

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 RTP's 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 17 April 2013, 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):

❖ **Transport Scotland, Aviemore, 17 April 2013 re A9 & A96 dualling**

Updates were given by various appointed consultants on progress with the preliminary engineering services and strategic environmental assessment for the A9 dualling. This included consideration of junction standards and indicative locations, cycle/pedestrian requirements, laybys, rest areas and possible viewpoints. Further A9 public exhibitions are being planned for June. An update was also provided on the A9/A96 Inverness connections study. A topographical study contract for the A9 and A96 corridors is being advertised in the European Journal and will be awarded in July with the survey work due to be completed by spring 2014. Traffic surveys are underway on the A96 to update the national traffic model and economic appraisal of the dualling of both corridors is to be undertaken in May. This will involve surveys of key businesses and local authorities and seek to identify potential economic benefits and a benchmark study of the impact to local and regional economies of similar improvements elsewhere will also be undertaken. It is proposed to hold the next progress meeting in Perth on 23 October 2013.

❖ **Scottish Partnership Group on High Speed Rail, Glasgow, 22 April 2013**

The RTP Chairs had called on the Minister for Transport and Veterans to reconvene the Scottish Partnership Group on high speed rail to discuss issues arising from various announcements from Ministers in Scottish and UK Governments. Transport Scotland had, in crossing arranged a meeting of the group. This was held on 22 April in Glasgow and was attended by Alex Macaulay of Sustrans, Bruce Kiloh of SPT and Derick Murray representing the north of Scotland.

The Group were brought up to date with activities being carried out by HS2 and Transport Scotland. There are currently two streams of work being carried out.

- The first is looking in further detail at the case for taking HSR north from Manchester/ Leeds to Edinburgh/ Glasgow. Transport Scotland are feeding into this work but the lead is being taken by HS2. The timetable for reporting on this is 2015
- The second is looking at the case for HS2 between Edinburgh and Glasgow. This is being taken forward by Transport Scotland. Scottish Ministers are looking for this to be reported in 2014 in advance of the HS2 work on the case for routes to the south.

Transport Scotland have appointed an officer, Peter Grant, to take forward the work on the Edinburgh to Glasgow section.

The result of these different streams of work and the differing lead bodies was that the meeting spent a disproportionate time discussing Edinburgh to Glasgow rather than Edinburgh/ Glasgow to the south. However Frazer Henderson from Transport Scotland did make clear that the remit of the Edinburgh to Glasgow section was clear; it is to examine the case for such a route with no commitment at this stage to taking any route forward.

There was some discussion on the remit of the Group. A re-focused remit is to be circulated by Transport Scotland but there was general agreement that the sub groups previously used would likely be required again. There was discussion also on governance of the Group and it was suggested that the sub groups should report back to the Group on their work. This didn't happen previously and this caused confusion.

Transport Scotland had suggested that there might be merit in having the Group Chaired by someone other than a Transport Scotland employee. Whilst there were no offers made at the meeting subsequent discussion amongst RTP Lead Officers has highlighted that there may be advantages if the RTP's were to offer to provide a Chair for the Group. Subject to agreement of the RTP Chairs at their meeting on 5 June 2013 it will be suggested that Alex MacAulay of Sustrans should be nominated to Chair the group.

❖ **Transport Scotland re Laurencekirk junctions, Perth, 30 April 2013**

Ewan Wallace of Aberdeenshire Council and Derick Murray attended a meeting on 30 April 2013 with Transport Scotland following on from the Scottish Parliament's Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee's discussions on the issue of Laurencekirk junctions.

This was a very productive meeting that looked at a number of issues and options. Each authority agreed to take back these considerations for further internal discussions and advisements and agreed to meet again shortly to discuss further how to take this issue forward.

Transport Scotland have indicated in the past few days that these discussions within that body are underway and they will be contacting us again once these have concluded.

❖ **Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group, Aberdeen, 10 May 2013**

The latest meeting of the HTAP Steering Group was held on 10 May in Aberdeen. A copy of the draft minute of the meeting is attached as Appendix A to this report.

