

# Freight Action Plan

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Freight Forum

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nestrans

Aberdeenshire  
COUNCIL 

  
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The Interreg IVB  
North Sea Region  
Programme   
Investing in the future by working together  
for a sustainable and competitive region

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# Presentation Structure

- Background
- Overarching Philosophy
- Process for taking forward the Freight Action Plan
- Initial Projects Identified for Delivery

# Freight Action Plan Background

- Over last 10 years, various examples of FQP type initiatives in North East Scotland – some successful, others less so.
- Nestrans RTS 2021 committed to a Freight Action Plan for North East Scotland
- Importance of efficient and reliable freight transport to the success of North East businesses and the local economy was recognised
- During 2008 Freight Action Plan developed in consultation with stakeholders – Finalised during 2009.
- Autumn 2009 approved, planning for implementation.

# Freight Action Plan Background

- Objectives of the Plan
  - An economically competitive freight industry that supports the economy of the north east
  - A freight sector that leads by example in successfully responding to national and local environmental targets
  - A local and strategic transport network which enables the reliable and efficient movement of goods
  - Benefits for the north east freight industry to be realised through the ongoing development and delivery of wider transport and economic development initiatives

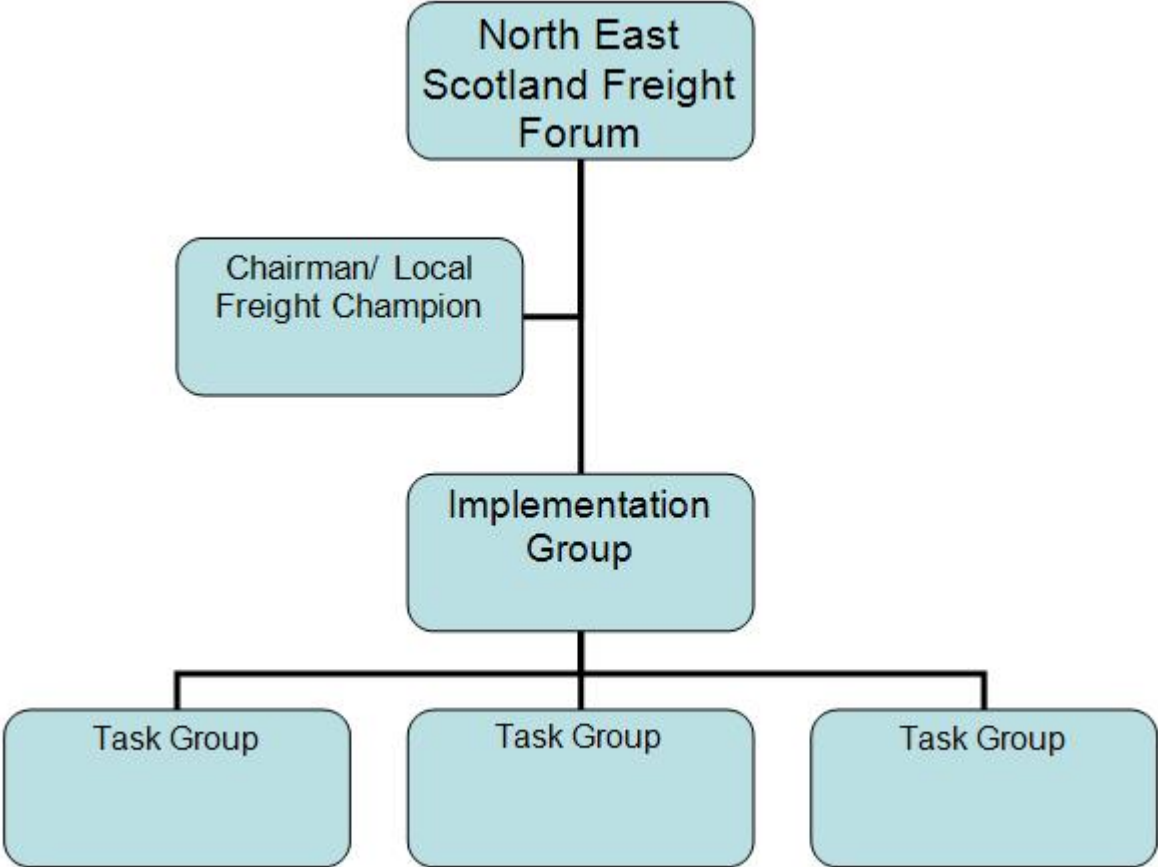
# Freight Action Plan Background

- Freight Actions: Themes
  - Management
  - Adding Value to the North East Freight Industry
  - Road Freight
  - Sea Freight
  - Rail Freight
  - Air Freight

