

5b Freight Action Plan

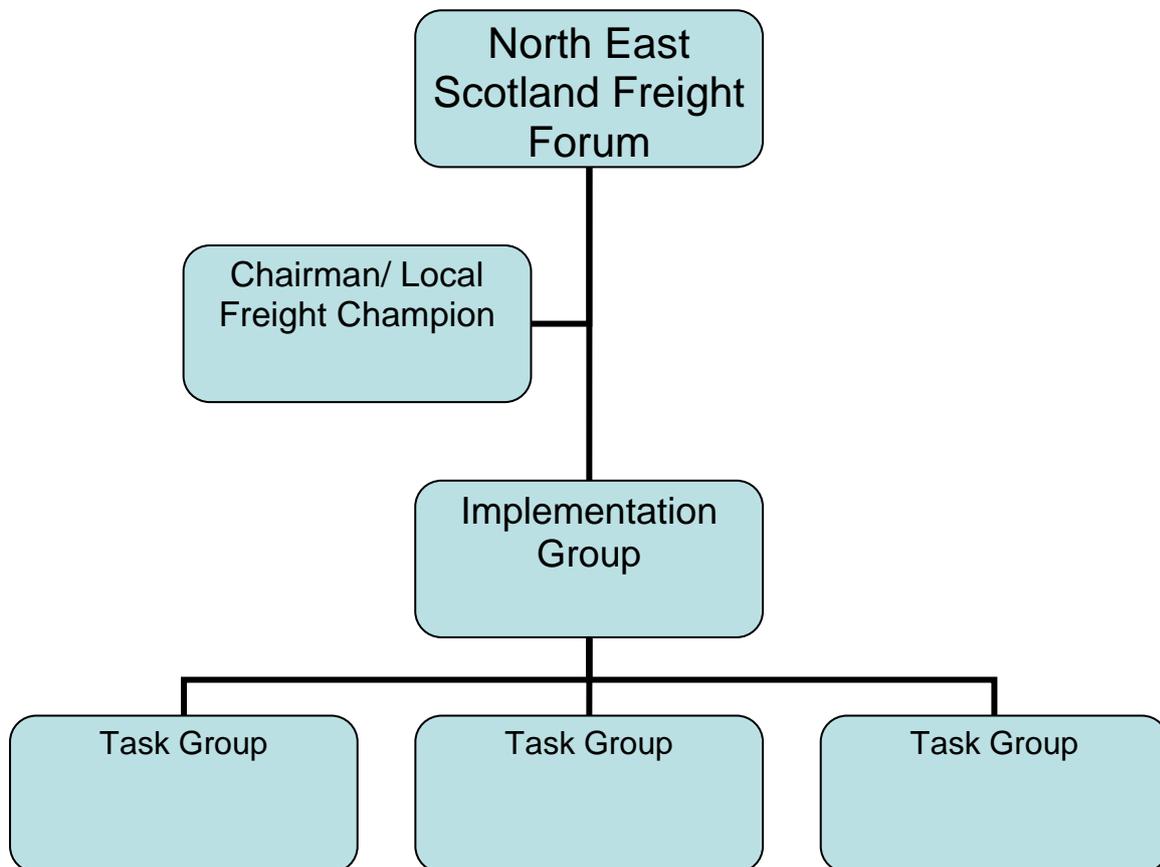
- Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update for members regarding progress on developing and delivering a Freight Action Plan for north east Scotland.

- Structures

Nestrans Board considered a report on 30 October 2009, at which it was agreed to finalise the Freight Action Plan and develop structures for delivering the actions. The following structure has been developed, which would enable all stakeholders in the region and nationally to discuss key issues at a Forum meeting, but for a small focused group to be responsible for delivering. It is suggested that the Implementation Group should consist of representatives from Nestrans and each of the local authorities, with direction from the freight champion who would also chair the Forum.

Specific tasks should be considered by short-life task groups as necessary – an example might be that of the North East Scotland Rail Freight Development Group which consisted of appropriate bodies and organisations to enable the delivery of railfreight gauge enhancement, but has now achieved its original objective and has not met for some time.



- Freight Action Plan launch

Members will recall that a finalised Freight Action Plan was discussed at the meeting on 30 October and agreed to be published as a finished document.

The Action Plan has now been amended to take account of the comments made at that meeting and is published on the Nestrans website

[http://www.nestrans.org.uk/db\\_docs/docs/Final%20Freight%20Action%20Plan.pdf](http://www.nestrans.org.uk/db_docs/docs/Final%20Freight%20Action%20Plan.pdf)

A printed version is being produced and will be launched at an event in March, which will also update attendees of progress on a number of the actions contained within the plan. Some of these actions are being delivered through the European Project StratMoS, for which Aberdeenshire Council are leading on behalf of north east partners.

- Freight Forum

The previous report and the Action Plan itself recommended the establishment of a North East Scotland Freight Forum. This group would meet approximately annually and would consist of a wide range of local and national stakeholders. Nestrans Board has previously indicated that it would like Eddie Anderson to act as a local champion on freight issues. It would be appropriate for the champion to be the Chair of the North East Freight Forum.

It is felt that a voice for industry has been lacking in media communications, etc and that there is an opportunity for the Chair of the North east Scotland Freight Forum to be a “go to guy” when the media are looking for a freight industry angle on relevant stories.

It is suggested that the first meeting of the Freight Forum should coincide with the launch of Nestrans’ Freight Action Plan, in conjunction with the StratMoS project. Arrangements have been made for the FAP launch and the initial meeting of the North East Freight Forum to be held at the Palm Court Hotel in Aberdeen on Tuesday 9 March. Invitations have gone out to those who were involved in previous workshops to develop the FAP, including local organisations, hauliers and national bodies such as Transport Scotland, Scottish Government, Freight Transport Association and Road Haulage Association.

- Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report, agree to the publication of the Freight Action Plan and the arrangements for delivering the actions.

RD/29 January 2010