

Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 Duties on Public Bodies to provide information

Sustainable Economic Growth – May 2011

1. Introduction

- I. Section 32(1)(a) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 provides that as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year each listed public body must publish a statement of the steps it has taken during the financial year to promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of its functions.
- II. Nestrans is a listed body within the Act. This statement is intended to fulfil the requirement of the Act in relation to Sustainable Economic Growth. This statement should be read in conjunction with the statement on Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy and the financial information provided on the Nestrans website that are also required by the Act.

2. Government purpose and performance framework

- I. The Government Economic Strategy, November 2007, sets out the Government's central purpose as: "To focus the Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. By sustainable economic growth we mean building a dynamic and growing economy that will provide prosperity and opportunities for all, while ensuring that future generations can enjoy a better quality of life too."
- II. The National Performance Framework was developed to provide a clear focus and direction for the whole of the public sector in Scotland and all public bodies are expected to align their activity in support of the Purpose, Purpose Targets and the 15 National Outcomes set out in the Framework.

3. Aligning to the Purpose and National Objectives

- I. The Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy, approved by Scottish Ministers in 2008, includes, at page 102, an Appendix outlining how the Regional Transport Strategy objectives align with the National Objectives. This can be found at:
http://www.nestrans.org.uk/db_docs/docs/Nestrans%20RTS%20final%20printed.pdf

4. Sustainable Economic Growth

- I. Nestrans primary function is to produce and implement a Regional Transport Strategy.
- II. Transport has long been recognised as a significant contributor to sustainable economic growth. The Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy was developed in conjunction with the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic

Futures (ACSEF) Economic Manifesto and the Strategic Development Plan Authority (SDPA) Structure Plan. The ACSEF Manifesto sets out a vision for the economic growth of the North East region of Scotland. The SDPA Structure Plan sets out the spatial strategy for achieving that growth. The Regional Transport Strategy examines how the growth can be achieved without increasing congestion levels.

- III. The principal ethos in setting and determining the Regional Transport Strategy has therefore been to encourage and permit sustainable economic growth.

5. What has been done in 2010/11

Planning

- I. During 2010/11 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils have been developing their Local Development Plans. To assist this development Nestrans has developed a Cumulative Impact Assessment of the proposals across both Council areas. This assessment has considered the transport impact of development with the Regional Transport Strategy in place and what further interventions are likely to be required to assist in the objective of achieving sustainable economic growth.
 - This assessment has resulted in agreement between the Councils on developing joint and complementary Supplementary Planning Guidance for issue as part of the Structure and Local Development Plans. This guidance will determine a framework for assessing developer contributions towards improvements to the strategic transport network with the creation of a fund to assist in developing projects on that network.
- II. Nestrans has worked with Government and Network Rail to ensure that the Rail Utilisation Strategy takes into account the aspirations of the North East in developing our railway.
- III. Nestrans have been active in discussing with both the Scottish and UK Governments the implications for the North East on the Governments High Speed Rail proposals.
- IV. Nestrans has been active in discussing with both the Scottish and UK Governments the implications for the North East (and consequently the Scottish and UK economy) of current and future aviation policy.
- V. Nestrans has been working with the Scottish Government on developing proposals for improvements on the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway including:
 - Increased frequency and reduced journey times
 - Kintore Station
 - Inveramsay Bridge
- VI. Nestrans has worked with partners to develop projects including:

- Improved crossing capacity at the Bridge of Dee (early STAG work)
- Improvements to junctions on Wellington Road (Traffic modelling work)
- A preferred solution for the Haudagain junction has been approved by Scottish Ministers
- Aberdeen to Inverness improved Sunday rail service
- Planning permission and land purchase for the A96 Park and Ride
- Preparation for Planning permission for A90(S) park and ride
- Continued support of the Airlink shuttlebus service from Dyce Station
- Provision of a Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme and promotion of sustainable, active travel through Getabout
- Launch of realtimebus.com
- Various cycling measures

Action Plans

VII. Nestrans has four Action Plans intended to assist in the implementation of the Regional and Local Transport Strategies.

- Health and Transport Action Plan
Working with NHS Grampian, our two Councils and the Scottish Ambulance Service we have restructured the implementation of this plan. It is focused on three themes:
 - Active travel (sub group chaired by Aberdeenshire Council)
 - Public Health (Air quality) (sub group chaired by NHS Grampian)
 - Access to Healthcare (sub group chaired by SAS)
- Bus Action Plan
Following the signing of a refreshed Bus Quality Partnership and a Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership the partners agreed to develop proposals for the King Street/ Buchan corridor. Following evidence gathering and traffic modelling a number of improvement measures have been implemented with bus lane additions and amendments to be implemented this coming year.
- Freight Action Plan
A successful Freight Forum has been established with a number of actions identified and taken forward including implementing traffic signal improvements for slow moving freight vehicles on Wellington Road and the development of freight maps. Work has been taken forward within the European projects Stratmos and Care North on a freight distribution centre and city centre low emissions zone
- Rail Action Plan
A Rail Action Plan has been developed for the region.

Projects

VIII. In 2010/2011 Nestrans implemented the following:

Rail

Completion of Laurencekirk Car Park – CCTV, landscaping etc

Strategic Road – Capacity Improvements

Segregated left turn lane from King George VI Bridge to West Tullos Road,
 Improvements to the MOVA signal optimisation system on the Dyce Drive corridor,
 Option appraisal for traffic signals at Wellgrove Rd/Straik Rd, Westhill

Strategic Road – Safety Improvements

A947 Route Action Study – Aerial, topographic study of route and preliminary design,
 Pedestrian Safety improvements at Guild Street – footway build outs,
 King Street Lighting improvements – to improve perception of safety to bus users on the Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership corridor,
 Preliminary Design work to replace the existing roundabout junctions on Wellington Rd at Southerhead and Hareness with traffic signal control,
 A93 Myrebird Junction realignment, including kerbs and footways
 A947 Kinmundy Crossroads

Strategic Road – Maintenance

Ellon Rd -resurfacing,
 Queen Elizabeth Bridge – waterproofing and drainage improvements,
 A944 Westhill Roundabout – reconstruction and surfacing,
 A92 Junction with U124K to St Cyrus – resurfacing,
 A93 Ballater Rd, Aboyne – resurfacing,
 A952 Montbletton Lodge to Keilhill – edge reconstruction (contribution towards),
 A98 Ladysford – resurfacing,
 A947 Castleton – resurfacing,
 A97 Castlebrae/Cranna– resurfacing (contribution towards)
 Stoneywood Road - resurfacing
 Great Western Rd/Holburn Street – resurfacing (contribution towards)

Bus Improvements

A90 (S) Schoolhill Park & Choose – specimen design and pre planning application consultation,
 George St/John St/Charlotte St/St Andrews St – validation of SCOOT signal timings,
 Banff/MacDuff public transport improvements – provision of shelters and Kassel kerbs,
 Buchan/King Street Corridor – Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership – baseline monitoring and design of infrastructure improvements and provision of timetable casing

Walking and Cycling

Core Paths – provision or upgrade of various strategic core paths,
 A96 Aberdeen to Blackburn path – detailed design,
 NCN R1 Donside Path - upgrade of route to take it off road,
 Traffic Signal Upgrades to assist pedestrians in Stonehaven,
 Fraserburgh Cycleway – construction of new section of cycleway
 Peterhead Cycleway – construction of new section of cycleway,
 Kintore to Blackburn Cycleway – design
 South Road, Inch – construction of new footpath

Westhill to Aberdeen Cycle Route – completion of phases 4 and 5

Various

Car Club – installation of car parking bays at various locations in the City Centre