

Strategy -

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

- 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.

- Background

The following series of meetings has 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.
- Local Authorities/Bus Operators Forum (LABOF), Health & Transport and Freight Forum Steering Group meetings.

- Recent Developments

The last Board meeting was held on 9 October 2012, since which the following meetings have been held (or just prior to the last Board, in which case written updates were not available at the time, but have now been included for completeness):

- ❖ **ACSEF Holyrood reception, Edinburgh, 2 October 2012**

This meeting was attended by Cllr Peter Argyle and Derick Murray. As with a previous ACSEF event at Westminster this event was designed to raise the profile of the North East of Scotland economy with our MSPs. The event was well attended by the North East MSPs, but had a limited success in attracting MSPs from other parts of the country. Cabinet Secretary John Swinney did attend for the latter part of the meeting giving a short talk on his perspective and he took part in a discussion about the NE economy.

The session consisted of an introduction to the NE economy from ACSEF Chairman, Tom Smith followed by overviews of Broadband from Cllr Willie Young and Energetica and Transport by Cllr Argyle.

- ❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Perth, 3 October 2012**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray. The meeting discussed:

- The Bus Stakeholder Group – An update on the Group's considerations

- High Speed Rail – An update on the Fast Track Scotland Group and the seminar scheduled for November
- Other rail – current consultations on the new intercity express trains layout, franchise progress and community rail partnerships
- Aviation consultation – the Davies commission and the current consultation including agreement to prepare an all RTP response in addition to the individual RTP responses
- Health and Transport – discussion on the Short Term Working Group report and on the RTP/ SAS Liaison meeting on 18 October being attended by two RTP Chairs
- Updates on the Travel Information part of the National Roads Maintenance Review, the SG/ SEPA working group on Air Quality
- Discussion on the SG draft budget
- CoSLA liaison including the possibility of reforming a joint CoSLA/ RTP Group on Transportation

The meeting was followed by a meeting of the RTP/ SG Working Group. Draft papers were discussed covering:

- RTP Funding and Delivery Framework
- Policy Development
- Community Planning
- Land Use Planning
- Climate Change
- Strategic Transport Projects Review/ Infrastructure Investment Plan
- Bus
- Rail/ High Speed Rail
- Lifeline Air and Ferry Services
- Freight
- Active Travel
- Smartcard Ticketing
- Real Time Passenger Information
- Access to Health and Social Care
- National Concessionary Travel Scheme
- European/ External funding

❖ **Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group, Aberdeen, 12 October 2012**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray & Rab Dickson. A draft minute of the meeting is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for members' information.

❖ **Department for Transport/ Transport Scotland seminar on the Aviation consultation, Glasgow 12 October 2012**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray. Also attending were Dr Peter Smart from the Aberdeen Airport Consultative Committee and Sarah Campbell from Aberdeen Airport. This meeting was held as an information exercise to permit stakeholders to discuss the consultation with Department for Transport Officials prior to submitting written responses. Following this meeting a draft response was circulated to the Board for consideration and a copy of the finalised response is attached as an Appendix to the Information Bulletin which forms Item 8 on this agenda.

❖ **Fast Track Group (High Speed Rail) meeting, Glasgow, 15 October 2012**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray. The meeting discussed current activity and expected announcements including:

- An announcement on details of high speed rail on routes to Manchester/ Leeds expected by the end of the year
- Transport Scotland discussing with Department for Transport on how to achieve an under 3 hour journey from London to Edinburgh/ Glasgow with an announcement expected by mid 2015 (Also looking at serving NE England)
- The Virgin franchise for the West Coast Main Line route is to be extended by 9 – 13 months followed by a short duration franchise (2 years) to allow a full tendering process to be completed
- No indication of any West Coast fall out on the East Coast franchise process
- ScotRail and Caledonian sleeper franchises running to timetable
- Timescale for High Speed Rail remains unchanged

There was some discussion on whether Transport Scotland should lead for Scotland on discussions with Department for Transport and whether any external advice was needed.

There was a range of discussion regarding what Scotland wanted from High Speed Rail, following which it was agreed that a small group (including Nestrans) would look at the objectives set in the Fast Track document and review these whilst trying to set these into the context of an overall Scotland to England connectivity strategy. This would consider issues such as air and conventional rail as well as High Speed Rail.

There was some discussion on Edinburgh to Glasgow high speed rail and how this might be achieved but agreed that this has to be seen in the context of the objectives discussion.

