

Strategy -

3a 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 have 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.
- LABOF Steering Group meetings

- Recent Developments

Since the last Board meeting on 08 December 2011, the following meetings have been held:

- ❖ **LABOF Steering Group, Aberdeen, 05 December 2011**

The minutes of the LABOF Steering Group meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011 are provided in Appendix A.

- ❖ **Transport Scotland Rail Directorate, Glasgow, 15 December 2011**

This meeting was attended by Ian Yuill and Derick Murray. A note of the meeting has been previously circulated to Members.

- ❖ **Scottish Ambulance Service, Edinburgh, 12 January 2012**

This meeting was attended by Derick Murray and Gerry Donald of NHS Grampian, Pauline Howie, Chief Executive of SAS and Heather Kenny, Director of Strategy for SAS. The meeting discussed the developing proposals for access to healthcare in the Grampian area and the fit of these proposals with the Scottish Ambulance Services own re-organisation proposals. This was a very positive meeting with the Scottish Ambulance Service keen to be involved in developing the HTAP proposals for an Information Hub.

- ❖ **Meeting with the Minister for Transport, Edinburgh, 24 January 2012**

This meeting was attended by Ian Yuill, Anne Robertson, Margaret Bochel, Ewan Wallace & Derick Murray. The meeting discussed the recent announcement on dualling

the A96 with particular reference to Inveramsay Bridge. It was noted that there are to be a series of workshops involving stakeholders in February/ March 2012 to discuss how to take the dualling project forward and that these meetings would advise decisions on progress of the various schemes. Preference for upgrading Inveramsay at the current timetable was noted and acknowledged that the current proposal is still being progressed.

The meeting also discussed the Aberdeen to Inverness Rail proposals, electrification from the central belt to Aberdeen and the area's proposals for a strategic development fund.

❖ **First Scotrail & Tacran, Aberdeen, 26 January 2012**

This meeting was held to discuss the possibility of additional local stops in the Aberdeen to Dundee timetable and the aspirations for local services within the Aberdeen City and Shire area. The meeting was attended by First Scotrail's timetabling experts.

A number of proposals for additional stops were identified for Portlethen and Laurencekirk as well as local stations in the Tacran area. It was noted that there was a need to balance local stops with overall journey times between the primary stations. First Scotrail are to investigate these proposals in detail with a view for implementation in December 2012 if feasible.

There was also discussion about the stopping pattern at Stonehaven and also the Laurencekirk/ Montrose patterns which lead to difficulties for passengers south having limited trains back to Stonehaven and limited Laurencekirk/ Montrose opportunities for travel. These issues will be further examined.

There was discussion on the Nestrans proposal to examine the possibility, following publication of the Aberdeen to Inverness proposals, to extend the Inverness to Aberdeen trains to a suitable station further south (Stonehaven/ Laurencekirk or Montrose) before returning to Inverness. It was thought that this proposal may be possible and be easiest at Montrose but agreed to visit further when the GRIP 3 proposals are published in the spring.

❖ **RTP Lead Officers, Edinburgh, 15 February 2012**

This meeting has been rearranged to 23 February.

● **Future Programme of Meetings**

❖ **HTAP Steering Group, Aberdeen, 28 February 2012**

❖ **LABOF Steering Group, Aberdeen, 01 March 2012**

❖ **RTP Chairs, Dumfries, 07 March 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.

RGM/RD 18 Jan 2012

## LABOF STEERING GROUP

### Minutes of Meeting Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011

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

**In Attendance:** Derick Murray, Nestrans (DM), Kirsty Morrison, Nestrans (KM), Richard Mckenzie, Aberdeenshire Council (RMck), Martin Hall, Aberdeenshire Council (MH), Maggie Bochel, ACC (MB), Chris Cormack, ACC (CC), Andrew Jarvis, Stagecoach (AJ), David Stewart, First (DS).

