

## **General -**

### **6b Publications and Consultations**

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#### **o Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform members of a number of recent publications and consultation papers and to seek approval of draft responses as appropriate.

#### **o Inverurie**

As members may be aware, Nestrans and Aberdeenshire Council have had a long-standing desire to implement a transport interchange, inner relief road and increased car parking capacity at Inverurie station.

Agreement has now been reached in principle with rail interests that this proposal is consistent with rail policy and a formal process is now underway to consult on transferring land ownership to the Council.

Network Rail have written to stakeholders seeking their views on a proposal to dispose of the former sidings to the west of Inverurie station by way of freehold sale and grant of a long lease to Aberdeenshire Council.

Network Rail can apply to the Office of Rail Regulation for consent to make the disposal under the terms of their network licence land disposal condition or, if in the light of the consultation responses, the proposed disposal would qualify to be made under ORR's general consent, they may complete it accordingly.

ORR conducted a review of land disposal arrangements and agreed that from 1 April 2008, ORR will no longer launch any separate consultations when Network Rail apply for consent to dispose of land. The arrangements are that NR consult and report the results to ORR in conjunction with an application. It is therefore important to submit any views at this stage, so that these may be considered in ORR's decision.

Since Nestrans has committed to deliver this proposal in conjunction with Aberdeenshire Council, it was felt appropriate to respond in support of the land transfer. Comments were required by 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and the attached response contained in Appendix A was therefore prepared and submitted by that deadline.

#### **o Network Rail: Long-term Planning Process – Long Distance Market Study Draft for Consultation**

On 25 April 2013, Network Rail published a series of market studies for consultation. These related to Long Distance Passenger Market, London and the south east, Regional Urban

and Freight Markets. Of these the study of most interest is the one on long distance passenger journeys, although it specifically excludes journeys made entirely within a single market area (presumably Scotland would be considered market area).

Network Rail are seeking to involve stakeholders to ensure that they understand the different rail markets to inform forward planning and ensure effective understanding of key issues. Transport Scotland feeds into consideration of Anglo-Scottish services. Aspirations are considered for the long-term including a scoring system based on likely demands and forecasting including journey types (eg proportion of business travel). Proposals for journeys between major cities of over 50 miles are categorised as A, B or C where A represents high speed lines to/from London and B is aspirations for 100mph-plus and includes connections such as Edinburgh and Glasgow to Leeds or Manchester.

There appears to be little impact on the north east and Scotland interests should be covered by Transport Scotland's involvement.

### **o Aberdeen Local Development Plan Review Pre-Main Issues Report Consultation**

In April, Aberdeen City Council started the process of reviewing the current Local Development Plan. A Main Issues Report will set out proposals for development and identify any proposed changes to the existing Plan. To identify issues, a pre-main issues consultation is being run until June. Stakeholders have been invited to a series of events to feed into this consultation and to discuss possible issues. Nestrans were represented by Kirsty Chalmers at an event on 31 May in Aberdeen at which the key issues discussed related to infrastructure and in relation to transport particularly, the need for the transport network to support the growing economy of the north east. The proposed expansion of Aberdeen Harbour, Aberdeen City Centre and the need to reflect the growing emphasis at a national level on climate change and carbon emissions were also highlighted.

### **o Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan**

The Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance are currently available for consultation with responses sought by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012. The Plan covers the National Park area of which a proportion lies within the Nestrans region. Nestrans has responded to previous consultations in the run up to the preparation of this plan, including a response to the consultation on the Main Issues Report back in 2011. A pro-forma is provided for the submission of representations and these are provided in Appendix B to this report form (one for the LDP and one for the Supplementary Guidance).

### **o Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill**

In May 2013, a proposal for a private members' Bill was put out for consultation by Iain Gray MSP. The proposal is for a Bill to provide transport authorities with greater powers to set service levels for local bus services, including a power to group profitable routes with non-profitable routes before they are put out to tender with operators. Using these powers it is proposed that transport authorities would be able to bundle profitable and non-profitable routes and franchise them as a package, set a minimum level of services for this franchise and be able to use local authority fleets to provide socially useful services where there are gaps in provision.

The consultation is being launched in connection with the draft proposal which has been lodged as the first stage in the process of producing a Members' Bill in the Scottish Parliament. Nestrans intends to initiate meetings with both Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council's Public Transport Units, with a view to ensuring a consistent view from authorities in the north east. Since there is a formal 12 week consultation period which ends on 30 August 2013, it is intended to bring a full report to the next meeting of the Board on 28 August.

• **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board:

- a) note the content of this report and the documents referred to above.

RGM/RD/KC 10 May 2013

3 June 2013

Our Ref

RD/N13/6

Your Ref

Edward Freeman  
Network Rail

By email

Dear Mr Freeman

**Inverurie**

Thank you for your email dated 14 May regarding the proposal to dispose of the former freight yard at Inverurie to enable construction of a transport interchange, increased car park and relief road which is proposed by Aberdeenshire Council.

As you know, Nestrans are supportive of this proposal in the belief that it can enhance the viability of Inverurie Town Centre, relieve local traffic congestion and enhance the operation of the rail network by facilitating additional car parking spaces. The car park at Inverurie station is generally over capacity and this is likely to put some potential passengers off using the train. Opportunities to improve interchange with public transport services, namely buses and taxis incorporated into the new design are also positive.