The meeting discussed the November seminar and who should be invited to attend. Agreed that Leaders of appropriate Councils and representatives of beneficiaries of High Speed Rail to Scotland in England should be invited.

❖ **Transport Scotland seminar on High Speed Rail, Glasgow, 12 and 13 November 2012**

This meeting was attended by Rab Dickson and Margaret Bochel. Speakers included the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Transport and the seminar was attended by over 100 stakeholders and invited guests. The Scottish Government used the opportunity to announce their intention to implement a High Speed Rail Line between Edinburgh and Glasgow to be built by 2020, although no details were provided of cost, routeing or benefits.

It should be noted that this announcement seems to be contrary to the Fast Track Group's deliberations and focuses further commitments to improve rail connectivity in the Central Belt (in addition to the Airdrie-Bathgate, Edinburgh-Glasgow Improvement Programme and electrification etc., which are already constructed or in the programme) without consideration of how High Speed Rail or strategic investment in railways across the country could help Scotland as a whole.

❖ **Transport Scotland meeting re dualling the A9 & A96, Inverness, 12 October 2012**

This meeting was attended by Jenny Anderson. The Government's Infrastructure and Investment Plan set out that the A9 between Perth and Inverness will be dualled by 2025, with a view to completing dualling of the A96, and thus, the dualled road network between all Scottish cities by 2030. Transport Scotland provided an update on progress for the A9 and A96 dualling programmes at the meeting and in particular:

- A9 and A96 Traffic Modelling and Surveys – registration and Bluetooth surveys undertaken and compared their results for journey time range and proportions travelling entire route and bypassing or stopping in key locations
- A9 Strategic Environmental Assessment – outlined key milestones in programme
- A9 Preliminary Engineering Assessment – overview of progress and forthcoming work

Details of the A9 dualling programme are published on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/a9dualling>. It was advised that an announcement on the outline strategy for the A96 will be made later this year. The policy position on the A9 is to aim for grade separated junctions or left in/left out access to provide journey time and reliability benefits. This proposed junction strategy may result in a further 18 new grade separated junctions in addition to the nine existing grade separated junctions on the A9 and the proposed locations were identified. A scheme leaflet has now been prepared for the A9 dualling and can also be viewed on the Transport Scotland website at http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/files/documents/projects/A9_6p_A4_pdf.pdf.

❖ **Scottish Government/ Nestrans/ Councils on Smart ticketing, Aberdeen, 16 October 2012**

A meeting was held with Nestrans, the two Councils, Transport Scotland and the Scottish Cities Alliance to discuss the launch of the Scottish Government's smart ticketing delivery strategy and the aims of and linkages to the Scottish Cities Alliance. At the meeting Andrew Unsworth from SCDI gave an overview of the Scottish Cities Alliance and its work programme and Transport Scotland provided an overview of the Smart Ticketing Delivery Strategy which was launched in October 2012. Transport Scotland are taking forward a number of smart ticketing pilot projects across Scotland and opportunities for a pilot in the North East are being explored.

❖ **Scottish Parliament All Party Group on Aviation, Edinburgh, 31 October 2012**

Derick Murray attended this cross-party group briefing in Holyrood.

❖ **RTP Lead Officers meeting, Glasgow, 1 November 2012**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray. The meeting was specifically held to discuss developing proposals from the RTP/ SG working Group on how RTPs could be of greater assistance to Scottish Ministers in delivering the outcomes from the National Transport Strategy.

❖ RTP Lead Officers, Aberdeen, 14 November 2012

This meeting was attended by Rab Dickson. The meeting had been transferred to Aberdeen to allow the Scottish Government to present their NPF3 proposals, as they had a stakeholders' meeting in Aberdeen that day. The matters discussed included:

1. National Planning Policy
 - ~ National Planning Framework 3 and Review of Scottish Planning Policy –
 2. Minute of meeting on 3rd October 2012 and Matters Arising
 3. Minute of RTP Chairs Meeting on 5th September 2012 and Matters Arising
 - ~ Access to London letter
 4. Bus Issues
 - ~ Bus Stakeholder Group Update – Bus Investment Fund & Legislative Review
 - ~ Smart/Integrated Ticketing
 5. Rail Issues
 - ~ High Speed Rail Update
 - ~ Community Rail Partnerships
 - ~ IEP trains layout consultation
 6. Aviation Issues
 7. Health & Transport
 - ~ SAS Liaison Meeting on 18th October
 - ~ Short Term Working Group and Report
 8. Scottish Government/SEPA Technical Working Group on Air Quality update
 9. CoSLA Liaison Update
 10. Agenda for Chairs meeting on 5th December 2012 in Glasgow
 11. Dates of 2013 Meetings
- Future Programme of Meetings

❖ LABOF Steering Group, Aberdeen, 3 December 2012

The LABOF Steering Group met on Monday 3rd December. The minute of this meeting is provided in Appendix 2 below.

