

Strategy -

3a Director's report on liaison between RTPs, and with the Scottish Government and Others

o Purpose of Report

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

o Background

This report details meetings with other RTPs across Scotland, Transport Scotland and other national transport bodies highlighting issues of interest across Scotland. It also notes meetings of the Health and Transport Steering Group and the Local Authority Bus Operators Forum.

o Recent Developments

The last Board meeting was held on 20 February 2015, since which the following updates are available from meetings:

❖ Nestrans/ SDPA workshop, 20 February 2015

This joint meeting between the Boards of Nestrans and the Strategic Development Authority heard presentations on the timetable for reviewing the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and the need to do that in conjunction with an update to the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) taking into account changes to the SDP and the construction of many of the major elements of the current RTS.

This includes the construction of the AWPR which offers the potential to change the roads hierarchy around Aberdeen and hence the potential to change traffic patterns. This offers the potential to lock in the benefits of the AWPR by using benefits on the newly designated as higher priority radial routes to provide bus priority to encourage mode shift to bus use.

The workshop also heard about the modelling work undertaken in the city centre and the potential additional impact of the City Centre Masterplan. This has the need to reduce traffic in the city centre which in turn requires greater numbers of people to arrive in the city centre by bus. To achieve this, bus priority measures on the radials are thought to be essential to make bus travel more attractive to people. No intervention in the city centre will lead to increasing levels of traffic forcing greater congestion and failure to achieve masterplan outcomes.

Discussion centred on the scale of the issue and the need to make sure that the message of the need to implement changes were fully discussed and understood across all stakeholders and residents. As a first step towards achieving this, it was agreed that there should be a presentation to all Members across the City and the Shire highlighting the issues discussed. Nestrans staff are in discussion with Council colleagues about finding suitable dates to achieve this.

❖ **Abellio seminar, Aberdeen, 23 February 2015**

This event is discussed under item 5a Rail Matters

❖ **National Connectivity Task Force, London, 25 February 2015 and 16 March 2015**

These meetings are discussed in Item 4b National Connectivity Task Force

❖ **LABOF Steering Group, Aberdeen, 26 February 2015**

The minutes of this meeting are not yet available, but will be presented to a future meeting.

❖ **Transport Scotland re Laurencekirk junctions, Dundee, 3 March 2015**

This meeting was held to discuss and review the Consultants report and the public consultation event held recently in the village. The meeting was attended by Transport Scotland, Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council, Tactran and Angus Council. It was agreed that the consultation was a very successful exercise which had been well attended.

It was thought that there probably needed to be a bringing together of all the important decision making pieces of information, including the public views, as the consultants report had provided a very large amount of background information. Nestrans has agreed to distil down the report into a short summary of essential information to inform decision making. This is underway.

❖ **RTP Chairs meeting, Orkney, 4 March 2015**

This meeting was attended by Cllr Argyle and Derick Murray. The meeting discussed:

- Roads collaboration programme
 - This discussion centred around the options for governance should Councils wish to share services for Roads Maintenance. There are two issues concerning the RTPs. Firstly that the RTP model should be considered as a model for Councils should they wish to do so however there appears to be a difference of legal opinion on this which the RTPs and the Roads Collaboration Board are attempting to resolve. Secondly there is an issue of the definition of Roads Maintenance and how this could overlap into Roads Services which could include work currently shared across Councils through RTPs.
- RTP/ Scottish Government/ CoSLA Working Group paper
 - This paper has still to be endorsed by the Minister (there is of course a new Minister in place) and the Chairs were keen to organise a meeting with the Minister to progress this issue
- Active travel/ Smarter Choices
- Rail issues including:
 - HS2
 - East Coast Mainline
 - Discussion on the effort and resource the Councils/ RTPs along the line should input to the attempts to prioritise this investment.
- Bus issues including a review of the Chairs last meeting with the Confederation for Passenger Transport (CPT)
- Aviation issues

- National Connectivity Task Force
- Low Emissions strategy
 - A joint response from the RTPs was discussed
 - Climate Change duties were discussed

❖ **Aberdeen International Airport Consultative Committee, Aberdeen, 6 March 2015**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray. The meeting discussed a Chairs report on the activities of the Group, current consultations affecting the group, an overview of progress of the airport from the Managing Director, including an update on the purchase of the airport and its terminal expansion and an annual report for the group.

The meeting also heard from Derick Murray about the work of the National Connectivity Task Force.

❖ **Hydrogen bus launch event, Aberdeen, 11 March 2015**

There was a successful launch event showcasing the new hydrogen powered buses and the new hydrogen generating and fuelling facility at Kittybrewster in Aberdeen.

❖ **ACSEF public affairs workshop, Aberdeen, 17 March 2015**

Derick Murray attended this workshop which discussed how to engage better with both UK and Scottish Governments to better make the case for the north east of Scotland.

❖ **Fraserburgh/ Peterhead corridor workshops, Aberdeen and Peterhead, 30 & 31 March 2015**

These stakeholder workshops are part of the series of engagements to determine the problems, opportunities and options for improvements along this corridor. More detail is provided at item 4a.

○ **Future Programme of Meetings**

- ❖ **Transport Scotland re A9/A96 projects, Perth, 21 April 2015**
- ❖ **Transport Scotland re Stations Fund, Glasgow, 21 April 2015**
- ❖ **Transport Scotland re rail matters, Aberdeen, 27 April 2015**
- ❖ **HTAP Steering Group, Aberdeen, 6 May 2015**
- ❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Inverness, 13 May 2015**
- ❖ **RTP Chairs, Hitrans, 3 June 2015**
- ❖ **Aberdeen Airport Consultative Committee, Aberdeen, 5 June 2015**

Eddie Anderson will be attending this meeting

Recommendation

The Board is recommended to note progress on liaison arrangements with other RTPs, the Scottish Government and others and arrangements for future meetings.

RGM 23 Mar 2015