

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 9 October 2015, since which the following updates are available from meetings:

❖ Ministerial Active Travel Summit, Inverness, 14 October 2015

Derick Murray attended this event. There were various presentations on the development of good practice in active travel across Scotland with the Minister keen to highlight the importance that the Government was placing on this aspect of policy.

❖ HS2, Aberdeen, 16 October 2015

Whilst HS2 Ltd were attending the SNP Conference in Aberdeen, they offered the High Speed Rail (HSR) Scotland group a meeting to update on current progress and to discuss the work of HSR Scotland Group.

The meeting was attended by Alex MacAuley, Director of Sustran & Chair of HSR Scotland, Chris Dey of Edinburgh City Council and Derick Murray.

The meeting was given an update on the progress of HS2 in taking forward the sections between London and Manchester/ Leeds. It was noted that Ministers in both Scotland and England had requested further work on a report on the section to Central Scotland. It was anticipated that there may be a possibility of a completed report in February 2016 with the possibility of an announcement from Ministers before the purdah period for the Scottish elections.

❖ A9/A96 Dualling Meeting Transport Scotland with Local Authorities/RTPs

This meeting was cancelled by Transport Scotland and future meetings are likely to be specific to individual route upgrades.

❖ **Laurencekirk junctions, Dundee, 27 October 2015**

Derick Murray attended this meeting along with Stephen Archer and Ewan Wallace of Aberdeenshire Council. Also in attendance were Angus Council and Transport Scotland.

Discussion centred on the output from the Nestrans study, the implications for development in south Aberdeenshire and north Angus, the relationship between development in north Angus and Aberdeen and potential further improvements in the Angus area.

❖ **ACSEF Parliamentary reception re Aberdeen City Region Deal, Edinburgh, 27 October 2015; Aberdeen City Region Deal, Aberdeen 26 October 2015 & Glasgow 18 November 2015**

Derick Murray attended this (27 October) meeting which was held to update MSP's on progress with the City Region Deal negotiations.

Around this meeting there has been a number of meetings between the City Region Deal Team and Transport Scotland. Nestrans continues to provide support to Council colleagues in developing the transport elements of the deal.

❖ **Cross Party Group on Aviation, Edinburgh, 27 October 2015**

This meeting was cancelled.

❖ **National Transport Strategy refresh stakeholders event, Edinburgh, 29 October, 2015**

Rab Dickson attended this event at which the Minister for Transport, Derek Mackay, outlined his proposals for a refresh of the National Transport Strategy to take place before Christmas 2015. Consideration will be given to a full review in the next Parliament.

The Minister emphasised the role of Community Planning Partnerships in agreeing local priorities for transport and ensuring delivery and the potential for Integrated and Smart Ticketing to revolutionise travel.

❖ **Planning workshop re transport infrastructure, Edinburgh, 4 November 2015**

Derick Murray attended this event. This was one of a series of workshops held by Scottish Government as part of the review into the planning process (note: not part of the wider Planning Review panel). Its purpose was to discuss ways of trying to relate planning decisions to the infrastructure needed to permit development, in this case transport infrastructure.

The workshop discussed issues relating to timescale, funding for infrastructure, the complexity of transport issues compared to say water or education provision. Also discussed was the relationship between the RTP's and the planning process. The north east's strategic transport fund was part of the discussion.

❖ **ICE State of the Nation report launch, Edinburgh, 4 November 2015**

Derick Murray attended this launch event. The Institution of Civil Engineers have published their State of the Nation report. The event included an address by the Minister for Transport and the Islands. The report can be found at:

<https://www.ice.org.uk/media-and-policy/policy/state-of-the-nation-scotland-infrastructure-2015>

The report has included a section recommending that the rail network north of the central belt should be upgraded.

❖ **LABOF Steering Group meeting, Aberdeen, 5 November 2015**

This meeting was attended by Jennifer Anderson. A Draft minute of the meeting is attached as Appendix A to this report.

❖ **HTAP Steering Group meeting, Elgin, 10 November 2015**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray. Anthony Robertson was introduced to the group. Anthony will cover for the HTAP Co-ordinator during a period of illness.

