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 01 April 2015, since which the following updates are available from meetings:

❖ **Network Rail re Queen Street tunnels, Glasgow, 16 April 2015**

This meeting was attended by Cameron Baillie of Aberdeen City Council on Nestrans behalf. The meeting was held to have a preliminary consultation with the RTP's on Network Rail's emerging thinking on how to deal with the closure of the access tunnels to Glasgow Queen Street station for 20 weeks in 2016.

❖ **Transport Scotland re A9/A96 dualling projects, Perth, 21 April 2015**

Rab Dickson attended this meeting, which was to provide updates on progress in relation to the proposed dualling of the A96 and A9 trunk roads. Presentations were provided from various consultants involved in the projects. In respect of the A96 dualling, work is progressing in line with Design Manual for Roads & Bridges (DMRB) Stage 1 and is now focussed on four options and an Outline Business case is being developed.

There is an intention to conduct a second phase of public consultation meetings later in the spring.

❖ **Network Rail re Stations Fund, Glasgow, 21 April 2015**

Rab Dickson attended this meeting, which had been offered to provide an update and opportunity for further detailed discussions regarding the Scottish Stations Fund, a £30 million package in the period 2015-2019 to help delivery of new or improved stations in partnership with third party funders.

Network Rail have been in discussion with Nestrans officers and local authority partners, particularly in respect of the proposed station at Kintore and the proposed transport interchange at Inverurie. Guidance notes and a template for bids were distributed which

should help us to develop bids for partnership funding for these two schemes in the coming months.

❖ **Transport Scotland re rail matters, Aberdeen, 27 April 2015**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray and Rab Dickson. This was part of a regular update from Transport Scotland on rail issues affecting the north east.

Matters discussed included:

- Franchises:
    - o Scotrail, Sleeper & East Coast. Updates were given on the expectation of upgraded trains on all routes by 2018.
- Electrification:
    - o Transport Scotland are developing an electrification strategy to follow the electrification of the Edinburgh to Glasgow route. Current considerations are on how best to deliver the 100km of track per annum to ensure the maximum return on investment.
- Aberdeen to Inverness: An update on progress was given.
    - o Vegetation removal and surveys are underway. The Inverness end is to be reported by spring 2015 with the Aberdeen end to be reported by 2016. This includes the tunnels section at Hutcheon Street.
        - ▪ There was some discussion about the 2016 date for surveys for the Aberdeen end. This does not sit neatly with City Deal or the City Centre Masterplan implementation. Transport Scotland were asked to review this with Network Rail.
        - ▪ This fits with a Network Rail intention to complete the Inverness end construction first. The Aberdeen end is still anticipated to be completed by 2019. Again this was discussed as not being aligned to other priorities in the Aberdeen end of the line.
    - o Network Rail have appointed a community liaison officer for this project. Nestrans officers are meeting her on 11 May 2015.
    - o Some discussion took place regarding the improved services that were proposed following completion of phase 1 in 2019 and phase 2 in 2024. These timetables are required to help Nestrans' consideration of future stations. Transport Scotland are to consider these issues more fully.
    - o There was also some discussion on the potential need for a temporary timetable during the course of construction works. This is being looked at by Network Rail.
- Aberdeen to central belt.
    - o The further timetabling works that Network Rail needed to do are due to be reported to Transport Scotland by the end of April. Following consideration, Transport Scotland will discuss further with Nestrans.
- Overcrowding/ Service Enhancements/ Timetabling
    - o There was some discussion on the benefits that have been gained from the incremental timetabling improvements that have been achieved and the need to keep up this progress in advance of completion of the Aberdeen to Inverness upgrading.
- Station issues.
    - o Kintore station and potential funding proposals and timing were discussed.
    - o The upgrade to Aberdeen station and the benefits of the Abellio proposal for a bike hire scheme were discussed
    - o Dyce station was discussed with the possibility of change in Local Plan designation to permit an extended car park to be constructed included.

Nestrans have received a feasibility study as back up information for the Local Plan change and will pass this on to Transport Scotland.

