

1 Places, People and Planning

o Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to ask Members to review, discuss and agree a response to the Scottish Government's *Places, People and Planning* consultation document.

o Background

The Scottish Government commissioned an independent panel to review the current planning system in Scotland. The independent panel published a report and recommendations last year. The Scottish Government then published an initial response document. Both of these documents have been considered by the Nestrans Board.

Earlier this year, the Scottish Government issued a consultation document entitled *Places, People and Planning*. Responses are requested by 4 April 2017. The Consultation document can be found at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-architecture/a-consultation-on-the-future-of-planning/>

The Nestrans Board has considered issues within this consultation at its meeting on 15 February 2017. At that meeting the Board agreed to defer final consideration of a response until a special meeting on 24 March to permit discussions with colleagues in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils along with the Strategic Development Planning Authority.

Attached as an appendix is a draft of a response for Members' consideration. It has been prepared by Nestrans staff in consultation with colleagues across those authorities mentioned above.

o Draft response

The consultation is one focusing on the Planning System. Nestrans' interest is in the strong overlap of Planning and Transport. That overlap is shown by the consultation discussing a number of issues directly relating to Nestrans as a Regional Transport Partnership and to transport.

As the focus of the consultation is on planning, the questions raised in the consultation are heavily skewed towards a planning response. The draft response in the appendix therefore considers the issues raised within the context of Regional Transport Partnerships and transport and as such doesn't directly answer the particular planning orientated questions posed. This permits a fuller discussion of the transport related interests within the wider planning context.

It has two sections. The first dealing with high level issues of principle and governance. The second section considers in more detail the commentary within the document and provides a Nestrans' view on those comments. This approach offers a better view from a transport and Regional Transport Partnership perspective than answering technical planning-based questions.

o Recommendation

The Board is recommended to:

- a) Consider the issues raised in the consultation document, discuss the draft Nestrans response and agree a Nestrans submission to the consultation.

RGM / 14 March 2017