The draft Minutes are attached as Appendix B to this report.

❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Perth, 11 November 2015**

Derick Murray attended this meeting.

The meeting had four presentations/ discussions on:

- ❖ Community Empowerment Act by Jean Waddie of Scottish Government
 - This topic is discussed in further detail at item 3c
- ❖ Active travel by Neil Langhorn of Transport Scotland
 - Scottish Government are keen to develop more cycling opportunities in urban areas to help meet the 10% of trips target.
 - They are working on improving active travel through infrastructure (national walking and cycling network), transport integration (linking walking/ cycling to public transport), behaviour change, planning (networks through the planning process) and active travel hubs. They are keen to see active travel reflected in Strategic and Local Development Plans.
 - They are keen to see Active Travel Strategies which will identify “gaps”
 - These can be regional or local
 - Getabout was mentioned as a good example of a behaviour change campaign
 - Personal travel planning was cited as very effective although noted as very expensive. (*Some of this was tried at the new Aker building in Dyce through Getabout and appears to have been well received*)
 - They were keen to make the link between active travel and health through community planning. (*We have this through our Health and Transport Steering Group whose plans are approved by the Community Planning Partnerships in the NHS Grampian area*)
 - The current Cycling Action Plan v3 consultation was noted.

- Also noted was the now approved ERDF themes of
 - Smart ticketing
 - Low carbon (alternative fuels)
 - Active travel hubs

This is likely to be open to a challenge fund process which would be open to RTP's.

- ❖ Low emissions zone framework development by Drew Hill of Scottish Government
 - Noted that the Government have produced "Cleaner Air for Scotland". This is discussed in more detail at item 8.
- ❖ ScotRail Stakeholder Engagement
 - ScotRail undertook to investigate why timetabling conferences no longer took place

The meeting also discussed:

- An update from the bus stakeholders group
- NTS refresh progress
- Disability issues
- Rail progress
 - The progress of the East Coast Mainline Authorities was discussed
- Scottish Roadworks Commissioner review
- Passenger Focus
- Roads collaboration
- RTP's and Planning
- Legal advice

❖ **HTAP Special Meeting on Telehealth**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray and Rab Dickson, and by Gerry Donald. A presentation was given by Dr Jamie Hogg, Clinical Lead for Modernisation at NHS Grampian, on the opportunities being provided by technological advancements in improving healthcare, but also providing better solutions reducing the need for travel. Examples were given whereby patients can get diagnoses by Skype or Facetime, and Digital Interface pilots are reducing the need for unnecessary journeys, helping to minimise transport needs and costs whilst improving effectiveness of treatments.

❖ **Chamber of Commerce Transport Network, Aberdeen, 26 November 2015**

Rab Dickson is attending this meeting. This is the latest in the Chamber's regular update meetings for members on issues relating to transport in the region. Nestrans provide an update on strategic transport projects and respond to members' questions and considerations.

❖ **RTP Chairs, Glasgow, 2 December 2015**

Cllr Ramsay Milne and Derick Murray are attending this meeting. A verbal update will be available for the Board meeting.

Included in this meeting will be a Chairs meeting with the Minister for Transport and Islands.

Likely items on the agenda will be:

- Legal advice to Board Members
- National Transport Strategy refresh
- Active travel/ Behaviour change
- Rail
- Bus
- CoSLA liaison
- Roads collaboration
- Health and Transport

❖ **Aberdeen International Airport Consultative Committee, Aberdeen, 4 December 2015**

This meeting has been postponed until 5 February 2016.

❖ **A96 Dualling Impact on Non-Motorised Users Meeting, Inverness 9 December 2015**

This meeting will be attended by Kathryn Mackay.

o **Travel Planning Executive**

Don Kent, Nestrans' Travel Planning Executive has retired after five years with the Partnership. Following discussions with Aberdeenshire's Personnel Team, the job description is being updated and revised to reflect the objectives for Getabout and will be advertised in the normal manner shortly.

o **Future Programme of Meetings**

❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Inverness, 10 February 2015**

❖ **High Speed Rail Scotland Group, Glasgow, 15 February 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.

