

## NORTH EAST SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

### Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, 29 September, 2010

Present:- Councillor Kevin Stewart (Chair), and Councillors Boulton, McCaig (as substitute for Councillor Dean) and Yuill (as substitute for Councillor John Stewart) (Aberdeen City Council); Councillors Argyle, Clark, Robertson and Webster (Aberdeenshire Council); and Dr. Margaret Bochel and Mr. Iain Gabriel (Advisers to the Board).

In Attendance:- Derick Murray, Jenny Anderson and Don Kent, Nestrans Office; and Martin Allan (Aberdeen City Council).

### **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. The Board had before it the minute of its meeting of 25 August, 2010.

#### **The Board resolved:-**

to approve the minute as an accurate record.

### **GETABOUT UPDATE**

2. The Board received a presentation by Don Kent of the Nestrans office in relation to the Getabout programme.

Don Kent explained that Getabout had been operational for two years and was an example of good partnership working as eight different organisations all worked together for the good of the task.

Don Kent explained that during the last two years there had been 128 events across the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire region and they had received positive publicity. Don Kent outlined some of the positive campaigns which had been extremely successful as well as other areas which had been less successful. He then explained the future challenges of the Getabout campaign including the budget cuts that were to be implemented throughout the public sector.

After his presentation Don Kent asked if there were any questions. Members of the Board asked a number of different questions of Mr. Kent and resolved the following.

#### **The Board resolved:-**

(i) to note that officers would provide information to Board Members on the standardisation of cycling proficiency tests across the region and whether the Getabout campaign should be involved in such a task;

- (ii) to note that officers would provide Board Members with a report in conjunction with the two local authorities regarding cycling activity in the area (to include locations of cycling parking, encouraging citizens to cycle from rural areas to park and ride sites, sign identifying cycle parking etc.) with the aim of developing a cycling strategy;
- (iii) to request that suitable communication/publicity be arranged for the proposed cycling strategy;
- (iv) to note the importance of developing the cycling strategy in conjunction with the Health Action Plan and noted that the report would also require to be considered by NHS Grampian Board accordingly;
- (v) to issue a press release of the successes of the Getabout campaign over the last two years; and
- (vi) to otherwise note the presentation and thank Don Kent for his work.

## **STRATEGY**

### **LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS AND WITH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS**

3. (A) With reference to Article 3(A) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on liaison with other regional transport partnerships (RTPs) and the Scottish Government.

The report outlined the meetings which had occurred since the last meeting –

- RTP Chairs/COSLA/Minister for Transport meeting – Aberdeen – 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2010
- RTP Chairs/COSLA meeting – Aberdeen – 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2010
- NETCF meeting – Aberdeen – 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2010
- Northern RTP Lead Officers meeting – Perth – 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2010
- RTP Lead Officers/COSLA meeting – Edinburgh – 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2010

In relation to the meeting of RTP Chairs and COSLA held on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2010, agreement had been reached on an all Scotland letter to the relevant Ministers requesting through trains from London to Aberdeen. The Director explained that the representatives of Nestrans had persuaded all representatives at the meeting to sign up to this letter.

#### **The Board resolved:-**

to note the progress on liaison arrangements with other RTPs and the Scottish Government and arrangements for future meetings as detailed in the report.

(B) Aberdeen City Council Local Development Plan

The Board had before it a report by the Director which informed Members of the position regarding Aberdeen City Council's Local Development Plan for which a proposed Plan was approved by Council on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2010.

The report explained that the proposed Plan complies with the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan and has therefore identified sites for up to 36,000 houses and 175 hectares of industrial land.

The report advised that many of the policies and the strategic direction are consistent with Nestrans' objectives, including promotion of the city centre, focus on masterplanning of major development areas and consideration of infrastructure and transportation needs.

The report explained that the housing allowances are allocated in three categories:- brownfield, regeneration areas and greenfield with significant allocations in each category to ensure a balance of available sites.

The report explained that the period for representations on the Local Development Plan begins on 24<sup>th</sup> September and runs until 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.