❖ **Transport Scotland (Rail branch), Aberdeen, 13 May 2013**

Nestrans along with officers from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils met with Transport Scotland's rail branch to discuss progress with current projects and aspirations for the future.

This was a wide ranging discussion covering:

- Aberdeen to Inverness, including Kintore Station
- Aberdeen to the central belt
- The Aberdeen area as a rail market
- Aspirations for a local rail service
- Aspirations for new stations
- Implications of the Structure and Local Development Plans
- The study of the Energetica corridor including options for rail
- Community Rail Partnerships
- Dyce station upgrade
- Lack of ticket facilities at Portlethen
- Timetabling difficulties for travel between Stations south of Aberdeen

Transport Scotland have indicated that they would like to pursue a regular series of meetings increasing communication with this area.

❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Perth, 15 May 2013**

The RTP Lead Officers met on 15 May 2013 and discussed the following:

Minute of Meeting on 13th February 2013 and Matters Arising including:
National Tourism Development Plan Update (EG)

Minute of RTP Chairs Meeting on 6th March 2013 and Matters Arising including:
Access to London meeting (Discussed in this report)
Transport Futures Update

Minute of RTP Chairs/CPT Meeting on 6th March

Minute of the RTP/SG Working Group Meeting on 13th February

Bus Issues including:
Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill (Discussed in the publications report)
Bus Stakeholder Group Update
Bus Investment Fund (discussed in the Information bulletin)

Rail Issues including:
Network Rail Consultations – Long Distance Market Study; Freight Market Study;
Regional Urban Market Study (Discussed in the publications report)
High Speed Rail Update
ECMA Update
TransPennine Update
DfT ICEC stakeholder engagement

Aviation Issues including:

Davies Commission – Short & Medium Term Capacity Options and Aviation & Climate
Aviation Committee Stakeholder Event – Edinburgh on 5 June 2013

Health & Transport including:

Short Term Working Group and Report Update
SAS liaison

CoSLA Liaison

Agenda for Chairs meeting on 5th June 2013 at ZetTrans

Other business including:

Scotland Europa
SPP/NPF3 Consultations
Model Publication Schemes

❖ **Department for Transport, London, 30 May 2013**

The RTP Lead Officers for Nestrans, Hitrans, Tactran, Sestrans and Swestrans met with Department for Transport Officials to discuss various aspects of access to London and an overall strategy.

The discussion centred around the RTP's belief that issues relating to access to London, currently the subject of various consultations, aviation, High Speed Rail and the East and West Coast franchises, should be considered as a whole within an overall access to London strategy which recognised the differing needs of access for differing parts of the country. It also followed from a letter from the DfT to the RTP Chairs where they said they would be publishing a national transport strategy in the spring.

The DfT are still committed to publishing such a strategic document however this has been delayed by various other pressing matters within the DfT. Discussions are currently underway to determine the scope of the document to take into account recent developments and the upcoming spending review.

The RTP's were then given the opportunity to put forward their view of the various matters listed above to the DfT staff responsible for each mode although the DfT staff for each mode only attended for the specific item of their interest. The meetings discussions are to be reported to the RTP Chairs meeting of 5 June 2013.

❖ **Aviation (Davies) Commission & Transport Scotland, Edinburgh, 05 June 2013**

The Airports Commission are visiting Edinburgh on 5 June to hear directly from stakeholders. This is part of a series of meetings that the Commission is arranging around the country. Derick Murray will be attending this meeting and will be able to provide a verbal feedback on the matters discussed.