❖ RTP Chairs, Glasgow, 5 December 2012

Councillor Argyle and Derick Murray are scheduled to attend the next meeting of the RTP Chairs, to be held at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in the East End of Glasgow. A verbal

update can be provided at the Board meeting. The Agenda for the meeting is likely to include consideration of:

1. A Presentation by SPT on progress towards the staging of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014,
2. Minutes of Meeting on 5th September and Matters Arising
~ Joint Letter to Secretary of State for Transport on Access to London
3. Scottish Government/RTPs Working Group
~ Progress Update Paper
~ Meeting with Minister for Transport and Stephen Hagan, CoSLA Spokesperson for Development, Economy and Sustainability
4. Health and Transport
~ Note of Scottish Ambulance Service/RTPs Liaison Meeting on 18 Nov 2012
~ Short Life Working Group Update/Report. (BK)
5. Bus Stakeholder Group Update
6. High Speed Rail Update
7. Transport Futures

❖ **European Union Transport Directorate, Brussels, 6 December 2012**

Derick Murray is scheduled to attend a meeting with EU transport officials in Brussels on 6 December. An oral update can be provided at the Board meeting.

❖ **Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group, Aberdeen, 18 December 2012**

● 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/28 November 2012

APPENDIX 1

HTAP Steering Group Meeting
Tuesday 12 October 2012
Nestrans Board Room.

Present:

Gerry Donald, NHS Grampian [Chair]
Derick Murray, Nestrans
Rab Dickson, Nestrans
Gordon Holland, Moray Council;
Margaret Bochel, Aberdeen City Council
Mark Skilling, Aberdeenshire Council
John Gallagher, NHS Grampian
Jillian Evans, NHS Grampian
Alex Geddes (AG), HTAP Programme
Manager

Apologies:

Stewart Rogerson, NHS Grampian
Ewan Wallace, Aberdeenshire Council
Heather Kenney, Scottish Ambulance Service