The report explained that the Plan has also benefitted from the work undertaken on behalf the two Councils and Nestrans looking at the cumulative impact of the development proposed in the Structure Plan. The report explained that Nestrans also contributes to discussions on infrastructure needs through involvement in the City Council's Future Infrastructure Requirements Group.

**The Board resolved:-**

to note the contents of the report and instruct officers to respond to Aberdeen City Council supporting the strategic direction of the plan and welcoming the joint working on transport elements.

**GENERAL**

**4. (A) Progress Report**

With reference to Article 6(A) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub-strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2010.

**The Board resolved:-**

to note the report and progress made.

**(B) Publications and Consultations**

With reference to Article 6(B) of the minute of meeting of the Board of 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, the Board had before it a report by the Director which summarised and advised of various recent consultation documents received, and presented suggested responses to the following documents (as detailed in the Appendix to the report).

- Development Planning and Management Transport Appraisal Guidance (DPMTAG)

Transport Scotland are currently consulting on this new draft Transport Appraisal Guidance. The publication of DPMTAG signifies a new approach to transport and land use planning and brings together principles set down in earlier planning advice and guidance.

The proposed response from Nestrans (as detailed in one of the appendices to the report) is a joint response prepared by Nestrans and the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority. The Strategic Development Planning Authority approved the response at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2010. The consultation on DPMTAG concludes on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

- Network Rail East Coast Mainline Capacity Review

The report explained that on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2010, Network Rail published a review of capacity on the East Coast Mainline covering the period to 2016. The capacity review is intended to provide further information on the issues relating to capacity constraints on the line which will be used to inform an addendum to the Rail Utilisation Strategy established for the line in 2008.

The report explained that the draft response to the consultation was attached as one of the appendices to the report and that comments were sought by 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2010.

- EU Consultation on Congestion Charging

The report explained that there are currently a number of reviews on the future of European Union transport policy and funding going on at the moment. One of these relates to congestion charging and the European Commission is presently finalising a business case for setting up basic rules at EU level for congestion charging schemes and access restriction schemes. The report explained that COSLA have asked the Regional Transport Partnerships to consider this issue and co-ordinate input from a Scottish perspective. The report explained that responses were required by 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 and it was therefore necessary to provide an officer's view in time for it to be taken into account. The report explained that the response by the officers was attached as one of the appendices to the report and that members of the Board were asked to ratify the response accordingly.

- Revised approach to Publication Schemes - Consultation

The report explained that the Freedom of Information Commissioner, Kevin Dunion, has launched a consultation on a revised approach to publication schemes. The aims of the proposal are to:-

- support authorities to publish as much information as possible;
- simplify publication schemes for authorities and for the public; and
- move resources to monitoring compliance.

The report explained that the Commissioner's proposal is also a response to impending pressures on public services.

The report explained that the consultation paper and responses form were available on line and that a draft response was attached as one

of the appendices to the report. The report explained that the consultation closed on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.

**The Board resolved:-**

to approve the responses as detailed in the appendices to the report.

**NORTH EAST TRANSPORT CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

5. The Board had before it a report by the Director which outlined for Members information the outcomes from the latest meeting of the North East Transport Consultative Forum held at Woodhill House on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2010. Appended to the report was a note of the meeting and a summary of discussion at each of the tables.

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to note the new format for this type of event and agreed that the format should be repeated in future; and
- (ii) to note the detail contained in the appendices to the report.

**BUDGET MATTERS 2010/11**

6. With reference to Article 7(A) of the minute of the Board of 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, the Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which provided an update on spend and programming of the Partnership's 2010/11 budgets.

The report advised that detailed in Appendix 1 was a summary monitoring statement of expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2010 which showed expenditure of £1,090,436. The report explained that there has still been little by way of invoices received this early in the financial year and the spend to date shown in the Appendix is broadly in line with expectations.

The report explained that the Board will note that the cost to date identified under the contingency line is already in excess of the budget. This is due to two issues, the cumulative impact study and production of station booklets, both of which were expected to have been completed in 2009/10 but costs have run over into this financial year. The report explained that it is not expected to incur any further expense on these projects.