❖ **RTP Chairs meeting, Lerwick, 05 June 2013**

The Chair and Rab Dickson attended this meeting of the Regional Transport Partnership Chairs in Lerwick on 5 June. The agenda concentrated on issues of national or common interest, including the following:

- A presentation on strategic transport issues affecting Shetland, by ZetTrans;
- The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6 March 2013, including updates on Access to London Strategy, Transport Futures, the East Coast Mainline Authorities grouping, the draft National Tourism Development Plan, the Cycling Action Plan (CAPS) Refresh, and a Note of meeting on 6th March 2013 with the Confederation of Public Transport;
- Scottish Government/RTPs Working Group Paper;
- Bus Issues including an update on the Bus Stakeholder Group and on the Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill Consultation;
- Rail Issues including an update on High Speed Rail, Network Rail Consultations and Rail Franchises Update (including TransPennine);
- Aviation Issues including responses to the Davies Commission;
- An update on Smart & Integrated Ticketing Strategy;
- Health and Transport issues, including a Report/Update on the Government's Short-Life Working Group and liaison with Scottish Ambulance Service;
- CoSLA Liaison including National Transport Strategy 2; Partnership Agreement/ERDF funding and Regeneration Fund;
- National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy Consultations.

○ **Future Programme of Meetings**

- ❖ **LABOF Steering Group, Aberdeen, 04 July 2013**
- ❖ **RTP Chairs meeting, Hitrans, 4 September 2013**
- ❖ **HTAP Steering Group, Elgin, 13 September 2013**

○ **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 04 June 2013

HTAP Steering Group Meeting

Friday 10 May 2013

Nestrans Board Room. 29 King Street, Aberdeen

Present:

Gerry Donald; NHS Grampian [Chair]
 Derick Murray; Nestrans
 Rab Dickson; Nestrans
 Maggie Bochel; Aberdeen City Council
 Ewan Wallace, Aberdeenshire Council
 Ian Donald; Scottish Ambulance Service
 Allan Reid; Scottish Ambulance Service
 John Gallagher; NHS Grampian
 Gordon Holland, Moray Council
 Jillian Evans; NHS Grampian

Apologies:

Heather Kenny, Scottish Ambulance Service

Minutes of Meeting

Item	Note	Action
1	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>Gerry Donald welcomed all present, and apologies were noted.</p> <p>Gerry updated the Steering Group in respect of the position of HTAP Programme Manager, whereby Alex Geddes had accepted an offer of voluntary severance from his substantive post with Grampian Police and had therefore tendered his resignation from the HTAP. He has accepted a three-year position in Peterhead.</p> <p>The group agreed to express their formal thanks to Alex for his work with the HTAP and it was agreed that Gerry should write to Alex thanking him for his hard work and dedication in his time as Programme Manager.</p>	GD
2	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of 8 March 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Derick and Alex had attended the Scottish Parliament's Local Government & Regeneration Committee at Holyrood, providing evidence about the HTAP, the role of the Programme Manager and the spirit of equal partnership with no lead body. It was believed that the paper and evidence had been widely read and understood, raising awareness of the work of the group. Any outcome or report of findings from the Committee's deliberations are still awaited.</p> <p>There has been no further update on progress regarding the Short-Life Working Group paper.</p>	

	<p>Maggie will seek clarification on what's happening in the City with regard to Shared Delivery service and report back. It was noted that changes with the move to national Police and Fire & Rescue services would need to be monitored to see if there was any impact on shared deliveries.</p> <p>Derick announced that the bid for a Scottish Transport Award relating to Access to ARI had been shortlisted in the category of partnership – winners to be announced on 20 June.</p>	MB
4.1	<p>Active Lifestyle</p> <p>Ewan reported that he has asked for a formal update, which could be reported to the Steering Group.</p> <p>He noted that both Councils have been nominated for Scottish Transport Awards for their work in promoting active travel in Peterhead and Greenbrae respectively. Development of a Walking & Cycling Active Travel Strategy has the potential for renewed impetus and a number of local and national initiatives could be relevant.</p> <p>Gordon reported on the work on Active Travel Audits in settlements in the Hitrans area, which provide a framework for developing networks, but despite initial interest this has not developed across the rest of the area.</p>	EW
4.2	<p>Links between Transport and Health</p> <p>Jillian has been in contact with Aileen Brodie at Aberdeen City Council, who have been awarded grant money and intend staging an event in June highlighting the problems of air quality and the impact on public health. Jillian will ensure health sector involvement and appropriate input as necessary.</p> <p>Jillian also noted that she is working with an MSc student, who is looking to research the impact of environment on obesity (using geographic data on type 2 diabetes) and would appreciate info on bus routes, core paths and cycle routes. Rab also indicated that Travel to Work info from the 2001 census might be of interest.</p>	JE EW, MB
4.3	<p>Access to Healthcare</p> <p>The THInC pilot is operating well within its capabilities and all agreed that it should be rolled out across Grampian as soon as practicable. John had attended a meeting on changing the appointment invitation letters, and it is likely that an outpatient information booklet will be produced; this however may take some time.</p> <p>Ian suggested utilising the available budget to produce promotional materials so that the roll-out could take place without awaiting the booklet.</p> <p>There was discussion on the need for evaluation and Jillian suggested that her previous work on a methodology could be utilised, using her staff and the THInC team, possibly using the funding input from Hitrans. Jillian to discuss with Gerry and will progress as appropriate. If there is a need for</p>	JG ID/JG/RD JE/GD