- o Insch station was discussed. The current Transport Scotland position is that due to land purchase difficulties and an oversubscribed DDA fund they are not pursuing this just now. Nestrans re-iterated that the platform extension proposal as part of the Aberdeen to Inverness scheme made this the most opportune time for upgrading access. Discussion also took in the possibility of using the Scottish Stations Fund to help fund the upgrade. Transport Scotland undertook to consider options further.
- o Stonehaven station was discussed with the possibility that Nestrans may wish to consider parking options for improvements at this station in the future.
- o Inverurie station interchange proposals were discussed along with Network Rail's proposals for temporary use of the freight yards.
- o The possibility of new stations when a local service could be implemented was reiterated.
- Nestrans asked Transport Scotland whether they would be willing to attend an officers transport workshop that is being organised to discuss technical details in relation to any City Deal projects. Transport Scotland agreed to attend.
- Nestrans passed on some information in respect to population growth in the north east compared to growth in other Scottish City Regions covering the period from 1971 (representing pre-oil) to 2011. This is attached as Appendix A.

The meeting concluded but Rab Dickson joined the Transport Scotland officers in a tour of stations in the local area, taking in Dyce and Inverurie and the proposed site at Kintore.

❖ **HTAP Steering Group, Aberdeen, 6 May 2015**

The minute of the HTAP Steering Group held on 6th May at Summerfield House is attached as Appendix B to this report.

❖ **Network Rail re Aberdeen to Inverness, Aberdeen, 11 May 2015**

This meeting was held to discuss Network Rail's proposals for upgrading the Aberdeen to Inverness rail line. This is discussed further at Item 4a.

❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Perth, 13 May 2015**

The RTP Lead Officers met and discussed:

- Engagement with the TEN-T co-ordinator for Scotland
- There was a discussion with the Seven Cities Alliance. The Alliance are considering their role in the infrastructure/ transport field.
- Roads collaboration programme. The RTP Legal Officers meeting with the Improvement Service was discussed along with a paper that has been substantially agreed. That paper, which provides a model for RTP's to provide assistance to Local Authorities, has been submitted to the Roads Collaboration Board for consideration. The model is attached as Appendix C.
- Updates were discussed regarding Cycling, bus, ferry and ECMA
- ERDF funding of smart ticketing initiatives was discussed.
- The RTP's have produced a collective response to the consultation on Climate Change Reporting Duties. The principal point made by the RTP's is that the

reporting regime should be flexible enough to ensure proportionality in reporting to the size of the organisations.

- Nestrans legal advice on Members input to Planning Applications
- RTP's as statutory consultees in the Planning process

❖ **RTP Chairs, Edinburgh, 3 June 2015**

The RTP Chairs met and discussed the following:

- A presentation was given by Phil Verster, MD Abellio/ Network Rail Scotrail Alliance. The presentation included Mr Versters view of growth in the rail industry and how this could be accomplished. The presentation was followed by a general discussion on rail issues across Scotland and an agreement to keep a regular contact.
- Roads collaboration programme. The Chairs discussed the RTP legal advice (generally from Local Authority lawyers) that there was a way in which RTP's could be of assistance to Local Authorities in sharing services. A model for how this could be achieved, should Local Authorities wish to use it, is attached as Appendix C. The Chairs agreed that this paper should be sent to each Local Authority Chief Executive for their information.
- The Chairs discussed the agenda for their meeting with the Minister on 11 June 2015.
- Active travel update
- East Coast Main Line Association update. Derick Murray is to sit on the Communications and Economy sub group.
- Bus update
- The Nestrans legal advice to Members was discussed.

The Chairs will receive a briefing on the TEN-T proposals at their next meeting in September.

❖ **Aberdeen Airport Consultative Committee, Aberdeen, 5 June 2015**

Eddie Anderson will be attending this meeting

❖ **RTP Chairs meeting with the Minister, Edinburgh, 11 June 2015**

It is anticipated that this meeting will include a short presentation to the new Transport Minister on the RTP's current proposals for future improvements. This will include a discussion on the RTP/ SG/ CoSLA working paper that the Board has previously discussed. Concentration will be on how this, and the RTP's Regional Transport Strategies, can assist the Minister in the development of the National Transport Strategy refresh which was announced in April this year.