RD/RGM 23 November 2015

LABOF Steering Group

**Nestrans Board Room
29 King Street
Aberdeen**

Thursday 5 November 2015 at 10am

Note of Discussions and Actions

Present: Ewan Wallace, Aberdeenshire Council, Chair (EW)
Steve Walker, Stagecoach (SW)
David Philips, First Aberdeen (DP)
Chris Cormack, Aberdeen City Council (CC)
Hugh Murdoch, Aberdeen City Council (HM)
Richard McKenzie, Aberdeenshire Council (RMcK)
Shirley Bowie (note taker) (SB)
Jenny Anderson, Nestrans (JA)

Apologies: Derick Murray, Nestrans
Rab Dickson, Nestrans

EW welcomed all to his second meeting in the Chair.

Item	Action
1	
Note and Actions from 27 August	
Note agreed as accurate.	
SW and DP have not met with DM re Trunk Road Issues. EW to discuss further with BEAR and also contact Roy Brannan, the new Transport Scotland Chief Executive.	EW
Local Strategies – City LTS, HM is intending reporting to Committee in March. DP asked if any further feedback will be given from previous drafts.	HM
HM to report to Nestrans Board re Wellington Road.	HM
SW meeting Hitrans next week on SQP. Will circulate report following the meeting.	SW
RD to review targets and to be discussed at Executive Group. EW to discuss with RD.	EW/RD
Bus Passenger Surveys have not been done, review to be completed by the end of year.	

Barriers to bus use survey– DP, SW and RD keen to move forward.

EW updated colleagues re Veteran Fares.

AWPR information circulated to group and connections made.

2 A90/A96 Haudagain Improvement

Letter from TS circulated to group.

Concerns raised and discussed re the conflicting information in the letter compared to the National Transport Strategy.

It will be January/February 2016 before it is known if funding is available and when the work will commence.

3 Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan

DP highlighted the modal shift approach used by Oxford.

Locking in Benefits – Officers Representing the Local Authorities on the group. Joanna Murray is collating the information and it is hoped to bring in representatives from Operators in March.

City Region Deal has high level project themes, including Cross City Schemes. Will not be known if bid is successful until Spring 2016.

Road closure in Broad Street and Schoolhill highlighted.

4 Foresterhill Site/New Car Park

Site will be branded as transport hub not car park.

Access in and out of site for buses can be difficult at the moment.

It was highlighted that information was not readily available for patients/visitors in ARI. RD to bring up at HTAP next week. HM/CC to highlight to Facilities at next site meeting.

**RD
HM/CC**

NHS have agreed to pay for a refresh of information leaflets, but internal signs not done.

NHS have appointed a Travel Plan Coordinator.

5 **80 Jet Connect Service**

The new timetables are in place. It is hoped that Scotrail will be erecting signs in the near future advising of the service.

SW met with representatives from Aberdeen Airport. Aberdeen Airport are considering changes to access. JA to discuss with DM and RD and request this be brought up at the next meeting with Aberdeen Airport.

**JA/DM/
RD**

6 **Kingswells Park and Ride**

Funding needs to be spent this financial year. CC is confident that the work will be carried out.

7 **Strategic Officer Liaison Group**

Useful to have awareness of Nestrans Board papers.

8 **NTS Refresh**

EW explained that he is a representative on stakeholder group. The NTS Refresh is to be written by Christmas and presented to COSLA Leaders for initial views.

9 **Member request to attend LABOF**

A request for attendance at a LABOF meeting had been received from Councillor Ross Grant.

The group agreed for attendance at a future meeting and offer the same opportunity to Aberdeenshire Councillor to attend. EW to contact Councillor Ross Grant and Chair of ISC.

EW

10 **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 9 February 2016, Stagecoach Depot, Guild St, Aberdeen, AB11 6NA at 10am.

Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group Meeting The Annex, Moray Council, High Street, Elgin Tuesday 10 November 2015

Present: Gerry Donald, NHS Grampian (Chair)
Derick Murray, Nestrans (Vice Chair)
Nicola Moss, The Moray Council
Joanna Murray, Aberdeen City Council
Mark Skilling, Aberdeenshire Council
Caroline Comerford, NHS Grampian (via videoconference)
Euan Esslemont, Scottish Ambulance Service
John McCulloch, Scottish Ambulance Service,
John Gallagher, Scottish Ambulance Service
Anthony Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council
Claire Archibald (Minutes taker), The Moray Council

Apologies: Christine Boylan – can no longer participate in the group.
Rab Dickson, Nestrans
Ewan Wallace, Aberdeenshire Council
Adam Coldwells, Health and Social Care Partnership, Aberdeenshire
Joyce Duncan, Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)
Andrew Stewart, HTAP Programme Manager

Item	Action
<p>1 Welcome and Apologies The Chair welcomed Euan Esslemont and Anthony Robertson, who will be providing support to the group on a part-time basis in Andrew Stewart's absence.</p>	
<p>2 Minutes of Meeting held on 11 August 2015 Agreed as accurate. Thanks to Shirley Bowie.</p>	
<p>3 Matters Arising</p>	
<p>3.1 HTAP Annual Report, Moray Update Annual report went to Community Planning partners and Community and Sustainability Partnership group. Report noted by group, although there was an observation about length.</p> <p>Discussion over resignation of Christine Boylan. She was a carer and brought positivity to the steering group and also acted as a public face to HTAP. GD stated that her resignation was challenged initially, but she had a personal commitments. She had commended the group and hoped it would continue. Resignation regrettably accepted. This does leave a gap for someone else to join the group however.</p> <p>Previously, Andrew Stewart had been looking through the NHS public forums to identify candidates to invite onto the steering group and engaging in informal discussion with them.</p> <p>GD keen to continue with this involvement.</p>	

NM stated that the chair of the Moray Community and Sustainability group is Anita Milne. Remit as a group is very much that it runs in parallel in terms of access to health and social care/community transport. GD asked NM to speak to Anita and invite her to apply to join HTAP Steering Group. **NM**

There may be other people the group wants to consider, not local authority but with a deep interest in this and leading work in Moray. Anita to be included in this process.

It would be good to have a service user too and also see things from a patient's perspective.

Discussion around linking with patient groups. Felt there was a gap and that there was room for representation in the shape of a member of one of the community planning partners, single users, or people who are community champions.

The group currently has the professional expertise, but not the public voice.

Perhaps the group needs to develop a process to go through community forums of NHS Grampian and find suitable people. Discuss with potential candidates to understand their interests, why they would be interested. **AR**

3.2 Linkage of Physical Activity of Young People and Mapping Exercise Progress

CC to address in update from Transport & Public Health sub-group **CC**

3.3 Taxi Expenditure

A meeting was set up but was subsequently cancelled. To be rescheduled. Carry forward for update at next meeting

3.4 Meeting with Professor Nelson

In progress – date not yet set **DM**

3.5 Thinc – Dot Rural software

Software has progressed a lot and Aberdeenshire Council's Public Transport Unit (PTU) are keen to use it. Software is based on Java, however. Aberdeenshire's Information & Communications Technology (ICT) department do not support Java. In the process of getting a quote from University of Aberdeen to provide this support. Not in place yet.

3.6 Road Map

The aim is to map out plans step by step, giving the group a better view of what it is doing against where it wants to be and how far along the route it is to achieving this. Deferred until next meeting. JM to feed back to RD. **JM**

3.7 Traveline Scotland including NHS premises, update on financial and timelines.

The idea with this is that every NHS place of business would be added to Traveline Scotland, allowing patients to type in the postcode, find their place of appointment and options for getting there via public transport. Many major hospitals are already on the system, however the aim is to now get smaller facilities such as GPs and clinics added too. All Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) are keen on this. Transport Scotland extending funding to all RTPs to facilitate this. (£40k for whole of Scotland). Expected to be in

place by end of current financial year.

Some discussion about hospitals in Grampian appearing under Highland region – this needs to be amended. It was also raised that, once Traveline is updated, the group would need to consider how to publicise this. Overall extremely positive however and the group looks forward to hearing more.

