

3b Strategic Transport Fund Update

o Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Board members on progress in reviewing the STF guidance and on 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. The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan was adopted in March 2014 and the SDPA agreed in June 2014 that in the interim, the current non-statutory guidance will continue to be used.

A draft of the revised guidance has been consulted upon and at the last meeting of the SDPA in April 2015 it was agreed to make amendments to the guidance in light of the consultation responses and submit it to Scottish Ministers for the statutory 28 days for them to decide whether to issue a Direction regarding the adoption of the guidance.

o Review of the STF Guidance

The SDPA submitted the proposed Supplementary Guidance to Scottish Ministers on 6 May 2015 and have received a response, which will be reported to the next meeting of the SDPA on 25 June 2015. It is anticipated that the supplementary guidance will be adopted by the SDPA in light of the Scottish Ministers Direction and then referred to both Councils for ratification at the next meeting of their relevant planning policy committees in late August. This could allow the supplementary guidance to come into force with effect from 28 August 2015, at which point it will supersede the current non-statutory supplementary guidance.

In the interim, STF contributions continue to be sought for all relevant planning applications in the City and Aberdeenshire and the existing guidance will continue in force.

o Update on agreements and payments into the fund

Since the last Board meeting in April 2015 funds totalling £122,776.45 have been agreed in relation to two further sites in Aberdeen.

In total, contributions of £20,721,823 have been agreed in relation to the STF of which £1,473,162.92 is currently held by Nestrans.

As stated in the guidance, monies paid into the STF are held for a period of 20 years.

o **Recommendation**

The Board is recommended to:

- a) Note the steps being taken in the review of the STF, the key changes made to the guidance and the timescales set out by the SDPA for this;
- b) Note the payments made into the funds to date.

JA 8 June 2015