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to note that the Treasurer would outline potential virements between budgets in a report to the next meeting of the Board; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the revenue budget monitoring report.

**INFORMATION BULLETIN**

7. With reference to Article 8 of the minute of the Board of 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information and updates on a number of matters not requiring a decision.

The report provided updates on the current position of the following projects:-

- The Haudagain Roundabout
- Inquiry into the relationship between transport and land use planning
- The Scottish Transport Awards
- Operations at Heathrow Airport
- Aberdeen City Council – Corporate Recognising Achievement Ceremony
- Low Carbon Vehicles Fund launch
- Nestrans Press Releases
- Getabout events

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) in relation to operations at Heathrow Airport and the Minister of State for Transport's written statement placed before the UK Parliament on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 (which ruled out introducing mixed mode operations at the airport), to instruct the Director to respond to the statement, requesting that consideration be given to increasing the number of landing slots at Heathrow from Aberdeen Airport;
- (ii) to further instruct the Director to liaise with the two local authorities in arranging a meeting with the Minister of State for Transport to discuss the Government's air and rail proposals and how they impact on the North East of Scotland; and
- (iii) to otherwise note the information bulletin.

**CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

8. With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, the Board had before it a report by the Director summarising recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to the Partnership along with presentations by Nestrans and its partners.

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to agree that in relation to the Scottish Transport Awards to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 in Glasgow that Nestrans, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils share one table and that the Director liaise with the two local authorities accordingly;
- (ii) to note that Councillor Robertson was to attend North Sea Commission's Annual General Meeting in Bruges on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2011; and
- (iii) to otherwise note the report.

**PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

9. With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, the Board had before it a report by the Director detailing pending business and information on reports to be submitted to future Board meetings.

The Board then heard the Director explain that he intended submitting a report to the next meeting of the Board which outlined the detail contained in Network Rail's

Scottish Rail Utilisation Strategy (to be launched on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2010). The Director reminded the Board that the Scottish Rail Utilisation Strategy had been tasked with a number of details, including reducing the time of trains between Aberdeen city and the central belt by 20 minutes. Early indications suggested that this reduction had been unable to be met without the introduction of new railway lines.

The Board then discussed this issue in detail.

The Board then heard Councillor Robertson explain that the Annual Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions was currently being held at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre and one of the issues being discussed was the European Union's proposals for transportation. Councillor Robertson explained the importance of the Board requiring to look at this issue as it would be discussing connectivity and would be proposing European "hubs" to take forward projects. Councillor Robertson explained that Glasgow was being proposed as one of these European "hubs" and it would be important for the Board to think how Aberdeen City and Shire could be considered as a strategic transportation link to this European "hub".

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to agree that the Director organise a press conference to be held on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 2010 to express Nestrans' disappointment regarding the failure to meet the 20 minute time reduction for trains between Aberdeen city and the central belt and that the Chair and the two Deputy Chairs attend said press conference;
- (ii) to agree that the Director submit a report to the next meeting of the Board on the European Union's proposals for transportation, specifically the European "hub" model and the importance of the North East of Scotland being considered as a strategic transportation link; and
- (iii) to otherwise note the report.

**MATTER OF URGENCY**

**The Chairperson intimated that he had directed in terms of Section 50(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency to enable the Board to consider Aberdeen City Council's request for a representative on the City Garden Project's Project Implementation Team.**

**CITY GARDEN PROJECT : PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**

**10.** The Board had before it a letter from the Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council sent to the Chairperson which requested that the Board consider appointing a representative on the Project Implementation Team for the City Garden Project in Aberdeen. The letter explained that the Project Implementation Team would manage day-to-day tasks associated with delivering the project up to the point where a special purpose vehicle would take the project through the planning process into construction and onwards to completion and subsequent

operation. The letter also explained that there had been established a Project Management Board for the project which would provide oversight and strategic guidance.

The Board then heard the Chair propose that the Director be the Board's representative on the Project Implementation Team.

**The Board resolved:-**

to agree that the Director be the Board's representative on the Project Implementation Team for the City Garden Project in Aberdeen.

**- KEVIN STEWART, Chairperson.**