

3b Strategic Transport Fund Update

o Purpose of Report

To update Board members on the payments received and agreements made in relation to the Strategic Transport Fund to date.

o Background

The Strategic Development Planning Authority adopted the supplementary guidance 'Delivering Identified Projects through a Strategic Transport Fund' in December 2011. This guidance is non-statutory supplementary guidance in support of the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan 2009 and was adopted with the intention that it would be reviewed and adopted as statutory guidance as part of the new Strategic Development Plan.

o Update on agreements and payments into the fund

There have been no further payments into the STF since it was last reported to the Board in June 2014.

In total, contributions of £10,158,882 have been agreed in relation to the STF of which £1,308,637 is currently held by Nestrans.

Full details of the contributions received into the fund and expenditure on an annual basis are provided in the Nestrans Annual Report.

o Review of the STF Guidance

At the Board meeting in June 2014 it was stated that a report would be going to the SDPA on 26th June outlining the next steps in terms of the review of STF guidance and the process for moving this to statutory guidance under the new Strategic Development Plan. The report to the SDPA in June stated:

“the intention is to move from the current non-statutory Supplementary Planning Guidance to statutory guidance as soon as practically possible. The STF has been successful to date in facilitating development in and around Aberdeen while also securing contributions to address the cumulative impact of these developments on the transport network. The transition has been complicated slightly by the fact that, although supported by the examination Reporters, their report suggested that an additional piece of work is required before we can consult on refreshed guidance. In the interim, the current non-statutory guidance (adopted early 2012) will continue to be used, although developers still have the option of assessing their cumulative impacts on the transport network and mitigating those impacts in line with the SDP. A report will be presented to the next meeting of the SDPA in September with a detailed programme for taking this forward. Although it is possible that this report will contain draft guidance for consultation, it is not possible to commit to this at this time.”

Systra (formerly MVA) have been commissioned by Nestrans and the SDPA (funded by the SDPA) to carry out some additional work to the Cumulative Transport Appraisal which forms the evidence base for the STF. This work will re-examine some of the information provided in the original report and will inform the review of the STF mechanism and the guidance.

The findings from this additional work were provided by Systra at the end of July and a meeting of the STF working group (including representatives from Nestrans, SDPA, planning and transport teams at the two Councils, Planning Gain and Transport Scotland) has been scheduled for 20th August 2014 to discuss the findings and implications for the review of the STF.

The results of these discussions and a more detailed programme for review will then be reported back to the SDPA at its meeting on 24th September and to the Nestrans Board in October.

• **Recommendation**

The Board is recommended to:

- a) Note the steps being taken in the review of the STF and the intention to bring back proposals to the next meeting of the SDPA and subsequently Nestrans setting out details to take forward the review of the Supplementary Guidance to adoption as soon as practically possible.

KC/31st July 2014