

8 Information Bulletin

- 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.

- Scottish Government – Roads Maintenance Review and Summit

Following Audit Scotland's recent report into the condition of both local and strategic roads, Transport Minister Keith Brown has today confirmed his acceptance of its central recommendations.

A national review looking at how the road network is managed and maintained, including how the Scottish Government can work better with local authorities, and also what can be learned from international roads management practice, will be undertaken.

The Minister said:

"I welcome the central recommendations of the Audit Scotland report, particularly to explore how local authorities can work better with each other and with the Scottish Government to make limited resources go further. In doing so, I want to look closely at whether international expertise and technological advances can bring greater efficiencies in the way we manage our roads."

"The review will be undertaken over the course of the summer and is expected to report in the autumn with a Road Maintenance Summit proposed to discuss its findings."

It is anticipated that the review will consider opportunities for better collaboration between local authorities and with Transport Scotland, and will be taken forward jointly by Transport Scotland, CoSLA and SCOTS with input from stakeholders from the road users community.

The Audit Scotland's report, [Maintaining Scotland's Roads](#), highlights that the overall maintenance backlog on Scotland's roads is £2.25billion. Of this, £1.54 billion relates to the maintenance backlog on Local Authority roads and £0.713 billion relates to trunk roads, including bridges.

- Intercity Express Programme

Transport Secretary Philip Hammond announced on 1 March 2011 that he has given the go-ahead for the £4.5bn Intercity Express Programme (IEP).

The Government has decided to resume the IEP procurement and proceed with the Agility Trains (Hitachi and John Laing) consortium's plans for replacement for the nation's fleet of ageing intercity high speed trains. This will mean 500 new carriages which will provide 11,000 more peak-time seats for passengers, every day on the Great Western Main Line and East Coast Main Line.

Hitachi had previously announced its intention to build a new train factory in County Durham to build the new order, creating more than 500 new jobs and securing thousands of additional jobs in sub-supplier industries in north east England. This factory is expected to be operational by 2013.

Philip Hammond said: "Whilst this is, of course, subject to the Government continuing to be satisfied that the proposal offers value for money as the commercial negotiations are concluded and that the final arrangements are compliant with the United Kingdom's EU obligations, I expect that the first of the new trains will be in service by 2016."

The £4.5bn programme will see the building of a combination of around 100 electric trains and bi-mode - diesel and electric - intercity trains which will run to Great Western Main Line stations including Oxford, Swindon, Reading, Cardiff, Swansea, Bath and Bristol and to East Coast Main Line stations such as Peterborough, York, Doncaster, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness.

The Intercity Express Programme seeks to replace the distinctive "Intercity 125" High Speed Train (HST) diesel fleet procured by British Rail during the 1970s and 1980s with a new, higher capacity, more environmentally friendly train. The Programme is independent of "High Speed 2", which was set up to explore options for a new high speed line along the Intercity West Coast corridor.

- Competition Commission decision on BAA sale of Edinburgh or Glasgow Airports

The Competition Commission (CC) has provisionally concluded that BAA should still be required to sell Stansted Airport and Edinburgh or Glasgow Airport. The CC had been considering whether there have been any material changes in circumstances since it published its final report on BAA in March 2009 that should give it cause to reconsider the implementation of the airport sales required by that original decision. The decision was subject to a legal challenge by BAA, which eventually culminated with the reinstating the CC's findings in October 2010. In February, the Supreme Court refused BAA permission to appeal further.

The CC has provisionally concluded that the sale of the airports is fully justified and that passengers and airlines would still benefit from greater competition with the airports under separate ownership, despite the current Government's decision to rule out new runways at any of the London airports. The CC has also concluded that there is no reason to change the original timescale with the Stansted sale followed by sale of one of the Scottish airports.

The CC will now invite responses before publishing its final verdict in May/June. The CC have found that, if anything since the report, there now appears to be greater capacity available which will increase the potential for competition between the London airports. The introduction of new ownership at Gatwick, whilst too recent to base any conclusions on, has also given a foretaste of the benefits competition can bring. There has also been no cause to alter the CC view on the need for either Edinburgh or Glasgow to be under separate ownership.

- Access to London airports

The RTP Chairs meeting of 2 March 2011 considered a report on aviation issues. This report is attached as Appendix 1. The report raised a number of issues of interest to the Nestrans Board including access to Heathrow and Gatwick airports, Air passenger duty, high speed rail and security at Scotland's smaller airports.

The issue of access to Heathrow and Gatwick has been discussed by Nestrans previously. The Chairs were made aware of the Nestrans view that arguing for a 3rd runway at Heathrow and re-visiting mixed mode operations was unlikely to achieve a change of Government policy. The Chairs were also made aware that the Board had asked the Secretary of State to look at a partial re-visiting of the mixed mode operations for a limited period in the day.

The Chairs agreed to write to the Minister for Transport with a copy of that letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for Scotland. A copy of that letter is attached as Appendix 2.

