish and UK Governments the implications for the North East on the Governments High Speed Rail proposals.

Nestrans has been active in discussing with both the Scottish and UK Governments and the European Union the implications for the North East (and consequently the Scottish and UK economy) of current and future aviation policy.

Nestrans continues to work with the Scottish Government on developing proposals for improvements on the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway and Trunk Road network within the North East.

Nestrans has worked with partners to develop projects including:

- Improved crossing capacity at the Bridge of Dee (early STAG work)
- Improvements to junctions on Wellington Road (Traffic modelling work)
- A preferred solution for the Haudagain junction has been approved by Scottish Ministers
- Aberdeen to Inverness improved Sunday rail service
- Planning permission and land purchase for the A96 Park and Ride
- Preparation for Planning permission for A90(S) park and ride
- Continued support of the Airlink shuttlebus service from Dyce Station
- Provision of a Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme and promotion of sustainable, active travel through Getabout
- Various cycling measures

Action Plans

Nestrans has four Action Plans intended to assist in the implementation of the Regional and Local Transport Strategies.

- Health and Transport Action Plan
Working with NHS Grampian, our two Councils and the Scottish Ambulance Service we have focused on three themes to implement this Plan:
 - Active travel (sub group chaired by Aberdeenshire Council)
 - Public Health (Air quality) (sub group chaired by NHS Grampian)
 - Access to Healthcare (sub group chaired by SAS)
- Bus Action Plan
As part of the Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership for the King Street/ Buchan corridor a bus lane has been constructed at the southern end of the route within Aberdeen City Centre. A bus lane was also extended on Holburn Street and modifications made to the previous hours of operation. Phase 1 of improvements at the Ellon Park & Ride and various junction modifications to assist buses have been undertaken. Park and Ride services and the night time transport zone within Aberdeen City Centre have been promoted.
The Freight Forum has continued to meet and freight maps have been published for the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire areas. Fresnel lenses have been purchased for distribution to improve driver's kerbside vision and work has continued on the Care North European project to reduce city centre emissions
- Rail Action Plan
Passenger number surveys were undertaken to provide evidence of overcrowding on the network and passed to Transport Scotland and Scotrail. A number of improvements, such as additional carriages and extra calls, have since been introduced.

Projects

In 2011/2012 Nestrans implemented the following:

- Rail
Access for all improvements - minor accessibility improvements at North East Stations
- Strategic Road – Capacity Improvements
Berryden Corridor design,
Segregated left turn lane from Great Southern Rd to A90 Stonehaven Rd preliminary design and modelling investigation,
Guild Street/Wapping St Junction SCOOT control installation,
Third Don Crossing design.
- Strategic Road – Safety Improvements
A947 Route Action Study – land acquisition, speed enforcement laybys and repeater signs,
Stacking Lane on A93 at Milton of Crathes – contribution towards construction,
Kingswells Roundabout Toucan Crossing,
Variable Message Signs on approach to rail bridge on Riverside Drive to reduce speed.
- Strategic Road – Maintenance
Resurfacing on A956 Ellon Rd southbound between Parkway and Balgownie Road,
Resurfacing on A944 Skene Rd and Langstracht,
Resurfacing on A98 Banff – Portsoy at Smiddybone,
Resurfacing on A947 Newmachar to Whiterashes and north of Turriff.
- Bus Improvements
A90 (S) Schoolhill Park & Choose – specimen design and planning application submission,
Buchan/King Street Corridor – Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership – bus lane installation on King St southbound from East North Street to Castle Street/Shiprow,
Bus lane extension on Holburn Street on southbound approach to Bridge of Dee and change to timings to existing bus lanes on Holburn Street,
Aberdeen City and Shire Bus Stop Information Initiatives – replace or provide bus timetable display cases and ensure standardised region wide DDA compliant timetabling information displayed,
Ellon Park & Ride improvements – extension of car park by 50 spaces and purchase of materials for phase 2 element including CCTV, car charging unit, street lighting, display screens and bus shelter,
Links Rd/ Beach Boulevard Junction Improvements to move back the stop line, relocate loops and amend signal timings,

Widening of bell mouth on southwest side of Jesmond Dr/ Scotstown Rd junction to allow buses to turn into Jesmond Dr without blocking both lanes on the approach to the junction,
Aberdeen City Centre Night Time Transport Zone – contribution to install lit and signed bus stops on Union Street for night time bus services,
Route infrastructure audit and minor improvements in support of new hybrid bus fleet to be introduced on Stagecoach No 59 service.

- Walking and Cycling
Core Paths – provision or upgrade of various strategic core paths, A96 Aberdeen to Blackburn path – construction of phase 1 Haudagain and Auchmill Road,
Peterhead Cycle Demonstration Town – design of cycle lanes,
Aberdeen City Cycle Demonstration – cycling infrastructure and initiatives at Greenbrae,
Banff and Macduff Cycle Network – Upgrading existing hardcore surface to bitmac on existing shared cycle/footway - Banff to Whitehills and Banff Links to Redwell Roads,
Fraserburgh Cycleways – Construction of new shared cycleway/footways on South Harbour Rd from A90 (T) to Cemetery Rd and Kirkton Road link to new community centre.
- Various
Car Club – installation of car parking bays at various locations in the City Centre