There is a general view across the RTP's that when the last National Transport Strategy was completed the RTP's and their strategies were in their infancy. The Ministers approved RTS's and the relationships between the RTP's and Transport Scotland that have been built up should provide a better condition for refreshing the strategy than that which existed when the strategy was originally produced.

Nestrans has refreshed its strategy recently. A number of other RTP's are in the process of refreshing their strategies with some at the stage of either waiting on Minister approval or about to submit for Minister approval. Transport Scotland are currently considering

how to deal with these approval requests given the National Transport Strategy refresh announcement.
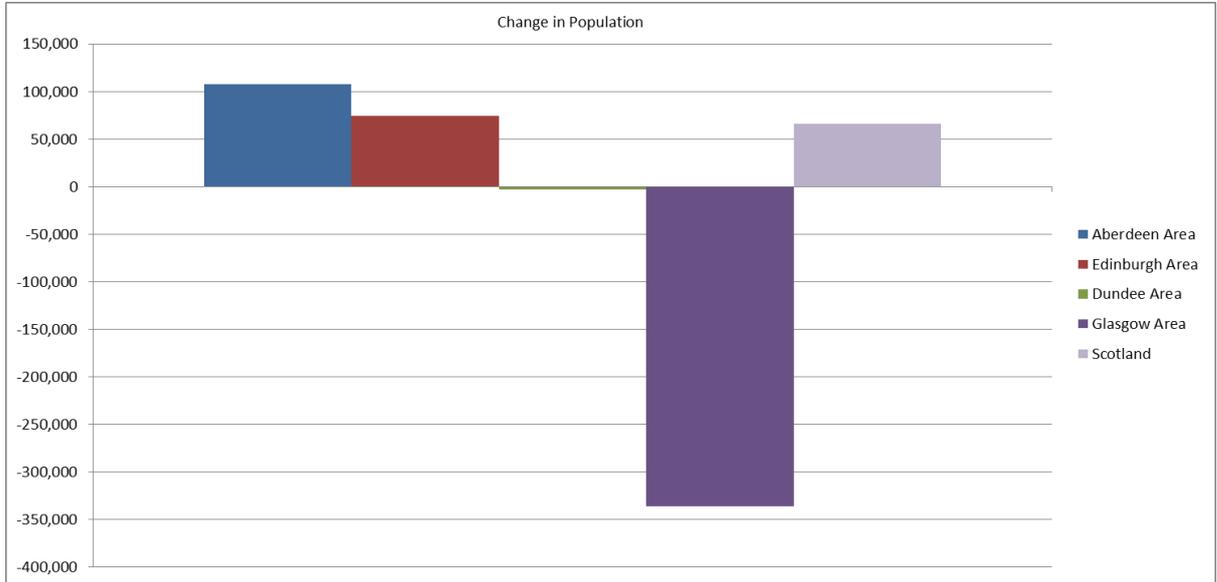
o **Future Programme of Meetings**