- Response from Traffic Commissioner

Following the last Board meeting a letter was sent to the Traffic Commissioner requesting a meeting with a delegation from the Board at her offices in Edinburgh. A copy of her response is attached as Appendix 3.

- Scottish Transport Awards

Nestrans has been informed that three applications for Scottish Transport Awards have been shortlisted in this year's awards. The short-listed submissions relate to:

- Transport Team/ Partnership of the Year,
- Excellence in Travel Information & Marketing for our rail information campaign and
- Best Cycling Improvements.

A joint submission with First Aberdeen in the category of Excellence in Travel Information & Marketing for the Real Time Bus Information website has also been shortlisted.

Aberdeen City Council is shortlisted in both Best Bus Service and Best Transport Integration categories along with Stagecoach Bluebird for the Jet service. Aberdeenshire Council has been shortlisted as Local Authority of the Year, in the category of Road Safety for their Bus Stop! Campaign and for Transport Project of the Year for improving school safety. Both local authorities also have nominations in the categories of Road Safety, Traffic Management and Enforcement and Transport Team/Partnership of the Year with partners for the Operation Zenith motorcycle safety campaign.

The winners will be announced at the Scottish Transport Awards ceremony on Thursday 16 June at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow.

- Review of Media Coverage April 2010 – March 2011

The Big Partnership have carried out a review of media coverage of Nestrans for the period April 2010 to March 2011.

In general the review has found the media coverage to be largely positive or factual in tone. Coverage accounted for 80% relating to Nestrans and 20% relating to the Getabout campaign.

The assessment concludes: during the period of evaluation the Big Partnership have experienced a rise in the number of requests from journalists looking for Nestrans commentary on key transport issues. This, combined with increased uptake of stories where Nestrans is seen to be proactively leading the way on key issues such as the importance of air and rail links, gives a clear indication that Nestrans position as a source of credible and factual information on the region's transport issues has taken a significant step forward.

- First in Aberdeen new ticket initiatives

First in Aberdeen will be launching two new tickets in April 2011. The first of these is specifically aimed at 16-18 year olds in Aberdeen enabling them to purchase from the existing range of discounted season tickets currently available to students. This will be eligible to all 16-18 year olds living in Aberdeen and will be available from Monday 25th April. Nestrans have spoken with First and welcomed the introduction of this new ticket, particularly in light of the enquiries that that have been raised recently in relation to young persons bus travel. The question of extending this to 16-18 year olds living in Aberdeenshire has been raised with First and the potential for introducing similar products will be discussed with Stagecoach through the Local Authorities and Bus Operator Forum (LABOF). The second ticket initiative that will be introduced by First in April is a Carnet ticket which is a 10 journey ticket that is particularly aimed at infrequent or occasional bus users who may not be able to benefit from the existing range of season tickets.

- Nestrans Press Releases

Since the last Board meeting in February, there have been four press releases issued, copies of which are available on the Nestrans' website and links are contained below:

[ROADS MAINTENANCE AGAIN A MAJOR PRIORITY](#)

17/02/2011

[TENDERS SOUGHT FOR CONTINUATION OF DYCE STATION-ABERDEEN AIRPORT LINK](#)

25/02/2011

[LOCAL HAULIERS OPEN TO LOW EMISSION ZONES](#)

01/03/2011

[DYCELINK SERVICE 80 SHUTTLE BUS TO GET NEW OPERATOR](#)

08/03/2011

- Getabout events

Bus Backs

The Bus Action Plan and Getabout have three bus back advertisements for a year starting in March, they are

1. A Realtimebus.com bus back on a First bus (photo)
2. A City and Shire Park and Ride advert featuring a route map of all the Rail Stations and the three bus based sites on a First bus
3. A General Getabout advert on a Shire Stagecoach Bus

There will be a PR launch in the next few weeks



Tour de Rayne

Organised by Getabout Partners Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans this was a cycle event for three rural Aberdeenshire Schools - North Rayne, Logie Durno and Old Rayne. The Head teacher of two of the schools had heard about Getabout Events from a parent and requested a cycle event. The event was preceded by cycle training for the children from Aberdeen Cycle Trainers. The event was split into 2 days

The new Getabout./Adventure Aberdeen roadshow visited all 3 schools in rotation with Grampian Police mobile incident unit, in which safe riding was taught, and the Grampian cycle surgery which fixed the children's bikes.

Day 2

All the older children cycled round all the schools a trip of 10 miles. All of them made it some with a little help. There was a significant parent and teacher participation in the "peleton" while Adventure Aberdeen, Grampian Police and Grampian Cycle Surgery provided traffic management, running repairs and a mini bus to carry the exhausted (not that it was needed). All of the children got a Getabout water bottle, T shirt and slapband.

The event illustrated the partnership working of the Getabout Partnership with Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen University and Robert Gordon University staff helping Aberdeenshire and Nestrans run the event.



A helper rides the new chopper at Logie Durno



Up the hills to North Rayne

Draft Getabout events plan2011/12

The partnership has discussed an outline events plan for 2011/12 which is reproduced below, indicating approx 20 cycle road show events which will be about £12k. This represents a considerable saving relative to Get Cycling which would be about £42k at last year's prices.