# Freight Action Plan Philosophy

- Sustainable; Relevant; Appropriate
- Follows a North East freight issue agenda
- Provides “a portal” for freight consultation and communication
- A focus for specific freight related projects
- Flexible structure to enable participation on priority issues / projects

# Process for taking forward the Freight Action Plan



# Process for taking forward the Freight Action Plan

- Structure developed to facilitate delivery of actions
- Key issues / priorities discussed at Freight Forum meeting
  - 6 monthly? Annually?
  - Chaired by Local Freight Champion
- Small focussed Implementation Group co-ordinates actions
  - Representatives from Nestrans, ACC and AC
- Specific actions by short-life Task Groups



# Early Priorities

- Build on opportunities / links with other projects
- Demonstrate early value / gain credibility
- Opportunities for early engagement

# Proposed Actions - Management

- Approve the Freight Action Plan, with a commitment to regular progress reports
- Confirm membership, structure and remit for a north east Freight Action Plan Implementation Group
- Initiate and sustain a regular Freight Forum
- Publish and distribute the Freight Action Plan
- Develop and maintain a dedicated freight web page on the Nestrans website
- Pro-actively seek formal and informal opportunities to present the needs and successes of the north east freight industry

# Proposed Actions – Adding Value

- Provide appropriate opportunities for the freight industry to contribute to the development and delivery of relevant transport projects, and other relevant initiatives
- Ensure that the needs of the north east's freight industry are consistently and effectively made, through the proposed Freight Action Plan Implementation Group
- Promote opportunities that arise on the back of involvement in European research
- Monitor and disseminate key trends in freight transport from national statistics
- Undertake bespoke research to confirm core freight flows
- Support the adoption of best practice in freight operations in north east Scotland and support the delivery of a Scottish Freight Best Practice Plan
- Keep abreast of freight developments that could benefit north east freight businesses
- Examine measures to improve communication of road closures and diversions

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# Proposed Actions – Road Freight

- Support completion of the strategic road and junction improvements identified in the Regional Transport Strategy
- Undertake a network wide survey of freight flows on the north east roads
- Undertake a review of signage to key freight destinations in the north east
- Production of north east Area Freight Maps
- Consider opportunities to use roadside Variable Message Signs to better inform truck drivers
- Assess the level and characteristics of demand for overnight lorry parking in the region
- Undertake a study considering options for the provision of lorry parking in the region, including potential integration with the use of Park and Ride sites
- Promote a systematic review of road access to key freight hubs and industrial areas
- Support the implementation of a pilot Large Vehicle Lane trial on Wellington Road, Aberdeen
- Review existing planning policies and conditions with a view to improving integration between planning, traffic management and freight requirements
- Scoping study to examine the potential feasibility of developing an inter-modal Freight Consolidation Centre in the region
- Appraise options related to HGV management for improving air quality within Aberdeen City's Air Quality Management Areas

## Proposed Actions – Sea Freight

- Support the promotion of short sea, and international shipping opportunities
- Continue to support the maintenance and ongoing development of the Northern Isles lifeline ferry service, with Aberdeen Harbour as the principal Scottish Mainland port

## Proposed Actions – Air Freight

- Opportunities for communication between stakeholders will be facilitated through the proposed freight forum, and other existing airport consultation groups
- Support measures which will enable improvement in the level of service, and overall efficiency of Aberdeen Airport's airfreight services, including the proposed runway extension
- Continue to work with the operators of Aberdeen Airport to support the implementation of the Airport Surface Access Strategy

# Proposed Actions – Rail Freight

- Support a study seeking to establish a consolidated waste recycle base load across north east Councils, for transport under one contract by rail
- Forward the findings of recent research into the promotion of rail freight in north east Scotland to Transport Scotland, share the findings with other Regional Transport Partnerships and continue to work with the North East Scotland Rail Freight Development Group towards encouraging a greater proportion of goods to/from the north east to be moved by rail
- Continue to facilitate discussion between local freight operators and the Scottish Government, regarding the opportunities provided by, and the specific application of, grant funding schemes to encourage modal shift
- Continue to pursue the strategic development of the regional and national rail network



# First Projects for Delivery

- Freight Maps
  - Detailed destination maps showing the location and name of companies?
  - Or regional maps identifying preferred routes for freight traffic, facilities etc?
  - Inter-active web-based, or series of paper plans?



## First Projects for Delivery

- Freight Flows and Data
- Initial desk-top work being finalised
- Opportunities to make more specific at particular freight hubs with stakeholder discussions..
- Potential for wider review of existing traffic count information
- Can add value with specific specialised vehicle counts

# First Projects for Delivery

- Lorry Parking
  - Assess the nature of overnight lorry parking across Nestrans area
  - Collection of contextual vehicle information
  - Main routes and industrial estates in North East
  - Similar survey undertaken by TACTRAN 2009 on trunk road and at truck stops

# Thank You

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