3.8 European Mobility Week (16-22 Sept 2015) Update

Overall this was a very successful week, with a range of events taking place in schools and parks throughout Aberdeen. Particularly successful was In Town Without My Car Day (20 Sept). A number of city centre streets were closed to motor vehicles and the space given to fun events or those promoting sustainability.

Attendees included the NHS, Waste Aware, First Aberdeen (with a hydrogen bus), Co-Wheels (with a range of car club vehicles including electric cars), Aberdeen Cycle Forum and Home Energy Scotland. In all over 2000 people visited the event. It has now become so successful that Aberdeen City Council are considering transferring responsibility for organising it away from transport planners and to its events team.

A key lesson learned from this is that the idea of a “fun day” seems to draw people in a lot more successfully than a specific theme (eg environment, transport etc). This was illustrated by the water slide, which required tickets to be allocated in advance - these were allocated within two hours. Discussion in Transport and Public Health sub group about how to better measure these events.

4 Transport and Public Health Sub-group – Workplan

CC reported that since last meeting the sub group has met and progressed the workplan. Acknowledged that some actions are behind timescales, but progress being made. At this point they have completed the mapping exercise and will be sending to sub group along with evidence review, looking at activity in place.

The group is next due to meet on 19 November 2015 at Nestrans office (King Street, Aberdeen), where they will look through the mapping exercise. AR’s support welcomed, and invited to this meeting.

Wider validation exercise is the next step. CC to send on to Steering Group once sub group have had a chance to look at combined information.

The evidence base is that of young people and the population generally. The work of this group feeds into the wider strategic discussion going on in the field of public health around healthy eating and activity. There is a need to look at transport and public health with long term vision.

NM made a general observation in that she is not clear on what the group are doing to achieve strategic objectives, what’s going well and not so well. Asked if there was a way the steering group could help working group members address that. Could RAG (Red, Amber, Green) reports be made available to steering group members in advance of meetings?

CC/RD

CC Welcomes views from steering group. States that this is a huge area of work, multi-faceted, with public health and local authorities interconnected.

The quality of partnership work is significant and it was acknowledged that it is hard to get people round a table talking candidly and transparently with a collective aim and a common agenda. The group's work plan does bring together key partners which is very positive. There is real potential for this work to make a difference.

The challenge, however, is significant. Behaviour change is critical. Scottish Public Health Network announced the National Obesity Policy in 2010, but 5 years on, little has changed.

Discussed was how in the past, reviews at steering group level resulted in the decision to have two workstreams, and hence the two sub-groups. At the next meeting, the steering group should revisit the work plans of both groups and check their status – a “where are we” session.

DM to check against work plans.

Programme manager's report not on agenda as he is not here. Previously Andrew would have formulated and circulated papers to the group. Acknowledged that it is a challenge without him.

It was noted that Andrew had been saving previous notes and meeting minutes to the Knowledge Hub. The information on here will no longer be up to date however. JM to send AR a link.

JM/AR

5 Access to Health and Social Care sub-group

5.1 Report from recent sub-group meeting on 30 October 2015 tabled



access_to_healthcare_update_november

5.2 Audit Scotland report, data and baseline information

RD and JG met with AC to discuss ways of actioning 2009-10 Audit Scotland Health and Social Care report. There was recognition of what has been done, such as integration and knowledge sharing which have achieved great efficiencies. Organisations did not know what they were spending however and the landscape has changed since that report. It was suggested a benchmark is established, based on work done so far, although also acknowledged that this is a laborious exercise. GD confirmed they were looking for an update.

A particular issue raised was taxi expenditure, and how it is difficult to collate information on taxi costs. The NHS financial system has a code under which taxis are charged, but this code does not break journeys down between staff / patients / samples etc.

This has been raised with the Technical Accounting Group within the NHS, though it currently has not been flagged up by other RTPs.

Suggestion that Audit Scotland take this up more centrally as it appears to be an issue with the NHS financial system. DM to check with other RTPs.

