3b Regional Transport Strategy Re-fresh

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on progress in the re-fresh of the Regional Transport Strategy and to present the draft re-fresh document for approval for a further period of consultation.

Background

Following the Board meeting on the 9th October 2012 a members workshop was held to discuss the re-fresh of the RTS. At this meeting a Main Issues Report and proposed amendments to the strategy were presented and discussed.

The RTS Main Issues Report was made available for consultation on 5th October for a period of 8 weeks. The report was available on the Nestrans website and was publicised through coverage in the local press.

The consultation period included a meeting of the North East Transport Consultative Forum (NETCF) on 30th October at which the RTS re-fresh was the key point of discussion and a presentation to the Aberdeen Civic Forum on the 20th October.

Draft RTS Re-fresh document

In total 16 responses were received during the consultation on the Main Issues Report and these have been collated and analysed and fed into the development of a draft final RTS Re-fresh document.

Appendix A to this report provides a summary of the consultation comments received and how they have been addressed in the draft final strategy.

The purpose of this re-fresh is not to change the direction of the RTS but to incorporate significant developments in policy and better align it with the Strategic Development Plan and the transport implications of this development plan. As a result, the re-fresh document will form an addendum to the existing RTS published in 2008 and updates Chapter 8 of the strategy 'The Preferred Strategy Package'.

The draft RTS re-fresh document is provided in Appendix B.

Next steps and timescales

Subject to approval by the Board it is proposed that this draft addendum to the RTS be made available to stakeholders and the public for a further period of consultation on the proposed final document. This will allow the completion of the SEA Environmental Report and Equality Impact Assessment which will be formally consulted upon alongside the draft RTS Re-fresh.

The next steps are:

- To complete the SEA Environmental Report and Equalities Impacts Assessment;
- To provide the two Councils with a formal opportunity to comment on the draft re-fresh of the strategy, Environmental Report and Equalities Assessment;

- To provide a further opportunity to NETCF members to comment on the draft re-freshed document;
- To submit the Environmental Report and proposed RTS to the SEA consultation authorities for comments as well as making this available to stakeholders and the public;
- Take on board the comments of the SEA consultation authorities, partner Councils and stakeholders;
- Report the proposed final re-fresh back to the Board for approval; and
- Submit the RTS to Scottish Ministers for approval.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members:

- Consider the draft re-fresh document and approve it incorporating any amendments agreed by Members for a further period of consultation;
- Approve the proposed next steps.

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