

**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 30 October 2013, since which the following meetings have been held:

❖ **LABOF Steering Group, Aberdeen, 25 October 2013**

The minute of the LABOF Steering Group of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013 is provided in Appendix A.

❖ **Seven Cities Alliance Forum, Edinburgh, 29 October 2013**

The Seven Cities Alliance Forum held a series of workshops, one of which was on their hydrogen study. The workshop was to introduce their findings from their study and to discuss interest in the offer from Fuel Cells and Hydrogen – Joint Undertaking group to develop a roadmap for the introduction of a significant number of hydrogen buses as a prelude to making hydrogen widely available to car users across a wide area.

The Alliances study has looked at the viability of introducing hydrogen across Scotland and the anticipated market in hydrogen cars. The study has looked at the chicken and egg scenario of no hydrogen, no cars and no cars no hydrogen. It has examined the gap in take up and funding that needs some intervention to create a market and envisages scenarios where a refuelling system with significant volumes of vehicles to be viable can be achieved by the mid 2020's.

The workshop also discussed the willingness across Scotland to participate in the roadmap offer from the Brussels group. There was a general agreement including from Transport Scotland that this should be investigated further and that the group should be invited to Scotland to discuss further. An invitation has been extended by Aberdeen City

Council to the group to present their thoughts and proposals on 16 December 2013 with an initial high level set of questions to be considered. These include:

- 1) What would they expect of any prospective partners? i.e. what would they want say Local Authorities/ RTP's to do in relation to the development of the roadmap
- 2) What involvement would they be looking for in relation to partners? i.e. partners in hydrogen generation and distribution/ bus manufacture/ land ownership etc.
- 3) As an indication should a roadmap be developed what level of contribution would be likely expected at the next implementation stage?

#### ❖ **Transport Scotland re Haudagain, Video conference, 1 November 2013**

Nestrans and Aberdeen City Council held a progress meeting with Transport Scotland and their consultants, Jacobs, by video conference for the Haudagain project. These meetings are held quarterly and are a high level overview of the progress of development of the Haudagain proposal. These are intended to review progress and to ensure that the differing elements of the project, road and regeneration, are taken forward jointly and cohesively.

Under this group there are a number of working groups attended by the appropriate professional staff to ensure the project develops satisfactorily. This includes a communication group whose remit includes keeping the local community informed.

#### ❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Perth, 13 November 2013**

The RTP Lead Officers discussed:

- RTS monitoring
- RTP/ CoSLA/ Scottish Government liaison
- EU Low Carbon Fund
- Transport Futures
- Bus Issues
  - Bus Stakeholder Group update including new working groups
  - Bus Investment Fund
  - Scottish Government Community Transport Fund
  - The Hydrogen Buses project
- Rail Issues
  - High Speed rail
  - East Coast Mainline Association
  - Rail Franchises
  - Community Rail partnerships
    - Possibility of:
      - Stranraer
      - Gleneagles
- Aviation
- Integrated and Smart Ticketing
- CoSLA liaison
- Noise action plans
- SPP consultation
- Community Empowerment (Scotland)

#### ❖ **RTP Chairs meeting, Perth, 04 December 2013**

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

- Presentation by Tactran on Gleneagles Station upgrade and the Perth Consolidation Centre
- Health & Transport meeting with Scottish Ambulance Service
  - (i) There was a general discussion with SAS regarding the Short Life Working Group report and recommendations and the impact of the forthcoming new Health and Social Care Boards. It was agreed there was merit in developing a joint approach to meeting the SLWG report's recommendations and remitted to Eric Guthrie of Tactran and Heather Kenny of SAS to draft an initial proposal for comment.
  - (ii) There was also discussion around the current pilots across the country including the ThiNC centre in Elgin. This discussion included the possibility of Scottish Government funding for such pilots. Transport Scotland undertook to speak to Health colleagues to investigate this further.
- Bus Issues
  - (i) Bus Stakeholders Group
    - a. The Chairs agreed to remit to Officers to agree a joint RTP response to Bus Registration proposals
  - (iii) Bus Investment Fund
  - (iv) Community Transport Fund
  - (v) SCA Hydrogen Buses initiative
- Rail Issues
  - (i) High Speed Rail Update
  - (ii) Rail Franchises Update
  - (iii) ECMA
  - (iv) Community Rail Partnerships
- Aviation Issues
  - (i) Davies Commission Update
- Consultations
  - (i) SPP consultation – developing an all RTP response was remitted to officers.
  - (ii) Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill – developing an all RTP response was remitted to officers.
- CoSLA Liaison
  - (i) DES items from 28 November
  - (ii) Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy
- MACS Liaison
  - (i) MACS attended the meeting to discuss a review of the RTP responses to a recent questionnaire they had circulated regarding the equality impact assessments that the RTP's were carrying out. The principal advice provided by MACS was that the RTP's should be more outcome focused and report on the outcomes that were being achieved across the equalities issues.
- RTP Secretariat 2014 – 2016 – It was agreed that Hitrans will assume the role of the RTP secretariat from April 2014.
- RTP Chairs/CPT Liaison Meeting. The RTP Chairs held a meeting with CPT members. There was a presentation on Traveline Scotland followed by a general discussion on bus issues.

