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## 8 Information Bulletin

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- Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring decision.

- Haudagain

The Minister for Transport has approved Option 5 as Transport Scotland's preferred option for the Haudagain. This is the option previously agreed by Nestrans and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. This approval is caveated by the need to check the performance of option 5 against the new local development plans (approved by the local authorities since the assessment of the Haudagain options was completed).

The cumulative impact assessment of the local development plans carried out for Nestrans and the two Councils will be useful in addressing this issue. Aberdeen City Council and Nestrans are arranging for further discussions with Transport Scotland to take the project forward.

- Inquiry into the relationship between transport and land use planning

Following the Transport Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee's investigation into Land Use and Transport Planning which was reported to the Board in the Information Bulletin of the 25 August 2010 meeting, the Scottish Government have responded to the Committee's findings. An extract from the response is shown below:-

***Relationships between bodies involved in transport and land use planning***

***Recommendation 3:-***

***The Committee notes that Strategic Development Planning Authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships both have strategic roles in relation to transport and land use planning in their geographic areas and that it makes sense for these strategic roles to be as joined up as possible (Report paragraph 79). Suggestions made in evidence as to how this might be achieved included the idea of promoting common membership of the two bodies, aligning the geographical areas they cover, or holding joint meetings of their boards (Report paragraph 80).***

***The Committee recommends that the Scottish Government consider these and other proposals, and develops a strategy to encourage Strategic Development Planning Authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships to work together more closely.***

*8. The Scottish Government is supportive of closer working between the Strategic Development Planning Authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships, and believes that good linkages are already being made and developed by the respective authorities. In some areas close working relationships are helped by co-location of office accommodation and facilities, for example SEStran and SESplan, and Nestrans and Aberdeen City and Shire SDPA. In addition, the Regional Transport Partnerships are designated as key agencies in The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2008. In terms of membership, the Committee will also note that*

*there is already some commonality of membership, and this should help to ensure a consistency of approach. Both SESplan and Aberdeen City and Shire SDPAs, for example, share five of their twelve Councillor members with the relevant Regional Transport Partnerships. There are no proposals at present to require more formal joint working arrangements.*

- Scottish Transport Awards

Nestrans has been short-listed for four awards in this years Scottish Transport Awards. The categories where we have been short-listed are:-

- Scottish Transport Local Authority of the year (which RTP's were invited to apply for)
- Best Transport Integration (with ACSEF, SDPA, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils for joint working to develop integrated land use and transport policies)
- Transport Project of the year (Laurencekirk station with Aberdeenshire Council, Network Rail and Transport Scotland))
- Best Transport Partnership of the Year (Getabout)

Aberdeenshire Council has also been shortlisted in the following categories:-

- Scottish Transport Local Authority of the year
- Best Bus Service (Aberdeenshire's A2B)
- Advanced Road Safety, Traffic Management and Enforcement (The Bus Stop! Campaign)
- Cycling improvements (The Aberdeenshire Walking and Cycling Action Plan)
- Excellence in Technology and Innovation (E scheduling School Transport Services)
- Excellence in Marketing and Travel Planning ('No Excuse' Zones)

- Operations at Heathrow Airport

On the 7 September 2010 the following written statement was placed before the UK parliament.

***The Minister of State for Transport (Theresa Villiers):*** *In January 2009, the previous Government announced its decisions relating to the future of Heathrow Airport. In addition to supporting the construction of a third runway, a number of additional decisions were taken relating to operations at the airport.*

*This Government has already made its position clear in rejecting the case for a third runway, and opposing new runways at London's other main airports – Gatwick and Stansted. I now wish to outline the Government's position in relation to those additional operational decisions.*

*I can confirm that we remain firmly committed to retaining runway alternation and will not approve the introduction of mixed mode operations at Heathrow. This Government believes that any potential benefits mixed mode might bring to the airport are outweighed by the negative impact such operations would have on local communities.*

*Operating procedures known as westerly preference, early morning runway alternation and night-time rotation of easterly/westerly preference have also all brought noise mitigation benefits to local communities. This Government does not intend to revisit*

*previous decisions taken in relation to these procedures and they will continue to operate as they do now.*

*The previous Government's decisions in 2009 also included a commitment to end the Cranford agreement. This decision was based on the desire to distribute noise more fairly around the airport and extend the benefits of runway alternation to communities under the flight paths during periods of easterly winds. We support that objective and do not intend to re-open the decision. A number of infrastructure and operational changes by BAA and NATS are needed to implement this decision. The airport operator, BAA, is currently developing proposals for ending the Cranford agreement with a view to confirming the necessary works by the end of this year. I will look to BAA to ensure that proper consideration is given to appropriate mitigation and compensation measures for those likely to be affected by the proposals.*

The Board had previously expressed the view that some relaxation of the current planning rules on the use of runways could be helpful in ensuring that pressure on landing slots at Heathrow was eased. This view has been sent to the Secretary of State for Transport with the suggestion that mixed mode use might be acceptable for part of the day. The statement rules out the use of mixed mode operations meantime.

- Aberdeen City Council – Corporate recognizing achievement ceremony

Aberdeen City Council has a Corporate Recognising Achievement Ceremony on 5 October. Two Nestrans employee's, Rab Dickson and Kirsty Morrison have been nominated to achieve awards, along with other colleagues, for their part in jointly developing the integrated land use and transport policies. This award recognizes that ACSEF/ SDPA/ Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils/ Nestrans are joint finalists in the Scottish Transport Awards Best Transport Integration category.

- Low Carbon Vehicles Fund Launched

The Government has announced a scheme, through the Community Planning Partnerships, providing assistance for public bodies to pay the difference between the purchase price of standard vehicles and electric vehicles. The scheme includes for the cost of providing charging points.

The scheme allocates money to Community Planning Partnerships based on the size of the local authority they cover. Both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnerships have indicated to the Government that they would wish to take up their allocation.

- Nestrans Press Releases

10/9 Hospital direct bus offers a change in lifestyle

3/9 Launching realtimebus.com

3/9 Partnership Board Vacancy

- Getabout Events

A report on In Town Without my Car events on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September in Bridge of Don and Inch will be too late for this information bulletin. The training of the children by Adventure Aberdeen is now complete and the events have been added to:

- Adventure Aberdeen skills course for the children who have done the training and the presentation of their certificates.
- Adventure Aberdeen Climbing wall
- Grampian police Cycle safety event with a certificate for those who pass
- Grampian police security markings for the children's (and adult) bikes
- Bike doctor – Grampian Cycle surgery
- Local community events organised by the school's and local community groups
- Alien Ocean electric bikes trade stand
- The Bridge of Don event will be part of a world record attempt of playing the most number of bike bells across Scotland. At 13:00

The Bridge of Don event is going to be opened by Aberdeen's Lord Provost and the opening for Inch is currently being organised by Aberdeenshire Council.

The park and ride campaign at Christmas continues to be developed. Graphics will be available soon and the theme of Santa towing a bus or train through the sky (to avoid the traffic) is confirmed.

The GetABout stand has been to Chevron for the day.

The aims and objectives of Getabout have been finalised by the partnership and will be posted on the website shortly.

- Recommendation

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

RGM/20 Sept 2010