

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 Action Plan Steering Group and the Local Authority Bus Operators Forum.

o Recent Developments

The last Board meeting was held on 8 June 2016, since which the following updates are available from meetings:

❖ LABOF Steering Group & workshop, Aberdeen, 9 August 2016

The Local Authorities Bus Operators Forum held a workshop, including members from both the Steering Group and Working Group to consider issues which had been raised at the bus discussions at Nestrans Board and to contemplate options for developing a refreshed Bus Action Plan.

The outcomes of the workshop are included within the report on Bus Action Plan at item 5a on the Board agenda.

❖ RTP Lead Officers, Glasgow, 17 August 2016

Amongst the items discussed were:

- o The RTP Chairs' request for a meeting with the Minister;
- o The Planning Review;
- o The proposed Transport Bill;
- o City Region Deals update;
- o Roads collaboration;
- o Bus Issues;
- o Ferries issues (Northern Isles Ferries STAG)
 - Nestrans have subsequently fed into this assessment;
- o Rail issues;
- o Active travel;
- o The Chairs meeting on 14 September in Shetland; and
- o The National Tourism Development Framework.

❖ **Transport Scotland, Glasgow, 24 August 2016**

This meeting was attended by Nestrans and both Councils. The group discussed the City Region Deal, with particular reference to the transport elements. The discussion included governance arrangements and progression of the Transport Appraisal element of the work.

❖ **Nestrans Appointments Panel, Aberdeen, 29 August 2016**

The Panel met to discuss the applications received for the non-Councillor Member post. The Panel agreed to a shortlist of 3 candidates who have been invited for an informal discussion towards the end of October.

❖ **Transport Scotland, Inverness, 30 August 2016**

This meeting was one of the regular liaison events bringing together local authorities and RTPs with Transport Scotland to discuss the A96 dualling proposals. Rab Dickson attended along with representatives of both Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council.

Presentations included updates on:

- the Strategic Environmental Assessment,
- Business Case,
- Modelling (a Corridor Road Assignment Model (CRAM 96) has been established based on Transport Model for Scotland),
- strategy for Non-Motorised Users and
- details on the western sections, which are currently being taken forward.

❖ **High Speed Rail Stakeholder Group Meeting, Glasgow, 31 August 2016**

The group received an update on various developments in relation to progress on taking forward proposals to improve incrementally HS2 progress to Scotland. It is thought this is likely to involve for the large part improvements to the existing railway network. Transport Scotland are working with the Department for Transport and HS2 Ltd on this. Further work, building on that already completed will commence shortly.

Other matters discussed included:

- Complementary nature of the East Coast Mail Line improvements and the forthcoming ECMA events at Holyrood and Westminster
- The cost of rail improvements in comparison with the cost of improvements across Europe
- The north of Scotland view (as expressed in the Fast Track document) that air access for the north to Heathrow is also required.

❖ **Department for Transport, Glasgow, 7 September 2016**

This meeting was one of a number that the Department of Transport held with Transport Scotland and some of the Regional Transport Partnerships. These meetings were held to give the Department some first hand experiences of operating regional transport bodies given their development of regional bodies in the north and midlands of England.

❖ **RTP Chairs meeting, Shetland, 14 September 2016**

This meeting was attended by the Chair and the Director. Main item on the agenda was smart ticketing with the Chairs receiving presentations from Bill Reive from Transport Scotland on the Scottish Government's approach and aspirations for smartcard and ticketing and from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport regarding their partnership with the private sector which is providing back office support to their roll out of the Bramble card. There followed general discussion centred on:

- The National Transport Review and The Strategic Transport Projects Review update;
- The upcoming Transport Bill;
- The Review of Planning;
- City Deals;
- Roads collaboration; and
- A meeting with the Transport Minister.

The Chairs also received updates on Active Travel, Bus, Ferries, Rail and Air transport.

❖ **Nestrans staffing**

Following the usual recruitment procedures appointments have been made for the two Nestrans vacancies. The new staff will begin employment from mid October.

- Cycling development officer (with support from Sustrans)
Ruth Milne
- Transport Executive (Graduate)
Nicola Davidson (Will be Nicola Laird by the time of appointment)
(This post will liaise very closely with the City & Shire Councils on the development of major projects including City Region Deal, A96 dualling and Rail improvement schemes.)

○ **Future Programme of Meetings**

❖ **Aberdeen City Region Deal, Dundee, 21 September 2016**

❖ **Transport Scotland re Kintore Station, Video Conference, 22 September 2016**

❖ **East Coast Mainline Authorities parliamentary event, Holyrood, 1 November 2016**

❖ **LABOF Steering Group, Aberdeen, 8 November 2016**

❖ **RTP Lead Officers meeting, Glasgow, 9 November 2016**

❖ **Transport Minister meeting, Edinburgh, 17 November 2016**

❖ **East Coast Mainline Authorities parliamentary event, Westminster, 29 November 2016**

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/ RD 22 Sept 2016