Minutes of Meeting

Item	Note	Action
1	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>GD welcomed all present, and noted apologies.</p> <p>MS advised that EW was in London accepting an award on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council who had won the UK Award for Traffic Management and Enforcement for 2012. MS advised that this was the first time any Scottish local authority has won any of the UK Level Transport Awards.</p> <p>GD commended Aberdeenshire Council on their achievements on behalf of the HTAP Steering Group.</p>	
2	<p>The meeting opened with a discussion on progress in relation to the information hub.</p> <p>The paper presented to outline the main functions of the hub was discussed. The proposed new name: Transport to Healthcare Information Centre [THInC] was unanimously agreed. The main functions of the centre were discussed at length.</p> <p>The recent meeting held to design a communications strategy was then discussed, and agreed the attendees may not have been appropriate for the intended purpose and requested a second meeting be set up.</p> <p>MB suggested that the communications team used by Nestrans [BIG] may take the lead and the group agreed. AG was asked to collate the names of corporate communications personnel from all members and organise a second meeting to:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outline what the THInC will provide: ○ How this will then be communicated to staff, patients and other services that may utilise the service; ○ Ensure a corporate message is agreed and ready to distribute by 30 November 2012. <p>Action: AG to set up a corporate communications meeting and agree corporate message to be used by all HTAP members as a communications strategy.</p> <p>The group then discussed how the future of the project should be managed and due to changes in personnel within the SAS the following was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AG to be accountable for project set up and delivery, utilising the experience of the SAS and other HTAP members; ○ Alison Macaulay to organise a meeting with GD/DM/HK; ○ Detailed delivery plan to be ready for approval by 22 November 2012; ○ Delivery of the business case for HTAP and subsequently members Boards/Councils regarding THInC to be developed by AG in June 2013 <p>It was agreed that the meeting of the HTAP on 22 November 2012 be cancelled, and that the papers for that meeting be distributed for approval via a virtual meeting format. Responses from members to AG by close of business 3 December 2012.</p> <p>The group discussed and agreed that although full support to the Flexible Integrated Transport System FITS team would be provided in the context of THInC, that this should not slow down the development of the advice centre. A spreadsheet system to be developed and used for data collection for the time being, until FITS model is fully available.</p> <p>Action: AG to prepare and distribute papers on 22 November 2012.</p> <p>Action: all members to provide feedback to AG by close of business 3 December 2012</p> <p>Action: AG to ensure data collection system is suitable and available to staff.</p> <p>DM advised that the national short life working group paper on access to healthcare is again being re-drafted and therefore is still not available to view. However, early indications are that the work being developed by the HTAP in relation to the advice centre would be a good practice model and we should continue to develop as outlined in the THInC paper.</p> <p>DM advised that the Grampian HTAP is already acknowledged as a good practice model in relation to partnership working and development.</p> <p>MS queried timescales now for bids. DM advised it was envisaged savings made from the work of the advice centre should allow the partners to cover future costs, therefore we may not have to make a further bid.</p>	<p>AG</p> <p>AG</p> <p>AG</p> <p>AG</p>
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	<p>GD advised that no criteria or timescale was available on any possible future bid process and the group should move forward as suggested by DM.</p> <p>GD advised he had recently presented an HTAP annual review paper to the NHS Grampian Board which was well received and they had encouraged further development of the HTAP and were expecting the business case for the advice centre within the year.</p> <p>JE requested confirmation of how the HTAP programme is reported. GD advised that is through update papers being sent to the NHSG Board and Nestrans Board..</p> <p>Active Lifestyle</p> <p>MS advised that there had been a review of Get About and there will be a new steering group and delivery group set in place.</p> <p>This should be a more focused approach to delivery of events and initiatives and spread partner resource.</p> <p>RD advised it had been noted there has been no NHSG personnel in attendance to Get About meetings since the departure of Kerry Mitchell and that there was a need for this to be supported in some way. GD asked AG if Stewart Rogerson could be advised and look for a possible staff member to support this requirement.</p> <p>Action: AG to contact SR to identify best option for NHSG support to Get About.</p> <p>GH advised that Moray are happy to run in parallel with the Get About team and felt it was important to share best practice.</p> <p>Action: MS and GH to meet in relation to Get About and Moray links</p> <p>MS presented a paper that demonstrated the use of the new community path at Inch and the group were encouraged to see the high volume of use.</p> <p>GD asked if this could be shared with the local NHSG manager to get a view from their perspective and AG directed to send a copy to Mike Ogg and seek an NHSG view.</p> <p>Action: AG to send MO a copy of the survey and seek an NHSG view on use of the path.</p> <p>Links between Transport and Public Health</p> <p>JE advised that a recent meeting had identified possible interest from a group led by Sarah Taylor of NHS Grampian and this will be placed on her groups next agenda.</p> <p>There may at that point be the potential for sub groups to be developed to look at specific issues surrounding this area of work and this will be reported back to the next HTAP on 18 December 2012.</p>	<p>AG</p> <p>MS</p> <p>AG/SR</p>
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	<p>JE advised that one of the main issues she faced this year was identifying NHSG resource, however there was a commitment to becoming more involved in 2013.</p> <p>JE advised that she was also involved with presenting on a local radio station and there may be potential for more information on HTAP work to be part of that involvement.</p> <p>Action: JE/AG to identify the best way forward for highlighting HTAP work on the local radio station.</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>AG advised that the shared delivery service in Aberdeenshire was working well, and was encouraged to hear double handling of services had been identified between NHSG and Aberdeenshire Council. By streamlining this, there could be cost savings to Aberdeenshire Council by the reduced need for the use of a courier service and a detailed paper will be prepared for the next HTAP.</p> <p>AG advised that due to sick leave there had been no update from ACC on their development, however this is expected to be presented to the next sub group on 1 November 2012.</p>	AG/JE
3	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>18 December 2012 at Nestrans Board Room, Aberdeen</p>	

LABOF STEERING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting Monday 3rd December 2012

Nestrans Board Room, 29 King Street, Aberdeen

In Attendance: Derick Murray, Nestrans (DM), Kirsty Chalmers, Nestrans (KC), Maggie Bochel, ACC (MB), Chris Cormack, ACC (CC), Ewan Wallace, Aberdeenshire (EW); Duncan Cameron, First (DC).

