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### 3c Five-year Review

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- Purpose of Report

To allow the Board to consider a review of transport developments in the North East over the past 5 years.

- Background

The Nestrans Board comprises of eight Councillor Members, four from Aberdeen City Council and four from Aberdeenshire Council, along with a further four External Members. In view of the forthcoming local elections it was considered an opportune time to give grateful thanks to the Councillor Members for their service on the Nestrans Board and highlight some of the main transport related achievements in the North East by Nestrans and other public and private organisations during their period of tenure.

- Policy Development

The following key Strategies, policies and plans have been developed and published:

- Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy - published in 2008
  - Nestrans Health and Transport Action Plan
  - Nestrans Bus Action Plan
    - Refreshed Bus Quality Partnership Agreement
    - Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership on Buchan – King Street Corridor
  - Nestrans Freight Action Plan
  - Nestrans Rail Action Plan
  - Getabout Travel Planning Strategy
  - RTS Delivery Plan
  - RTS Monitoring Report
  - Draft Regional Parking Strategy
- Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan - published in 2009
  - Supplementary Planning Guidance – Delivering Identified Projects through a Strategic Transport Fund
- Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Futures (ACSEF) Economic Manifesto – published in 2007
  - ACSEF Action Plan – building on energy
- Local Development Plans developed for next 10 years - Aberdeen City Council adopted its LDP in February 2012 and Aberdeenshire Council expected to adopt theirs in coming months
- Single Outcome Agreements developed and in place for Local Authorities and Community Planning Partnerships in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire
- North East Scotland Road Casualty Reduction Strategy - published in 2009

- Processes

The following key processes have been completed:

- Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route – Public Local Inquiry completed and Orders approved in March 2010. Subsequent challenges rejected by Outer and Inner Houses of the Court of Session.
  - Balmedie to Tippetty - Public Local Inquiry completed and made Orders published in March 2012.
  - A96 Park & Choose site and dualled link road from A96 to Dyce Dr/Argyll Road - planning permission approved and land acquired by Aberdeen City Council
  - Third Don Crossing - planning permission approved and Ministers ruled following Public Local Inquiry that Compulsory Purchase Orders can be used
  - A90 (S) Park & Choose site – planning application submitted
  - Aberdeen to Inverness rail improvements - engineering study progressed to GRIP 3 stage and includes proposal for a new station at Kintore
  - A96 dualling is committed within Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan to 2030
  - Preferred A90/A96 Haudagain improvements identified and commitment given by Scottish Government to construct following completion of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route
  - Inveramsay Bridge improvements under investigation and commitment given to delivery by Scottish Government
  - Inverurie Transport Interchange - land negotiations underway
  - Bridge of Dee Improvement – Pre-appraisal nearing completion
  - Access for All funding committed to upgrade Dyce Station in 2012
  - Mechanism developed for Nestrans to hold and administer £90M Strategic Transport Fund
- Representing North East Interests

Nestrans ensured that North East Interests are considered on a national stage for the following:

- Strategic Transport Projects Review – ensured regional projects of national importance level included
- National Planning Framework 2 – ensured national and regional/local planning views aligned
- Competition Commission British Airports Authority Review – seeking investment at Aberdeen Airport
- Department for Transport proposals for Economic Regulation of Airports – ensure issues affecting Aberdeen Airport taken into account
- High Speed Rail – Nestrans represented on stakeholder group developing business case for extending HSR to Scotland.
- Access to Main Transport Hubs – Raising issue of importance to North East and thus UK economy of access to London and global destinations beyond. Campaign undertaken to seek to redirect landing slots at Heathrow to areas not directly gaining from High Speed Rail due to their geographic peripherality
- ORR proposals for East Coast Mainline and Rail2014 Scotrail Franchise consultation – Successfully lobbied to ensure that direct cross-boundary rail service and sleeper service to London safeguarded
- Ferries – represent regional interests regarding Northern Isles Ferry Services

- Office of Fair Trading Local Bus Service Market Study – Contributed to study into impact of competition on bus services
- Scotland Rail Utilisation Strategy – Sought to recognise and address overcrowding issues and investigation into reduction in journey times to the Central Belt and consideration of Aberdeen as a separate growth market as per Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- Infrastructure

The following projects have been delivered:

### **Rail**

- Laurencekirk Station opened May 2009 and new car park constructed
- Aberdeen station improvements
- Enhanced rail timetable between Aberdeen – Inverurie and additional carriages
- Minor accessibility improvements at NE Stations
- Car Park extended at Stonehaven

