

3c Transport Scotland/Scottish Government Transport Directorate Reorganisation

- Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to highlight the Scottish Government intention to reorganise the two parts of its organisation with responsibility for Transport, the Transport Directorate and Transport Scotland.

- Background

Transport Scotland was initially proposed as an agency body to be charged with the delivery of road and rail projects along with the introduction and operation of the Government's bus concessionary fares scheme. In reality it also advised the Ministers on issue of policy in relation to the issues. As an Agency of the Government, Transport Scotland has a Board to oversee its operations. Other transport related matter remained under the direct control of the Scottish Ministers.

This Board has previously been advised, through the Scottish Government liaison reports that Scottish Government and Transport Scotland has been carrying out a review of the operations of its own directorate and Transport Scotland.

- Proposal

On the 28 April 2010 Nestrans received a letter from Jonathan Pryce, Director of Transport and David Middleton, Chief Executive of Transport Scotland advising that the review has concluded that the Transport Directorate and Transport Scotland should be merged into a new Agency, also to be called Transport Scotland. A copy of this letter is attached as Appendix 1.

The letter highlights that the principle of the merger has been agreed but that the detail of how this will be achieved is still to be resolved by David Middleton and Jonathan Pryce. It also notes that the Chief Executive of the new Agency will be David Middleton.

CoSLA have had some discussion with Scottish Government regarding the proposal and to date have determined that there is no consequential impact on the responsibilities of either Regional Transport Partnership's or Local Authorities.

The Government have however acknowledged to CoSLA that the previous arrangement for accountability to the Transport Scotland Board will need to be revisited in the light of the reorganization. Further discussions with CoSLA are intended on this issue.

- Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

Transport
Jonathan Pryce, Director of Transport
David Middleton, Chief Executive, Transport Scotland



Dear Colleague

SHAPING UP: TRANSPORT

We are writing to inform you about the outcome of a review of transport organisation within Scottish Government.

The review formed part of a wider Scottish Government Shaping Up Review about the overall effectiveness of the organisation. The transport review examined the way in which current Scottish Government transport policy and delivery is carried out against the context of the Government's Purpose and the outcomes it wishes to deliver, addressing any areas of overlap or duplication in the roles of the Scottish Government Transport Directorate and Transport Scotland, to increase their overall effectiveness.

On the basis of the review evidence and following consultation with Ministers we have concluded that we should bring the Scottish Government's Transport Directorate and Transport Scotland into a new, single, transport unit covering all of the Scottish Government's transport responsibilities. There are clear in-principle benefits that will flow from bringing the two existing units together under a single Chief Executive responsible and accountable for all of the Scottish Government's transport interests.

The precise framework of the new, combined agency will be drawn up in detail over the next few months. We can confirm, however, that it is our intention to maintain the Transport Scotland name, and to continue with the present locations in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Subject to the finalisation of the constitutional arrangements and the production of a new framework document we envisage the new unit being launched some time later this summer, at which point David Middleton will become the Chief Executive and accountable officer for the new, combined agency. Jonathan Pryce as current Director of Transport will play a continuing role in planning and implementing this change, working closely with David, before moving on to pastures new.

The review work has recognised the key contribution transport makes in meeting the Scottish Government's over-arching Purpose and National Outcomes. We expect the new single unit structure to build on the existing strengths of both the Transport Directorate and Transport Scotland, exploiting the additional synergies that can be developed through even closer integration.

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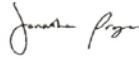
www.scotland.gov.uk www.transportscotland.gov.uk



There is no change to scope and breadth of the Scottish Government's transport responsibilities and your day to day contacts will for the time being remain unchanged. There will be further opportunities to bring you up to date with progress on implementation of the new arrangements during our regular discussions with you throughout our current organisations.



David Middleton
Chief Executive
Transport Scotland



Jonathan Pryce
Director of Transport

