

# **Sustainable Economic Growth Statement**

## **Introduction**

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.

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.

## **Government purpose and performance framework**

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."

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.

## **Aligning to the Purpose and National Objectives**

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](http://www.nestrans.org.uk/db_docs/docs/Nestrans%20RTS%20final%20printed.pdf)

## **Sustainable Economic Growth**

Nestrans primary function is to produce and implement a Regional Transport Strategy.

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 Planning 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.

The principal ethos in setting and determining the Regional Transport Strategy has therefore been to encourage and permit sustainable economic growth. As the SDPA are currently developing a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the North East to 2035 a refresh of the RTS is underway to ensure that it takes account of current policies and to better align it with the SDP timeline and the transport implications of this plan.

## **Achievements in 2012/13**

### Planning

Aberdeen City Council adopted its Local Development Plan on 29 February 2012 and Aberdeenshire Council adopted their Local Development Plan on 1 June 2012. The Plans for each authority identify proposals for the development and use of land for a period of 10 years from adoption and contain the policies that planning applications will be assessed against.

Nestrans previously developed a Cumulative Impact Assessment of the proposals across both Council areas. This assessment 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 resulted in agreement between the Councils to develop joint and complementary Supplementary Planning Guidance for issue as part of the Structure and Local Development Plans. The supplementary guidance for the Structure Plan 2009 has been developed and formally adopted. It determines a framework for assessing developer contributions towards improvements to the strategic transport network. The contributions will be made to a Strategic Transport Fund that will be held and administered by Nestrans. To date contributions of £1,589,000 have been agreed through section 75 agreements and £111,000 has already been paid into the fund.

Nestrans has worked with Government and Network Rail to ensure that the aspirations of the North East are taken into account in developing our railways.

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.

Nestrans has been active in discussing with both the Scottish and UK Governments and the European Union the implications for the North East (and consequently the Scottish and UK economy) of current and future aviation policy.

Nestrans continues to work with the Scottish Government on developing proposals for improvements on the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway and Trunk Road network within the North East.

Nestrans has worked with partners to develop projects including:

- Upgrades to the City Centre and Haudagain/Third Don Crossing traffic models
- Design for the A96 and A90 (S) Park and Choose
- 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
- Various cycling measures

### Action Plans

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 continued to focus on three themes to implement this Plan:
  - 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**  
Park and Ride services and the night time transport zone within Aberdeen City Centre have been promoted and a bus passenger satisfaction study undertaken. Festive travel guides on transport options to Aberdeen City Centre and a public transport guide to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary produced and distributed.
- **Freight Action Plan**  
The Freight Forum has continued to meet and a refresh of the action plan is being undertaken.
- **Rail Action Plan**  
A number of extra calls at North East stations have been introduced.

### Projects

In 2012/2013 Nestrans implemented the following:

- Strategic Road – Safety Improvements  
A947 Route Action Study – Phase 1 of Bend Improvement Strategy  
Road Studs and Lining works on A956 and A944
- Strategic Road – Maintenance  
Laurencekirk rail station to Business Park footway improvement,  
A944 Craigenlow to Kinnernie to Leggerdale major carriageway, drainage and verge improvements,  
A944 Whitehouse resurfacing,  
A92 Junction to Jackston Northwards resurfacing,  
A947 at Fyvie resurfacing,  
A956 Ellon Road between Balgownie Rd and Don Bridge resurfacing
- Bus Improvements  
A90 (S) Schoolhill Park & Choose – specimen design,

A96 Park & Choose – specimen design

Aberdeen City and Shire Bus Stop Information Initiatives – replace or provide bus timetable display cases and ensure standardised region wide DDA compliant timetabling information displayed,

Ellon Park & Ride improvements – additional external waiting facilities and upgrade to bus turning circle to accommodate 15m vehicles,

Fraserburgh Bus Station Refurbishment – building improvements including DDA compliance, improved energy efficiency and CCTV,

Upgrade Bus Lane Enforcement Cameras on strategic bus corridors,

Aberdeen Royal Infirmary interchange improvements and bus priority measures

Dyce railway station bus turning circle – design and planning application submission

Westhill bus layby and shelter

Aberdeen City Centre Night Time Transport Zone – contribution to install lit and signed bus stops on Union Street for night time bus services,

- Walking and Cycling

Core Paths – provision or upgrade of various strategic core paths,

A96 Aberdeen to Blackburn path – install toucan crossings at either end of new shared route funded in 11/12 and sign and line route in support of revised TRO,

Peterhead Cycle Demonstration Town – construct phase 1 Meethill Road cycle path and design phase 2 and A90 ‘missing link’, develop signage strategy and route options to provide town centre link from south. Survey coastal path to aid design of northern shared use path linking Gaddle Braes path, extra bike storage and community events,

Aberdeen City Cycle Demonstration – cycling infrastructure and initiatives at Greenbrae building on work in 11/12,

Banff and Macduff Cycle Network – Sandyhill Road to Duff House upgrade of footpath to cycleway.