### **Sea**

- Aberdeen Harbour Board – New rail freight terminals and Point Law peninsula improvements completed. Torry Quay redevelopment and deepening and widening of navigation channel and near approaches to the port works underway.
- Peterhead Port Authority - New 650ft quay at the Smith Embankment and a new 328ft breakwater at the Albert Quay opened in October 2010.
- Fraserburgh Harbour - Grant of £7.57M awarded from the European Fisheries Fund to deepen part of the harbour

### **Air**

- £10 million 124m runway extension at Aberdeen Airport opened Oct 2011
- main runway re-surfaced with energy efficient LED lighting
- improvements to taxi-ing areas
- new international arrival hall walkway
- streetscape at terminal frontage
- new multi-storey car park with 500 short stay spaces and dedicated cycle/motorcycle storage facilities
- bus/taxi lane on Argyll Road
- Access and egress improved through traffic control system upgrade and reallocation of lanes on Dyce Drive approach to roundabout on A96.

### **Strategic Road Improvements**

#### **Capacity**

- Wellington Road dualling between Charleston Interchange and Souterhead roundabout
- College Street dualling
- Market Street corridor improvements implemented in support of Union Street pedestrianisation proposals
- A90 grade separated junction at Findon
- Wapping Street gyratory alignment improvement

- Segregated left turn lane constructed from King George VI Bridge to West Tullos Road
- Electronic Variable Message Signs installed within Aberdeen City Centre
- A944/B9119 roundabout signalisation (junction of Skene Rd/Lang Stracht)

### **Safety**

- A947 Route Action
- A944 Mossat to Westhill Safety barriers
- Anti skid, signs and lines on A92, A944, A981, B997, A93, A97, A950
- A920 Riverside Rd/South Road, Ellon Traffic signals
- High St/Keithhall junction, Inverurie Traffic signals
- Interactive signs on A980 Raemoir and Riverside Dr, Aberdeen
- Puffin, toucan and zebra crossings at various locations
- Guild Street pedestrian safety – footway widening measures
- King Street lighting improvements

### **Maintenance**

- A92 Bervie Bridge
- Queen Elizabeth Bridge refurbishment
- Resurfacing on A92, A93, A944, A947, A952, A97, A98, A956 Wellington Rd and A956 Ellon Rd,

### **Bus**

- New bus stations at Peterhead and in Aberdeen
- Bus Quality Corridor Improvements on main radial routes – A947, A96, A93, A944, A90 (S) and A90 (N)
- Introduction of new DRT services
- Ellon Park & Ride upgrade (phase 1)
- New bus lane southbound on King Street from E North St to Castle St/Shiprow
- Extension of bus lane on Holburn Street on approach to Bridge of Dee
- Airlink service between Dyce Railway Station and Airport launched Dec 2008 and supported until commercially viable. Bus stops and shelters installed and timetables published.
- Bus lane decriminalisation in Aberdeen City
- Night time transport zone created in Aberdeen City Centre
- ARI bus interchange improvements approved and being implemented
- Direct Jet service launched Aug 2010 from bus/rail station/City Centre to Aberdeen Airport
- DDA compliant standardised bus timetable information being provided throughout region
- Bus Route Development Grant improvements on Stonehaven and Banchory to Aberdeen services and No 5 service within Aberdeen City
- Real time bus information service for First Aberdeen buses

### **Freight**

- Rail freight gauge enhancements, Elgin to Mossend
- Rail freight facilities opened at Raiths and Craiginches
- Freight maps produced for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire areas
- Signal alternations on Wellington Road to aid southbound HGV progression

### **Walking and Cycling**

- Westhill – Kingswells – Aberdeen Cycle Route
- Various core paths improvements
- Kingswells – Bucksburn path upgrade
- Peterhead Cycle Demonstration Town – various sections of cycleway
- Fraserburgh Cycle Network
- Banff and MacDuff Cycle Network
- Riverside Drive cycle route, Aberdeen
- West Cults Bridge on Deeside Way
- NCN1 Donside Path upgrade from Seaton Park through Donside Paper Mills site
- A96 Inverurie – Kintore – Blackburn – Aberdeen Cycleway
- Kingswells Roundabout Toucan Crossing

### **Travel Behaviour**

- Getabout Partnership formed and brand launched April 2008
- Getabout website and associated social media accounts
- Walkit website
- Local Rail Guides and Timetables
- Getabout Cycle Roadshow
- Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme
- Free on-line travel plan builder and associated monitoring
- Liftshare Scheme
- Park & Ride festive campaigns and leaflets
- Various promotional events and Challenges eg Bike Week, Walk to Work, In Town Without My Car
- Travel Planning support to various organisations throughout the North East
- City Car Club

- Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Note the main achievements towards delivery of the Regional Transport Strategy between 2007 - 2012.

JA / 5 April 2012