- ❖ **Aberdeenshire Councillors RTS briefing, Aberdeen, 18 June 2015**

- ❖ **LABOF Steering Group, Glasgow, 02 July 2015**

- ❖ **Transport Scotland re rail matters, Glasgow, 04 August 2015**

- ❖ **HTAP Steering Group, Aberdeen, 11 August 2015**

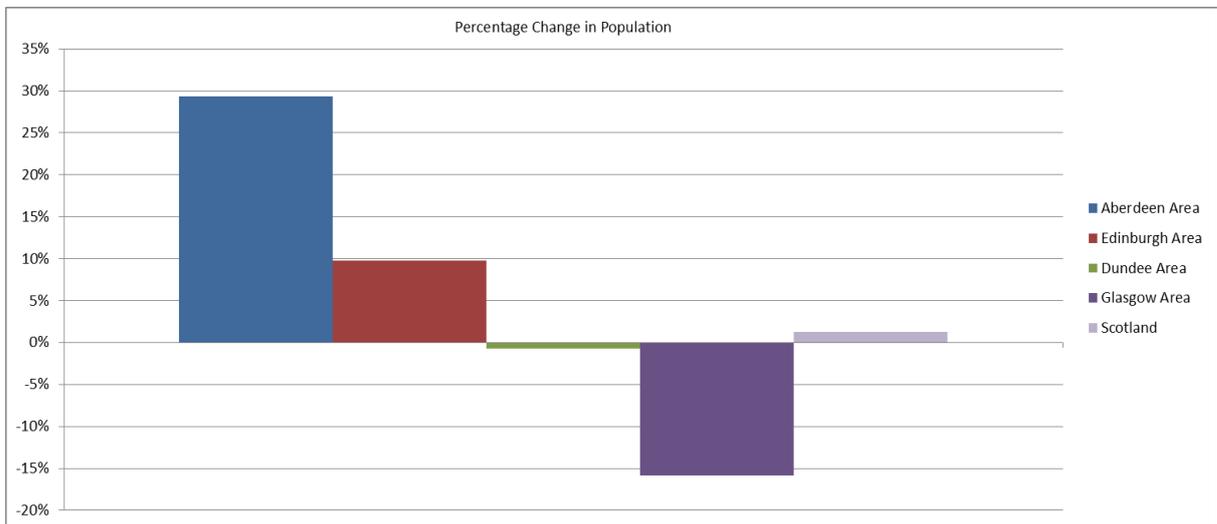- ❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Inverness, 19 August 2015**

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 8 June 2015

Change in population 1971 – 2011 in numbers

Change in population 1971 – 2011 as a percentage

HTAP Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday 6th May 2015
Seminar Room, NHSG, Summerfield House, Eday Road, Aberdeen

Present:
Gerry Donald; NHS Grampian; (Chair)
Derick Murray; Nestrans (Vice Chair)
Joanna Murray; Aberdeen City Council
Ewan Wallace, Aberdeenshire Council
Pat Douglass, Moray Council
Christine Boylan, Patient/Public Representative
Ken Mitchell; Scottish Ambulance Service (by telephone)
Rab Dickson; Nestrans
Andrew Stewart; HTAP Programme Manager
Apologies:
Maggie Bochel; Aberdeen City Council
Caroline Comerford, NHSG
Adam Coldwells, Integrated Health & Social Care Partnership (Aberdeenshire)

