

Strategy -

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

- Purpose of Report

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:

- ❖ **LABOF Steering Group, 8 December 2009 in Woodhill House**

The minutes of this meeting are attached as Appendix A.

- ❖ **Officers meeting with the Scottish Government Director of Transportation, Jonathan Pryce, Aberdeen, 18 January 2010.**

This meeting was attended by Iain Gabriel, Maggie Bochel and Derick Murray along with Alastair Mitchell of Scottish Government. The meeting was intended to re-introduce the new Transport Director, who has worked in the Transport Directorate before, to the work being carried out in the North East to improve transport.

Discussion initially centred around the development of policy and the alignment of local, regional and national policies including the significant inter relation between ACSEF, the SDPA, Nestrans and the two Local Authorities as well as the strong ties between the National Planning Framework, the National Transport Strategy, the Strategic Transport Project Review (STPR) and the locally developed strategies.

Mr Pryce indicated he was considering a “light touch” refresh of the National Transport Strategy, maintaining the essence of the strategy but updating where necessary to include other policy developments as required, e.g. climate change legislation. A similar approach to the Regional Transport Strategy was discussed.

The pre STPR projects, AWPR, Balmedie to Tippetry, Haudagain and Aberdeen to Inverness rail were discussed highlighting their importance to achievement of the strategy. North East attempts to engage with Transport Scotland and Network Rail to

make progress on various other projects was discussed including the development of the “national” Park and Ride sites in conjunction with the AWPR construction.

- Future Programme of Meetings

- ❖ **RTP Lead officers, Edinburgh, 10 February 2010.**
- ❖ **ACSEF meeting with Cabinet Secretary John Swinney, 16 February 2010.**
- ❖ **RTP Chairs/ CoSLA meeting, Dumfries, 3 March 2010.**
- ❖ **LABOF Steering Group, 9 March 2010.**
- ❖ **Nestrans Board meeting with the Minister for Transport, Aberdeen, 12 March 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/06 Jan 2010

**North East Scotland
Local Authorities Bus Operators Forum**

Tuesday 8th December 2009

**Committee Room 1,
Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen**

Minute of Steering Group Meeting

In attendance: Iain Gabriel (Chair); Richard McKenzie; Maggie Bochel; Kirsty Morrison and Derick Murray.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Mike Cheyne; Bryony Chamberlain; and Bob Dorr.

Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of operator representation and it was agreed that the Chair would raise the matter with the relevant parties.

Action: Chair.

2. Minute of Meeting of 9th September 2009

The minute of the meeting was agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising other than those on the agenda

4. LABOF Executive Progress

The Steering Group noted the progress of the LABOF Executive as outlined in the report, in particular in relation to: continued performance monitoring; reviewing the existing standards and targets; development of a programme to take forward the Nestrans BAP; and, finalising the proposed Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership (BPIP).

5. Quality Partnership Performance

The Steering Group noted the performance of the individual partners and overall QP, as outlined in the report and associated appendix.

In discussing the performance data, attention focussed on the highlighted deterioration in average bus journey times on the key corridors. It was noted that those journey times listed

were scheduled rather than actual running times and, in turn, it was agreed that clarification should be sought regarding actual trends in punctuality and reliability.

Action: Executive.

6. Review of QP Standards and Targets

The Steering Group endorsed the approach being taken by the Executive, but noted concerns regarding the lack of baseline information in relation to the proposed journey time, punctuality and reliability standards that remained outstanding from both operators.

Action: First Aberdeen; Stagecoach Bluebird.

7. Nestrans Bus Action Plan

The Steering Group noted that the Bus Action Plan (BAP) had been approved by the Nestrans Board on 30th October 2009 and, in turn, the progress and key actions being taken forward, as detailed in the report, under the BAP headings of: Quality Bus Partnership, giving particular focus to reliability through a specific Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership; Information; Integrated Ticketing; Bus Infrastructure; Interchange Hubs; Feeder Buses; Development of a Core Network; and, supporting Bus Priority.

DM queried whether the St. Machar Drive interchange opportunities were being promoted on the relevant Stagecoach Bluebird timetables and RMcK agreed to seek clarification.

There was considerable discussion on the issue of Integrated Ticketing, which is being taken forward by a Task and Finishing Group and who had recently met with Transport Scotland. The Steering Group emphasised the importance of progressing this issue locally and agreed that advice should be sought from the Scottish Government's Senior Bus Policy Advisor and/or Transport Scotland, as appropriate. The possibility of European funding for a smartcard application was also highlighted.

IG emphasised the need for clear reference to Park and Ride opportunities on the A947 corridor.

Actions: RMcK; Integrated Ticketing Task and Finishing Group.

8. Bus Punctuality and Improvement Partnership

The Steering Group noted progress on finalising and launching the Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership (BPIP) and the draft outline of the proposed King Street/Buchan Corridor Action Plan.

Action: BPIP Task and Finishing Group.

9. Appointment of Steering Group Chair

In line with the annual rotating Chairmanship of the Steering Group, DM was appointed Chair.

10. AOCB

(i) Aberdeen Bus Station Information Systems

DM raised concerns that the stance display screens at Union Square Bus Station were still not operational and that the associated interactive passenger information terminal, which has also never been commissioned, had now been removed. RMcK agreed to again pursue the matter with Stagecoach Bluebird and DM advised that he would raise the matter directly with BC.

Actions: RMcK; DM.

11. Dates of Next Steering Group Meetings

In view of concerns that had been raised by both BD and BC with the dates of the proposed Steering Group Meetings in 2010, it was agreed that alternative dates would be sought.

Action: KM

Post meeting note:

The following dates of Steering Group Meetings have been set:

- *Thursday 11th March 2010*
- *Thursday 10th June 2010*
- *Thursday 9th September 2010*
- *Thursday 9th December 2010*

*All will be held at 1000 hours at Nestrans, Archibald Simpson House
27-29 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5AA*

Richard P McKenzie
22nd December 2009.