

8 Information Bulletin

o 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.

o Access to Laurencekirk Study

A Paramics microsimulation model of the study area is being built and information has been provided from the strategic Aberdeen Sub Area Model (ASAM) to inform the development of predicted future year travel demand scenarios. Transport Scotland has appointed an independent consultancy firm to audit the models. Aim to commence modelling of options in September on completion of the base and future year reference case models. The pre-appraisal section of the Transport Appraisal report is nearing completion and works are underway with the part 1 initial appraisal of options taken forward from the pre-appraisal stage. A progress meeting is scheduled for 12 August.

o Energetica corridor multi-modal study

A brief for a the Energetica corridor multi-modal study is currently being finalised. The draft is currently with Transport Scotland and the two Councils for final comment and it is anticipated that the study will be put out to tender through the Scotland Excel framework at the end of August with the intention that the study will commence in Autumn 2014.

The study will identify and examine the options for strategic transport connections from Fraserburgh and Peterhead to Aberdeen along the Energetica corridor and will examine all modes of transport including options to reinstate the railway line. The study will form the pre-appraisal and part 1 appraisal stages of the STAG process and will include development and consideration of the objectives for the corridor and consideration of options to take forward to a more detailed appraisal.

The Nestrans Board has approved a contribution of £50,000 for this study this financial year and confirmation has been received that Transport Scotland will contribute up to £25,000. Aberdeenshire Council has indicated a willingness to contribute the remaining £25,000 towards the study, which is expected will cost around £100,000, spread over two financial years.

o Equalities Outcomes

The Equality and Human Rights Commission are working in partnership with the Scottish Government to help improve delivery on equality across the public sector with the aim of supporting better performance of the Public Sector Equality Duty across Scotland and improving outcomes for communities.

Nestrans, along with 52 other public authorities, has been invited to participate in an 'Improving Equality Outcomes' project as our outcomes have been assessed as needing improvement. Nestrans attended a workshop run by the Equalities and Human Rights

Commission in June 2014 and since then we have received individual feedback, via phone, specific to our outcomes.

The key points highlighted through feedback are that they would benefit from a stronger link between the outcomes and the evidence that supports them, clearly defining the outcomes that are set and ensuring that they are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound).

Our intention is to re-visit and review our Equalities outcomes, using the self-assessment guidance provided and re-submit them to the Equalities and Human Rights Commission for feedback through this project prior to submitting them to the Board for approval in October 2014.

o **Cycling Development Officer**

As previously agreed by the Nestrans Board, progress has been made towards the recruitment of a full-time temporary member of staff to help develop cycling initiatives across the north east. The post is to be funded jointly by Nestrans and the sustainable transport charity, Sustrans will be based at Nestrans' office in Aberdeen and will work with local authorities and cycling organisations to progress active travel networks across the region.

The post is currently advertised on various websites with a closing date of 17 August and it is hoped that an officer may be in place by the autumn.

o **Ministerial Cycling Summit**

The second annual Ministerial Summit on cycling will be held in Glasgow on Tuesday 28 October 2014. Invitations have been sent to Heads of Transportation, RTP Lead Officers and Chairs of the appropriate Committee with responsibility for cycling development at all local authorities.

o **Scottish Transport Awards**

There was success at the Scottish Transport Awards on 19th June for Nestrans and First Aberdeen who were awarded a Scottish Transport Award for a joint submission in the 'Best Bus Service' category for the Platinum service 19. The submission by Nestrans, nominated First's Platinum service 19 which was launched in November 2013 and included the complete refurbishment and re-branding of twelve buses on the route. The Scottish Transport Awards ceremony was attended by Kirsty Chalmers from Nestrans and the team from First Aberdeen.

Aberdeen City Council was also highly commended at the awards for the Co-Wheels car club which was shortlisted under the category 'Contribution to Sustainable Transport'.

o **Getabout**

- Bike week (14-22 June 2014) was a success with involvement at the Green Power Festival at Alford Transport Museum, a number of events in both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire and finishing at a very busy Portsoy Boat Festival on 21 and 22 June.
- The Getabout Partnership has now been extended to 13 members, with the inclusion of Shopmobility in Union Square, Aberdeen. Shopmobility is operated by Sustainable Connections Transport Team (SCoTT), a project funded by the government using volunteers to support disabled people including helping them use buses rather than taxis.

- Work continues helping NHS Grampian with travel plans, recognising the necessity to support Travel Planning for NHS staff.
- Two sustainable transport roadshows were carried out recently, including a visit to the Peterhead Harbour Open Day on Saturday 9 October, with over 200 people visiting and getting the sustainable transport message.
- Planning for European Mobility Week (16-22 September 2014) is at an advanced stage with the showpiece event on September 21st in Schoolhill, Aberdeen taking shape. This is one of only three events so far registered in the UK, although 331 cities will participate in this Europe-wide event focusing on quality of life in urban centres. Details are available from: <http://www.mobilityweek.eu/>

o **Nestrans Press Releases**

Since the last meeting of the Board, Nestrans has issued the following press releases (please click on the heading to access details from the Nestrans website).

26 June 2014	North-east freight industry welcomes the refreshed Freight Action Plan
8 July 2014	Nestrans release positive results as part of monitoring report
24 July 2014	Cycling development officer required to help pedal projects forward
29 July 2014	Inaugural North East Rail Forum Meeting
4 August 2014	Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards call for nominations

o **Recommendation**

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

RGM/RD/JA/DK/KC 11 August 2014