Minutes of Meeting

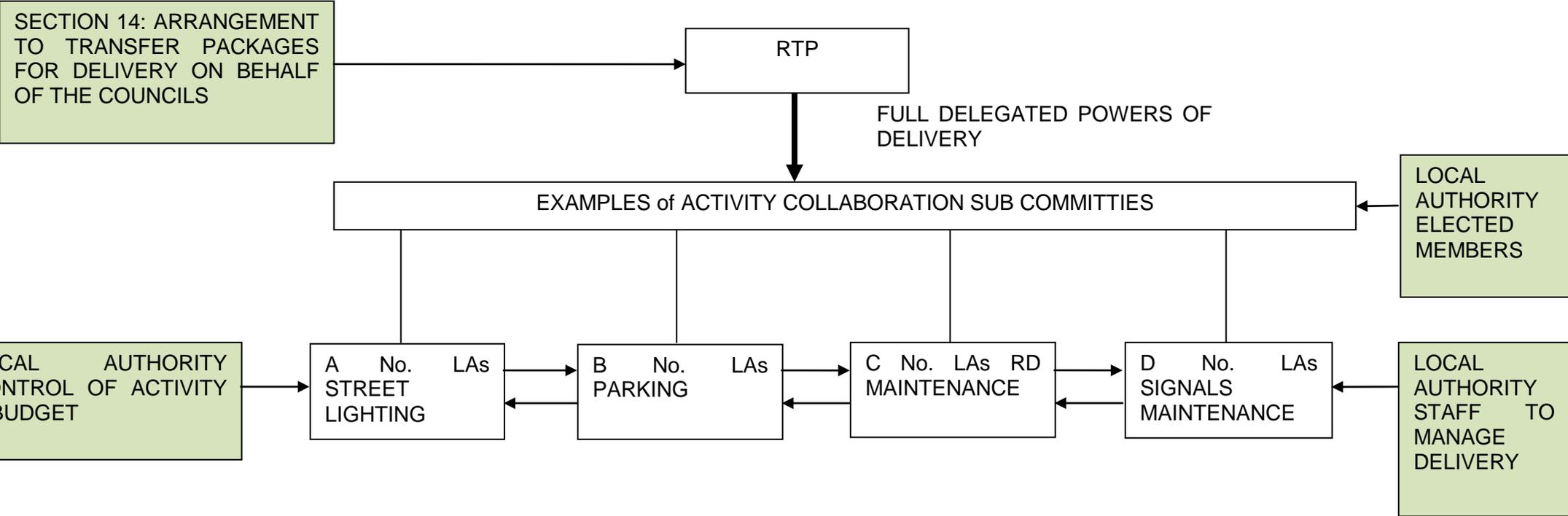| Item	Note	Action
1 Welcome & Apologies	GD welcomed all and noted apologies	
2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The Minute of the meeting of 9th February was accepted as accurate.	
3 Matters Arising	a) Membership list has been circulated with substitutes listed if available. CB happy to not have a substitute. Any comments to Andrew. b) List of contacts for transport, planning and health. CC developing this. c) EW updated meeting on roll out of improved broadband. Superfast broadband being rolled out across rural communities later in 2015 and will monitor progress. d) The Annual Report is scheduled to go before Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnerships. After this it would go to council committees via a bulletin. RD asked about putting report into the public domain. It was agreed that once it is confirmed when the report will go to the CPP Boards a press release could be issued. **ACTION:** AS to confirm to RD once the CPP dates are confirmed. e) Aberdeenshire Council have issued a letter to partners regarding the funding for THInC. KM confirmed to the meeting that the SAS position is that they are not able to offer funding towards the project, although, wishing to work in tandem. GD explained SAS had previously confirmed this via a letter. Approximately £1000 per partner will be added to each contribution. This was agreed by the meeting. **ACTION:** A revised letter and invoice will be issued by Aberdeenshire Council. f) Evidence of slips and falls in relation to gritting was inconclusive.	AS EW

4.Transport & Public Health Sub-Group	RD updated on behalf of CC. There has been one meeting, on 31st March, since the last Steering Group. The minute has been circulated with the papers. RD also advised the meeting that the review of GetAbout concluded that a management group drawn from local authorities, NHSG and Nestrans to direct GetAbout activities will be formed. RD drew attention to the increased workloads on local authorities created by Smarter Choices Smarter Places funding but noted the additional funding is positive. Aberdeenshire Council are focusing on five integrated travel towns, Aberdeen City Council will focus on business travel and Moray Council are focusing on schools, walking groups, mapping exercises and promoting bikes on buses. JM highlighted the three authorities agreed a single monitoring approach led by Aberdeenshire. RD highlighted the positive linkages that are being developed through the meetings. RD also highlighted the links with the two Local Development Plans that are out for consultation. GD pointed out John Gill in his team is also the contact for Moray LDP. A mapping exercise is being developed by the sub-group to collate work related to promoting active travel, air and noise quality improvement and road safety and will seek to identify opportunities for future improvement, collaboration and efficiencies. GD asked that the two work plans be combined into one overall work plan with a Gant chart and red/amber/green indicators. **ACTION: AS to merge work plans.** DM raised the issue of pieces of work that seem related but are not specifically in the work plan. RD and JM explained that some pieces of work are not led by HTAP but are often related. For example, the review of GetAbout. EW pointed to the mapping exercise and a view that in time the actions of partners dovetail and the work plan in later versions might reflect this coming together. GD asked for an update on City Deal. DM briefed the meeting. GD asked SAS about feeding into Local Development Plans and Structure Plans. KM said that SAS are not directly feeding into this and finding out about issues too late in the process. GD offered to support SAS being a local voice on these issues. KM highlighted challenges of relocating services to non-hospital settings and matching this to SAS services. The Road Casualty Reduction Strategy was discussed. EW explained there is a positive dynamic around partners working together on the collaborative approach highlighted in the draft. Simon Hilton (Consultant) is the NHSG contributor to the RCRS adding value to the partnership	AS
5.Access to Health & Social Care Sub-Group	RD updated the meeting on the work of the sub-group. Two meetings have taken place (4th March and 23rd April). Membership is expanding. The NHSG Travel Plan Framework is in place and Estates are seeking funding for a Travel Plan Co-ordinator to deliver the plan. The sub-group have considered the evaluation of the Volunteer Transport Awards and Recruitment Drive. The decision was to run the awards every two years under the HTAP banner. RD made reference to the questions CB raised about declined bookings, cancellations by providers. On THInC it was confirmed that there is now a full time call	

