

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/ CoSLA, Edinburgh, 12 May 2010.**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray. It discussed:

- Liaison with Transport Scotland
- Recent press articles on RTP's
- Implications of Dr Goudie's paper for Transport and Independent Budget Review
- The Health and Transport framework issued to NHS's
- Alternative funding including a presentation from Alun Williams of Aberdeen City Council

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

This meeting was attended by Kevin Stewart and Derick Murray. The meeting discussed:

- Demand Responsive Transport

The meeting heard a presentation by Eric Stewart of SPT about savings and improved services that SPT have achieved in DRT. This has been achieved in the area of scheduling and co-operation in use of available buses. SPT have offered their services to all RTP's to assist in improving services across Scotland although the call centre software they are using is already in use in Aberdeenshire.

Nestrans has arranged for an officer and officers of the two local authorities to visit SPT to investigate what has been achieved in the SPT area and how it might be applicable in the North East context.

Discussion also extended to the relationship between RTP's and the NHS.

➤ Strategic Funding Review

The meeting discussed the CoSLA input to the Scottish Government/ CoSLA Strategic Funding review. This review is examining the possible impacts of the predicted significant spending reductions identified in the Andrew Goudie paper recently published.

➤ Alternative Funding

The final version of the Alternative Funding paper previously approved by the RTP Chairs was discussed and will now be reported to CoSLA. The CoSLA task group looking at infrastructure requirements is to report in the summer.

➤ Climate Change Public Bodies Duty

The meeting had before it a paper on Climate Change Public Sector Duty resulting from the Climate Change (Scotland) Act. The Guidance at this stage is in the early stages of drafting.

➤ Re-organisation of Scottish Government Transport Division and Transport Scotland

The meeting discussed a letter received by all RTP's and CoSLA informing of the intention to join the Transport Directorate and Transport Scotland by Autumn of 2010. The intention is to have a single Agency, under David Middleton, current Transport Scotland Chief Executive, responsible to Scottish Ministers.

At this stage it is not yet clear what the role and remit of the Transport Scotland Board will be and this was discussed at the meeting.

➤ RTP Chairs meeting with Stewart Stevenson

The RTP Chairs/ CoSLA were due to meet the Transport Minister at their next meeting in June but the Minister is now unavailable. Efforts will be made to reschedule this meeting to the next RTP Chairs/ CoSLA meeting in Aberdeen in September.

➤ Transport update

The meeting received an information paper on

- TICC review of the effectiveness of RTP's
- New Smarter Choices Smarter Places Manager
- Transport Futures group
- EU Transport reviews 2010
- Public Services Reform

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

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray. It discussed:

Rural garages: The issue of accessibility for people living in the more remote areas at a time when the number of garages is reducing as margins are reduced for operators. A number of options, each with advantages and disadvantages was discussed.

Shared services: The meeting considered a paper about progress in the Strathclyde area following the Arbuthnott report. Progress is being made in 2 phases with phase 1 having 5 work areas with a lead Council working through 3 options including single Council delivery, small groups shared delivery or large group shared delivery. The areas being considered are:

- Waste management
- Health and Social care
- Social transport and fleet management
- Property sharing and management
- Back office and in phase 2

- Common charging framework
- Joint economic strategy

SPT are working with Glasgow and North Lanarkshire on proposals for Social Transport & Fleet Management.

The paper further highlighted work in the three Ayrshires where consideration is being given to:

- Social Transport
- Decriminalised parking enforcement
- Core transport functions (road, lighting, bridges, road signage and transportation planning)

Transport and Health: The Chairs considered a paper about the proposal to have a short life working group to progress issues in this area following a letter that was received from the Minister for Health, Nicola Sturgeon. A letter pursuing this is to be prepared to action this group.

Transport Budget Pressures: The Chairs considered a paper based upon the implications of Dr Andrew Goudies paper and the likely implications for transport funding that arise from budget restrictions. The Chairs agreed to prepare a paper for government based upon the submissions that some of the RTP's had submitted to the Independent Budget Review.

Audit of National Concessionary Travel: The Chairs considered the current audit of National Concessionary Travel and agreed that a paper be prepared for possible submission as a joint RTP response. This is considered further at item 6b Publications and Consultations.

NTS Stakeholders Group: The Chairs considered the minutes of the last NTS Stakeholder Group. This included the "light touch" refresh of the National Transport Strategy and consideration of a research paper by Scottish Enterprise. This paper can be found at <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/about-us/research->

publications/~/media/publications/About%20Us/economic%20research/transport_infrastructure_and_services_report_dec_2008.ashx

This paper suggests that transport infrastructure is not a big factor for business at this time. This is discussed further at item 8 Information Bulletin.

❖ **RTP Chairs/ CPT meeting, Glasgow, 2 June 2010**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray. It discussed:

- BPIP's – the importance of these and quality partnerships in moving bus issues forward
 - Integrated ticketing
 - CPT Conference on 13/14 September
- Future Programme of Meetings
- ❖ **Tier 2 Ferries meeting, Aberdeen, 24 June 2010**
 - ❖ **Northern RTP's Lead Officers meeting, Inverness, 28 June 2010**
- This meeting will be attended by Nestrans, Tactran, Hitrans and Zettrans. Derick Murray and Rab Dickson will represent Nestrans.
- ❖ **LABOF Steering Group, 29 June 2010.**
 - ❖ **RTP Lead Officers/ CoSLA, Edinburgh, 30 June 2010**
 - ❖ **RTP Lead Officers/ CoSLA, Edinburgh, 11 August 2010**
 - ❖ **RTP Chairs/ CoSLA meeting, Aberdeen, 1 September 2010**

○ Recommendation

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

RGM/03 June 2010