Apologies: Andrew Jarvis, Stagecoach

1. Minutes of Meeting of LABOF Steering Group, 16th August 2012

The minute of the meeting on 16th August was agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Wi-fi – AJ circulated statistics on wi-fi use on Stagecoach buses shortly after the last meeting. It was discussed that although wi-fi is available on the bus to the airport, it doesn't seem to be available in the airport itself. This is something that could be raised with Derek Proven. **Action: DM**

Research paper on punctuality and journey time issues – DM raised this with RTPs but there was limited support for doing this. It was felt that Transport Scotland should be paying for this kind of research. George Mair of CPT showed some interest however SPT were not keen to take this further. DC reported that Neil Barker at First had indicated a willingness and DC to speak to him again to see if they and CPT would have an interest in taking this kind of research forward.

Letter to the Traffic Commissioner regarding the Vosa changes – this letter was submitted shortly after the last Steering Group meeting in August however no response had been received.

Market Street – the ban on straight ahead movements from Virginia Street to Guild Street has now been implemented. DC had some concerns about this during the temporary ban in the summer because they experienced significant problems on King Street during this time. It was however acknowledged that there were a number of other road works going on at this time and we need to re-assess the impacts now. It was agreed that this should be monitored over the coming months. Bus operators to feedback any problems and RD to also get feedback from the freight forum to see what their feedback is on the implementation of this change.

Festive traffic management – the Police have been involved in the discussions and preparation of the festive guide.

Aberdeenshire real time information – EW reported that the timescales for this have slipped slightly and will now be into the new financial year with implementation probably around late summer.

QR codes – these have been rolled out at some stops, however are being rolled out with timetable changes so will be more of them at the next major timetable change.

3. Integrated and smart ticketing update

A meeting was held with Transport Scotland and Andrew Unsworth of the Seven Cities project in October. The Steering Group agreed the paper and the two proposals to submit to Transport Scotland for consideration as pilot projects.

In relation to paragraph one of Project A it was questioned whether visitors were able to use Accord card and this should be checked.

4. Bus Investment Fund

It was agreed that we should try not to have a number of competing bids and that one joint bid would be preferable and a stronger bid. EW raised the potential for hubs in key towns to form a bid, perhaps with a focus on the A947 corridor which would require infrastructure and revenue support. It was agreed that we need some more substantial ideas before we can decide how many bids we would like to submit and how they should be presented. This should be discussed at the Executive. **Action: Executive**

The bus action plan identifies filling gaps in the network and the health and transport action plan is working to identify gaps in the network. It was agreed that this should be taken up at the Executive to look at better joining these two pieces of work. **Action: Executive**

5. Bus Satisfaction Survey

The additional analysis of the responses in relation to ‘understanding the range and price of tickets’ concluded that even after the additional analysis, the results show that figures are still well below the national average for this issue and that there is no real change to the original conclusions.

It was discussed that both Stagecoach and First have made fairly significant changes to their fares and tickets and the 2012 results may just be a blip. It was agreed however that we should try and explore this issue further in the next survey and ask a supplementary question. DC recognised that the operators may need to do more to sell and promote their range of tickets. **Action: Executive to discuss and agree supplementary question**

6. Labof Executive Progress

ARI Interchange – this is now working well in terms of safety and the flow of vehicles. Nestrans are developing an information leaflet and this is currently in draft form and being circulated round the partners for comment. DC reported that the most feedback he gets is in relation to passengers not knowing which stop to go to. MH and IM have been working on information for the shelter and it was suggested that a vinyl on one of the bus shelter panes would perhaps help. **Action: to be discussed at Executive.**

7. 2013 meeting dates

The meeting dates were agreed, although it was requested that the meeting on Wednesday 13th March be moved to 2pm instead of 10am. **Action: KM to send out meeting invites**

8. AOCB

Hydrogen bus project – DC reported that this project is making progress, although they are still awaiting decisions on the location of maintenance and refuelling locations. The routes on which the vehicles are run will depend on these locations although having said that, First may decide to run them on a number of different routes.

A96 park and ride – Aberdeenshire Council are considering an alternative design at the request of the landowner and this is being progressed.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be on **Wednesday 13th March 2013** at 2pm in the Nestrans office.

The next Executive Group meeting is on Thursday 6th December 2012 at 10am in the Nestrans office.

KC/ 3 Dec 2012