Nestrans facilitates the North East Freight Forum and recently hosted a Scottish Government sponsored seminar on "Road to Rail Opportunities". At that meeting, participants including local businesses and hauliers were asked if they felt that the proposal would in any way prejudice the opportunities for railfreight from the area. None felt that the proposal was detrimental to railfreight from the area.

In conclusion, Nestrans would therefore support the disposal of the former freight yard and support the development as proposed.

I hope this is helpful, but if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Rab Dickson  
Transport Strategy Manager

Official Use Only  
Reference  
Objection No:

**Form for representations on the  
Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan**

Please read the explanatory notes inside the front cover of the proposed Local Development Plan before completing this form. The deadline for returning completed forms is 5pm, Friday 5 July 2013. The forms can also be completed online at [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk). You can photocopy this form, or further copies are available from the Cairngorms National Park Authority offices or can be printed from our website.

Please use this form to state clearly the modification/s you would like to see made to the Plan. You should include the proposal/policy or paragraph reference where appropriate. Please use a separate form for each representation.

1. Name **Kirsty Chalmers**  
 Address **Nestrans**  
**Archibald Simpson House, 27-29 King Street, Aberdeen**  
 ..... Postcode **AB24 5AA**  
 Telephone **01224 625524** Email **kirchalmers@nestrans.org.uk**

2. If you are representing a third party, please give their details.  
 Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone ..... Email .....

To which address do you wish all correspondence to be directed? (please tick)

Own  Agent

3. Please state clearly the policy, proposal, map or other aspect of the Plan or guidance to which you wish to seek a modification. **Local Development Plan in relation to all settlements**

4. Please state clearly and fully the grounds of your objection or representation to the proposed Local Development Plan, using a continuation sheet if necessary. (You are advised to limit your statement to a maximum of 2000 words, plus limited supporting materials).

**In relation to the detailed policies provided under each settlement, Nestrans welcomes the references to improving pedestrian connectivity and achieving a more pedestrian and cycle friendly environment. Travel improvements are listed under the heading developer contributions and infrastructure requirements and we feel**

4. Continued

**that it may be worth expanding this to explicitly mention, not just walking and cycling, but also public transport as something for which developer contributions may be required. Equally, under the heading linkages and connections, we would welcome recognition of the importance of public transport links, not just within the settlement, but also to other key destinations and settlements.**

5. Please state clearly what change/s you wish to see made to the Plan, which would resolve your objection.

**Specific reference to cycling, walking and public transport under 'developer contributions and infrastructure requirements' within each settlement strategy.**

**Please return all completed forms to:**

FREEPOST (RSHS-BHKL-KXHS)  
Cairngorms National Park Authority  
Albert Memorial Hall, Station Square  
Ballater  
AB35 5QB

Or email: [localplan@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:localplan@cairngorms.co.uk)

**Forms should be returned no later than 5pm, Friday 5 July 2013.**

After that date, you will be contacted by a representative of the Cairngorms National Park Authority with regard to your objections.

If you have any queries regarding completion of the comments form, or require further assistance, please contact the Development Plan team at the CNPA Ballater office: Tel: 013397 53601 Email: [localplan@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:localplan@cairngorms.co.uk)

**[www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk)**

**Data Protection**

Details provided will only be used for purposes associated with the Local Development Plan. You may request to see personal information held by the CNPA at any time. Information will be shared with the Scottish Government Department of Planning and Environmental Appeals and may be published on our website. We will not publish address details but may publish the name of the person who has completed the form. By completing and submitting the form, you are consenting to the above.

Official Use Only Reference: Objection No:
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Telephone	<b>01224 625524</b> Email <b>kirchalmers@nestrans.org.uk</b>

2. If you are representing a third party, please give their details.	
Name	.....
Address	..... .....
	..... Postcode .....
Telephone	..... Email .....

To which address do you wish all correspondence to be directed? (please tick)

Own       Agent

3. Please state clearly the policy, proposal, map or other aspect of the Plan or guidance to which you wish to seek a modification. <b>Supplementary Guidance and Core Paths Plan</b>
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4. Please state clearly and fully the grounds of your objection or representation to the proposed Local Development Plan, using a continuation sheet if necessary. (You are advised to limit your statement to a maximum of 2000 words, plus limited supporting materials).
<b>Nestrans supports and welcomes the emphasis placed on the promotion of sustainable transport modes and the creation of new multi-use links where appropriate. Also welcomed is the reference to innovative options such as community cars, car sharing and electric vehicle charging points, all of which support the objectives of the Regional Transport Strategy.</b>

4. Continued

**Nestrans also welcomes the inclusion of the Core Paths Plan as supplementary guidance.**

**For the settlements along the Deeside Way, we would however welcome reference to the strategic nature of this walking and cycling route and the promotion of links from new developments to this strategic network. This will help to ensure that there are opportunities for sustainable travel within the park area but also connecting to strategic links enabling sustainable access to the park.**

5. Please state clearly what change/s you wish to see made to the Plan, which would resolve your objection.

**In the LDP, Core Paths Plan and Supplementary Guidance, make reference to connections to and enhance the network of strategic walking and cycling routes such as the Deeside Way for travel within the park and also to promote travel to the park by walking and cycling.**

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Cairngorms National Park Authority  
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