## o **Future Programme of Meetings**

- ❖ **HTAP Steering Group, Aberdeen, 06 December 2013**
- ❖ **Nestrans Appointments Committee, Aberdeen, 15 NDecember 2013**
- ❖ **Haudagain Progress Meeting, Video Conference, 07 February 2014**
- ❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Perth, 12 February 2014**
- ❖ **LABOF Steering Group, Aberdeen, 13 February 2014**

- ❖ **Scottish Parliamentary x-Party Group on Aviation, Edinburgh, 26 February 2014**
- ❖ **HTAP Steering Group, Aberdeen, 28 February 2014**
- ❖ **RTP Chairs, Glasgow, 05 March 2014**

o **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 05 December 2013

## LABOF STEERING GROUP

### Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013

#### Nestrans Board Room, 29 King Street, Aberdeen

**In Attendance:** Derick Murray, Nestrans (DM), Kirsty Chalmers, Nestrans (KC), Rab Dickson, Nestrans (RD), Steve Walker, Stagecoach Bluebird (SW), Stephie Barber, Stagecoach (SB), Maggie Bochel, Aberdeen City Council (MB), Chris Cormack, Aberdeen City Council (CC), Richard McKenzie, Aberdeenshire Council (RMcK); Duncan Cameron, First (DC).

**Apologies:** Ewan Wallace, Aberdeenshire Council.

#### 1. Minutes of Meeting of LABOF Steering Group, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

The minute was agreed.

#### 2. Matters Arising

**Auchmill Road bus lane** – action rolled forward from previous meeting. **Action:** *ACC to provide cost estimates, further detail on potential for a bus lane and extract detail from the traffic model indicating the impacts, both at implementation and after construction of committed schemes.*

**East North Street junctions** – the current configuration of the signals means it is not safe to permit buses into the dedicated left turn lane to go straight ahead as there are two opposing right turns occurring during the same green time. This is however one of the pinch points on the agenda to be discussed at a meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

#### 3. Statutory Quality Partnerships and strategy going forward

SW highlighted that from an operator point of view an sQP would give more teeth to what we are all trying to do and the backing to take difficult decisions regarding things like road space allocation. Signing up to a sQP would commit each party to making sure they deliver on commitments. It would be more bureaucratic but on the flip side would be more transparent, more detailed and more set in stone. Without a sQP to which everyone is accountable it was felt we will make no progress.

DM highlighted concern about taking something to the politicians without a clear plan and that there are big commitments for spending already. There is political commitment to locking in the benefits however and a sQP could be tied in with this.

DC highlighted the need to pick the most appropriate corridor that can actually deliver benefits.

It was agreed that a sQP is not always about junction improvements and doesn't just have to be about bus priority and infrastructure. SW stated it is about priorities and could involve tackling smaller improvements rather than large scale improvements.

MB felt it would be better if this came through the LTS, which is about to be reviewed, so that it is set in policy.

RM reported that at a political level within Aberdeenshire a sQP seems acceptable and reported lengthening public transport journey times into the city.

It was agreed that more definition is required on what a sQP would involve and what the commitments would be on all sides. It was agreed to instruct the Labof Executive Group to develop the case and further detail for a sQP in terms of likely responsibilities and commitments, although a specific corridor is yet to be identified. **Action: Executive Group**

#### **4. Multi-Operator Ticketing**

RM reported that there is now a multi-operator ticketing agreement in place. The management committee has been postponed to the 8<sup>th</sup> November but it is hoped that the agreement will be signed then and will cover a weekly and daily ticket to cover the commuter area into Aberdeen. The first meeting of the management committee will sign the agreement and look at the price and promotion of the ticket.

DM stated that this was a great step forward.

The ticket is likely to launch early January 2014.

#### **5. Bus Satisfaction Survey – trend analysis**

It was agreed that these trends should be reported to the Nestrans Board. **Action: KC**

#### **6. The planning system and developer obligations**

SW identified a need for a joined up partnership approach rather than discussions with individual operators on individual developments.

MB highlighted that this does already happen for the larger developments through the Masterplan process and that the Councils try to be proactive in engagement. CC highlighted that regular workshops are held with developers and the PTU do now get invited along if there are transport issues and suggested that it may be appropriate for operators to be invited to these. **Action: CC to consider where appropriate.**

## 7. Labof Executive Progress

The Executive update was noted.

Aberdeenshire real time information – the contract has now been awarded and an inception meeting is planned for next week. Implementation will depend on the implementation of AVL on Stagecoach and the timescales will be developed in more detail at the inception meeting.

Aberdeen bus station – there have been a lot of complaints in the press regarding cleanliness and smoking at the bus station. Stagecoach has a meeting next week to discuss these issues.

## 8. Meeting dates for 2014

The meeting dates for 2014 were agreed.

## 9. AOCB

There is a Bus Users Scotland surgery on the 6<sup>th</sup> November in St Nicholas Square from 12-4pm. Both operators will have a presence at this.

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the **Steering Group** will be on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014** at 10:00am in the Nestrans office.

The next **Executive Group** meeting is on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013** at 10am in the Nestrans office.

KC/Oct 2013