	handler in post. AS highlighted the ACVO funding proposal re: providing funding for extra vehicles to THInC. GD urged caution because it is one off funding. DM mentioned the press coverage on NHSG taxi spend. **ACTION: GD will come back to group on the issue of NHSG taxi spend.** Adam Coldwells has been approached regarding the issue of audit/mapping of spend on transport for health and social care. A meeting is being sought. AS informed the meeting that the Knowledge Exchange between THInC and dot.rural is being progressed. The dot.rural project will end in November. DM said links should be maintained with Aberdeen University.	GD
6.Annual Report	See Matters Arising.	
7. Programme Manager Update	HTAP Programme Manager attended a Transport Scotland summit on accessible travel. Access to health and other services were highlighted by those in attendance.	
8.AOCB	JM proposed that HTAP papers and reports be stored in a shared location. EW will forward information on "Knowledge Hub" to AS. **ACTION:** AS to set up resource for all documents. DM raised the need for there to be a road map showing the long term plan. **ACTION:** Access to Health & Social Care Sub-Group to draft a long term road map. GD raised the new SPT developed Traveline app for travel to hospitals. Grampian and Highland and Islands combined. GD keen the app includes community hospitals and GP practices if possible. **ACTION:** DM to take this up with Traveline Scotland. EW advised meeting that Aberdeenshire Council are finalising contracts for all school and client transport. This includes maintaining Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)	AS RD DM
9.Dates of future meetings	Tues 11 August – 10-12 Room One Marischal College, ACC. Tues 10 Nov – 10.30-12.30 Room One at the Moray Council Annexe, High St, Elgin.	

Minute by AS, HTAP Programme Manager, 12/05/15

ALREADY ESTABLISHED LEGAL MECHANISM FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO COLLABORATE IN SELECTED ACTIVITIES

"14   Arrangements for performance by regional Transport Partnership of certain transport functions etc.
A Transport Partnership may enter into arrangements with the Scottish Ministers, a council or any other person having statutory functions relating to transport being arrangements
under which the Partnership—
(a) does, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, the council or that other person, such things relating to transport as are specified in the arrangements;
(b) provides such services for the purposes of, or in connection with, transport as are so specified." – Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp12)

SECTION 14: ARRANGEMENT TO TRANSFER PACKAGES FOR DELIVERY ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCILS	→ RTP

FULL DELEGATED POWERS OF DELIVERY

EXAMPLES of ACTIVITY COLLABORATION SUB COMMITTIES ← LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTED MEMBERS

LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTROL OF ACTIVITY & BUDGET →

A No. LAs STREET LIGHTING → B No. LAs PARKING → C No. LAs RD MAINTENANCE → D No. LAs SIGNALS MAINTENANCE ← LOCAL AUTHORITY STAFF TO MANAGE DELIVERY

(1) Democratic accountability stays with LAs concerned
(2) Control of Budget stays with LAs concerned
(3) Best qualified staff delivering service continue to do so (no TUPE)
(4) No new legal entity and therefore no external legal fees
(5) Does not diminish or enhance the role of RTP (facilitator)
(6) No additional layers of governance required within the already complex transport environment and future governance consistency