**Apologies:** Ewan Wallace

#### 1. Minutes of Meeting of LABOF Steering Group, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011

The minute of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September was agreed.

#### 4. Matters Arising

**Kings St Bus Lane safety audit** – there was some uncertainty over whether the safety audit had been carried out and whether any issues had been identified. Nestrans to clarify. **Action: KM**

**Integrated ticketing** – SPT are happy to share the details of their integrated ticketing joint venture with us. This is related to the back office functions of smartcard ticketing. Nestrans to seek additional feedback on this. **Action: KM**

AJ has obtained a copy of the agreement in place in Oxford but is still waiting on permission to share this. RMck will be arranging a ticketing task group meeting but is still awaiting feedback from First on existing tickets available and also interpreting what the implications of the Competition Commissions recommendations are. RMck will organise a meeting either before or shortly after Christmas. **Action RMck**

**Real Time Information** – Progress on this project is awaiting the results of the Stagecoach board meeting this month to clarify the direction Stagecoach are taking. This will influence what Aberdeenshire are proposing. If the Stagecoach proposal doesn't go ahead then Aberdeenshire tender documents are ready to go out. In Aberdeen DS stated that the issue of maintenance of on-street signs is still under discussion.

#### 5. Market Street

MB reported that contact had been made by the police by phone rather than letter and this had resulted in a commitment to have a police presence at the junctions on Market Street in the weekends running up to Christmas. Feedback from the first weekend indicated that there hadn't been any particular problems. Neither operator had

received any feedback but resolved to identify any issues and feed this back to MB that afternoon. **Action: AJ and DS**

Other actions that had been implemented were a further press release encouraging people not to drive into the city centre and VMS messages advising of city centre congestion. AJ suggested that the presence of the police alone may have made a difference.

A meeting is to be arranged with the Police after Christmas to discuss longer term solutions. It was agreed that all were content to leave this issue now until this further meeting can be arranged with the Police.

## **5. Christmas Park and Ride at Woodhill House**

KM summarised the proposals for use of the car park at Woodhill House as a special park and ride facility in the run up to Christmas using the existing scheduled bus services. The question was raised about safety for passengers crossing Westburn Road and CC undertook to check this. **Action CC**

DS agreed to clarify a fare to KM that afternoon. **Action: DS**

A draft leaflet was discussed and KM to speak to Iain Mason about using the ACC design team. **Action: KM**

A joint city and shire press release should be drafted. KM to speak to Angela Taylor at ACC about press release. **Action: KM**

## **6. Quality Partnership Report to Nestrans Board**

Discussion was had around the issues raised by this report and covered the following issues:

- BSOG is being reduced and concessions capped causing major concerns for operators
- The way BSOG is awarded is changing and will be based on a per kilometre basis from next year. This will impact all operators but perhaps more so the slower city services rather than fast, longer distance rural services.
- CPT are discussing these issues at their meeting on Thursday this week and are also attending the next RTP Chairs meeting also on Thursday this week.
- It was questioned whether total travel is down, if bus patronage is showing the same pattern across the rest of Scotland and what the sample size is for the Scottish Household Survey. **Action: KM to check these points**
- The point was made as to how the operators can make the general public aware of what the government are doing in terms of BSOG and concessions and that this is a nationwide problem.
- DM agreed to highlight issues raised to Keith Brown. **Action: DM**

- AJ estimated that every penny added on to a litre of fuel adds £1million to the operator.
- Concessions are already an extra £5m over the estimate for this year. The Government is also skimming off £3.8million from BSOG to give to Local Authorities for bus priority.

## **7. Labof Executive Progress**

This report was noted.

## **8. 2012 Meeting Dates**

The proposed Steering Group and Executive Group meeting dates for 2012 were agreed.

## **9. AOCB**

AJ noted that it was good to see the work on the flags in the city centre progressing.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at 10:00am in the Nestrans office.

KM/ 12 December 2011