	Event	Location
March		
31 st	Tour de Rayne day 1	Rayne and Logie Durno schools
April		
1 st	Tour de Rayne day 2	Rayne and Logie Durno schools
May		
9 th	Walk to Work Week	NHS Grampian staff Aberdeen x2 Elgin Banff Peterhead Stonehaven
10 th	Walk to Work Week	NHS Grampian staff
11 th	Walk to Work Week	NHS Grampian staff
12 th	Walk to Work Week	NHS Grampian staff
13 th	Walk to Work Week	NHS Grampian staff
21 st	Cycle fest – Launch	Grampian Transport museum
22 nd	Cycle fest – Bike Roadshow	Grampian Transport museum Alford
June		
12 th	Cycle Roadshow	Banchory
19 th	Cycle Roadshow	Hazlehead Highland Games
20 th	Bike week cycle roadshow	Aberdeenshire Academy
21 st	Bike week cycle roadshow	Aberdeenshire Academy
22 nd	Bike week cycle roadshow	Aberdeen City Academy
23 rd	Bike week cycle roadshow	Aberdeen City Academy
24 th	Bike week cycle roadshow	SAPTN site
25 th	Bike week cycle roadshow	Union Square
26 th	Bike week cycle roadshow	TBC – Duthie Park?
July		
17 th	Stonehaven Highland Games	Cycle Roadshow
17 th	Great Inverurie Bike Ride	Sponsorship
17 th 25 th	Peterhead Scottish Week	Cycle Road show one day
August		
13 th	Cycle Roadshow	Johnshaven Fish Festival
September		
16 th	European Mobility week inc - Cycle Roadshow	Launch event
17 th	European Mobility week	Walking event
18 th	European Mobility week	Rail Event
19 th	European Mobility week inc -Cycle Roadshow	University Event RGU
20 th	European Mobility week inc - Cycle Roadshow	University event AU
21 st	European Mobility week	Bus event
22 nd	World Car Free Day/ Road Closure Cycle Roadshow	Shire School/Public area
21 st	Cycle Roadshow	City School
22 nd	Cycle Roadshow/Road Closure	City Centre

October		
3 rd	Liftshare week	Marketing/Company events
4 th	Liftshare week	Marketing/Company events
5 th	Liftshare week	Marketing/Company events
6 th	Liftshare week	Marketing/Company events
7 th	Liftshare week	Marketing/Company events
November		
	Park and Ride Campaign	Marketing
5 th	Party at the park and ride	Kingswells Firework event
December		
	Christmas Park and Ride Campaign	Marketing
January		
25 th	Burns Night	
February		
14 th	Valentines day	I love Public Transport
March		
	Spring into Action Bike event (s)	
April		
	Easter Hop on a bus	

Key

	Organised
	Adventure Aberdeen contract

More Information

Liftshare week http://www.liftshare.com/v3/pages/liftshare_week.asp
Bike Week http://www.bikeweek.org.uk/
European Mobility Week http://www.mobilityweek.eu/
Walk to Work Week http://www.walkingworks.org.uk/walk-to-work-week-2011
Hazlehead Highland games http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/highlandgames/
STONEHAVEN HIGHLAND GAMES 17 July 01224 879786 mrkenscott@btinternet.com
Great Inverurie Bike Ride http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/recreation/events/gibr.asp
Johnshaven fish festival http://www.johnshaven.com/index.asp?id=1&refID=22&refID2=23&contentID=23
Peterhead Scottish Week http://www.aboutaberdeen.com/scottishweek.php

Draft Budget breakdown

The partnership has discussed the main areas for the budget this year. This is a draft allocation with a few details, in particular training for travel plan staff in the partnership delivered through ACTTRAVELWISE and extra children's bikes for the roadshow. The budget or its contents have not yet been approved at the time of writing but it gives a broad indication of where we are going in 2011/12.

In terms of value for money, Getabout achieved 30% of all publicity and PR coverage relating to Nestrans on less than 2% of the budget.

Getabout/Travel awareness budget breakdown 2011/12

Heading	Actions	Budget allocation
Events	20 cycle roadshow days @ approx £600 per day £12k Extra cycles for the cycle roadshow £5k Prizes, publicity, hires, printing etc £8k	£25k
Liftshare Liftshare week	TV ads, promotions, prizes, company events	£10k
Walking promotion	Treasure trails, maps, access guides etc	£5k
NHS and Universities	Travel plan promotions/ healthy active travel promotions	£5k
Park and Ride	Promotions, events, adverts	£5k
Public Transport	Events, Football sponsorship, bulk buy free tickets, Rail guides/timetables	£5k
Road Safety Cycling	Working with the police and other agencies	£5k
Website	Costs & Development	£5k
Training	Travel plan training for partners	£5k
Contingencies		£5k
	Total	£75k

- Recommendation

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

RGM/8 March 2011