	<p>external evaluation, an approach could be made to Professor Nelson. John and Allan to develop ideas for a region-wide roll-out, link in with comms teams and advise the Steering Group on a suitable date for launch. Rab will liaise with BIG on media and the need to ensure that national media is aware of THInC.</p> <p>Rab asked about the distribution of the ARI by bus leaflet, noted that stocks were getting low and asked about the value in reprinting/updating and any opportunities for partnering to achieve this. John informed the group that ARI will be moving to a colour-coded way-finding strategy and it may be best to await this.</p> <p>Questions were asked about the role of the University of Aberdeen's FITS project and whether THInC and FITS are separate entities or connected. Gerry and Derick need to speak with Professor Nelson and discuss the way forward.</p>	<p>JG/AR RD</p> <p>GD/DM</p>
5.1	<p>HTAP Administration</p> <p>In terms of support from a Programme Manager, Gerry indicated that NHS are prepared to continue to support and Nestrans have also agreed continued funding, however NHS recruitment processes could take up to six months.</p> <p>Partners were asked to consider any potential secondment opportunities from amongst their staff and the possibility of recruiting through one of the Councils. Gerry will finalise Person Spec and Job Description.</p>	<p>GH/MB/EW GD</p>
5.2	<p>Sub-Group Membership and Remit Review</p> <p>It was agreed that the current membership of the Steering Group was probably appropriate, and that Heather Kenney will continue to represent Scottish Ambulance Service, possibly using Video-Conferencing facilities.</p> <p>Derick noted that the minutes go to Nestrans Board and enquired how they were dealt with at NHS Grampian. They do not go routinely to NHS Board, but a presentation may be worthwhile to the Strategic Management Team. Jillian and Gerry to discuss the best way to progress that.</p> <p>Gerry emphasised the need to ensure linkages and continue to raise awareness of the HTAP. Jillian offered to look into the prospects for a newsletter or information bulletin which could be circulated widely.</p> <p>It was felt however that the Sub-Groups are not performing well. There is a need to come back to basics, with regular meetings of the Sub-Groups with reports back to the Steering Group for overview and decision-making rather than updates.</p>	<p>JE/GD</p> <p>JE</p>
6	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Gerry asked about Nestrans' consultation on the refresh of the Regional Transport Strategy and the best way for the HTAP Steering Group to feed in. It was agreed that the RTS refresh should make due reference to the</p>	

	<p>role of HTAP and that the HTAP2 should seek to reflect the relationship.</p> <p>John reported that the two questionnaires to Councils' citizens panels had produced interesting results, underlining the possibilities for the THInC.</p> <p>Derick reminded members of the important role of Community Planning Partnerships and sought to ensure that the HTAP is properly reflected in their work.</p>	
7	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Friday 13 September 2013, probably in Elgin. Gordon to arrange suitable facilities. John will continue to cover the role of circulating papers, etc until a Programme Manager can be appointed.</p>	<p>GH</p> <p>JG</p>

RD/Nestrans/HTAP Steering Group/May 2013
15 May 2013