DM

5.3 Thinc

Safe and Legal minibus training session was held recently at Woodhill House

(Aberdeenshire Council). This was overall a successful event, with positive feedback received and a higher attendance than expected (17 attendees when 10 were expected at the all day event)

DM described issues around the use of volunteer drivers, and the balance between bringing them into the system but without making them feel pressurised to do things. Volunteering is an altruistic act and volunteers should not be regarded as employees. There is awareness that the group is there to work with volunteers and that there are benefits for the volunteers such as help with registration paperwork, etc.

Acknowledged that there are some communication issues. Group must work to maintain communication, and is doing so through Thinc and the Community Planning process.

Volunteer Transport Awards were raised. Last awards took place in 2014. Group to consider these for autumn 2016.

AR

Discussed the pilot of concessionary travel for users of Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership's services. There had initially been reservations from Transport Scotland about how this would be handled in the press. Comments have been mixed, but overall more positive than negative. Patients who were previously not attending treatment sessions are now doing so thanks to this scheme, thus increasing their likelihood of ending their habit.

Work was done a few years ago to prepare a HTAP charter. JG reviewing previous consideration. To get draft to RD. Previous report was not taken forward. Initial work of HTAP was centred around accessing health through public transport.

Main area of work is currently focussed on Thinc. Figures show about 100 to 120 calls are going through to the information centre per month. While this may seem like a small number of calls, the nature of the calls themselves indicate that those who do use this service really do need it.

Attention was drawn to the upcoming presentation on the field of Telehealth which will be delivered by Dr Jamie Hogg, Lead Clinician within the Modernisation Directorate of NHS Grampian. Advances in this field could bring consequential benefits to patient transport. The presentation is at 13:30 on 24 November 2015 in Committee Room 3 of Woodhill House.

5.4 ACVO Pilot

Richard MacKenzie's report to the Steering Group was tabled.



Report to HTAP
Steering Group.pdf

Questions were raised about the funding of Thinc. Currently the Councils pay for the information line, however ACVO is also paying (through its arrangement with Buchan Dial-a-Bus) for transport bookings within Aberdeen City. The City has a fully commercial public transport network with little provision for community transport, so this arrangement works effectively to plug the gaps.

This funding from ACVO is until the end of the current financial year, but it says this will extend into 2016. Did not specify for how long into 2016 this would extend however. Further clarity required here.

This raises the further question of how the group wants to see Thinc progress in the future.

There are two options to consider

- Revert Thinc to its original state as an information-only service
- Aim for greater integration of the service

What are the medium and long term plans? All partners will be asked for further contributions but not all are benefiting equally.

Thinc was initially a service to direct people to public transport, however gaps were identified so this branched into community transport. There are still gaps in Aberdeenshire and Moray, with people not getting to healthcare appointments when they need to.

GD pointed out that any solution needed to be people-oriented; giving individuals a choice and knowledge of what transport is available to them.

The Thinc partnership belongs equally to all partners and the financial issues do need to be addressed. The system currently in place in Aberdeen City is what the group would like to see elsewhere. It has been such a success that it is over-subscribed, and has thus had to stop advertising. Considerable resources have been invested in Aberdeen City, but this has not been the case in Aberdeenshire or Moray.

The question of what evaluations have taken place was raised. Aberdeen City are most advanced in terms of joint working with voluntary organisations. It was recognised that Aberdeenshire and Moray are further behind in this area. Joyce Duncan may be able to help with this.

There was identified a need to find out what funding is available within Aberdeenshire and Moray, who has access to this and whether it could be used to develop similar systems in Aberdeenshire and Moray to what is already operating in Aberdeen City. Action on AR and Heather Dey to investigate funding availability.

AR/HD

Generally was felt that Thinc funding is rather confused. Further discussion needed at Access To Healthcare sub-group. Action on RD to take a paper back to the group with agreed direction of travel. AC will also have an integral role in how funding options with support this.

**GD/AC/
RD**

6 AOCB

NM suggested the group include process for planning for 2016/17 in next meeting. Concern raised that as the group is so busy with 2015-16 and as it meets quarterly, it could get to the end of the year without a plan for next. To look at for next meeting.

AR

Next meeting: February, Woodhill House (Aberdeenshire Council). Date TBC. Dates to be set for all meetings in 2016.

AR