

Strategy -

3a Liaison between RTPs, and with the Scottish Government and Others

- Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on liaison with other RTPs and the Scottish Government and others.

- Background

The following series of meetings have been agreed by the Board or have evolved through the meetings agreed by the Board:

- RTP Chairs and the Minister for Transport to meet twice yearly.
- RTP Chairs to establish an Association and to meet quarterly.
- Nestrans Liaison Sub Committees appointed for meetings with HITRANS/ ZetTrans and TACTRAN as neighbouring RTPs.
- RTP Lead Officers meeting quarterly now including Scottish Government and CoSLA.
- LABOF Steering Group meetings

- Recent Developments

Since the last Board meeting there has been the following meetings:

- ❖ **RTP Lead officers, Edinburgh, 10 February 2010.**

This meeting discussed:

Update from RTP / COSLA Joint Strategy Group on 10 December  
Update on Planning engagement / Definition of Strategic Development  
Alternative Funding  
Transport Policy/Strategy/Delivery Structures (The Scottish Government/ Transport Scotland review)  
East Coast Franchise Consultation  
Accession Maintenance/Support  
Regional Travel Information Gateways  
Healthcare Transport - Response from Cabinet Secretary  
Agenda for Chairs Meeting of 3 March 2010

- ❖ **ACSEF meeting with Cabinet Secretary John Swinney, 16 February 2010.**

This meeting was attended by Anne Robertson, John Stewart and Iain Gabriel in their ACSEF capacity. This was a positive meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, re-enforcing the message of a successful region which wants to remain successful but to do so has a limited window of opportunity to manage a major transition in the economy of the region.

The timing of this change and the need for investment in infrastructure were highlighted to the Cabinet Secretary as central to keeping the North East as a net contributor to the Scottish and UK economies.

❖ **RTP Chairs/ CoSLA meeting, Moffat, 3 March 2010.**

This meeting was attended by Cllr Peter Argyle and Rab Dickson, hosted by Swestrans. The meeting considered papers on the following:

- RTP engagement on planning issues,
- alternative funding sources for RTP projects,
- representation on the National Transport Strategy Stakeholder Group,
- the role of SPT in providing strategic guidance for Local Transport Strategies in the west of Scotland,
- further engagement with the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT),
- High Speed Rail and the East Coast Main Line,
- Freight Issues, and
- An Invitation to ask the Transport Minister to attend the next meeting.

The Chairs also agreed that the relationship between COSLA and RTPs needed to be strengthened, and requested that RTP lead officers review a paper previously prepared for the Chairs in 2007 on engagement with other agencies and present it to the next meeting.

Discussion followed on the forthcoming review of the effectiveness of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 being undertaken in the coming year by the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee of the Scottish Parliament. The Chairs agreed that it was important that the RTPs adopted a consensus approach to submissions to the Committee, and that RTPs should take the opportunity currently to undertake a review of their effectiveness prior to the inquiry. The Chairs asked for a report in this regard to be prepared for the next meeting in June, which would coincide with the visit from the Transport Minister.

❖ **LABOF Steering Group, 9 March 2010.**

The LABOF Steering Group met on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The meeting discussed progress being made by the Executive group in a number of areas including delivery elements of the Bus Action Plan, the Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership and the progress being made in developing an action plan for the first corridor to be addressed under this agreement which is the Buchan / King Street corridor.

The minute of this meeting is provided in the Appendix to this report.

❖ **Nestrans Board meeting with the Minister for Transport, Aberdeen, 12 March 2010.**

This meeting discussed AWPR, Balmedie to Tippetty, Haudagain, Strategic park and ride, High Speed Rail, Aberdeen to Inverness Rail Improvements including Kintore Station and Laurencekirk junction.

❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Edinburgh, 31 March 2010. Includes a presentation by Alun Williams of Aberdeen City Council on Alternative Funding.**

Due to weather conditions and cancelled trains neither Alun Williams nor Derick Murray were able to attend this meeting.

- Future Programme of Meetings

- ❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Edinburgh, 12 May 2010.**

- ❖ **RTP Chairs/ CoSLA Transport Forum, Edinburgh, 13 May 2010.**

- ❖ **RTP Chairs/ CoSLA meeting, Glasgow, 2 June 2010**

- ❖ **LABOF Steering Group, 10 June 2010.**

- Recommendation

The Board notes progress on liaison arrangements with other RTPs and the Scottish Government and arrangements for future meetings.

The Board notes progress from the LABOF Steering Group.

RGM/05 Apr 2010