

## **8 Information Bulletin**

---

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring decision.

#### **o Park & Ride**

The new Craibstone (Dyce) Park and Ride site partially opened on Monday 30 January 2017. The 1,000-space facility was initially served by Stagecoach's Jet 727 service as part of its Airport to Union Square bus station service, but as part of their reorganisation of services, this has now been withdrawn. Stagecoach now include calls into the Park & Ride site by their Aberdeen-Inverurie service 37 with approximately half-hourly frequency seven days per week from 8 May 2017.

First Aberdeen introduced a new service 16 on 2 April, which provides links to both the airport and the Park & Ride site. The frequency for this service will be four buses per hour in each direction for most of the day, Mondays-Saturdays and two per hour on Sundays.

A formal launch of the site took place on Monday 12 June. The facility, which has a bus turning circle along with the dual carriageway link connecting the A96 Aberdeen to Inverurie Road at Craibstone to Dyce Drive, has been designed so people can park there for free and choose which mode of environmentally-friendly transport to use for the remainder of their journey – bus, car-share, cycling or walking. Motorists are allowed to park for a maximum of 36 hours. Radio adverts funded through the Getabout brand promoting the new Park and Ride are currently running on Original FM.

The proposed Park & Ride site at Portlethen on the A90 south of Aberdeen has been the subject of some press reports, relating to Transport Scotland not being able to contribute towards the site at this time, as reported to the last meeting of the Board.

Aberdeenshire Council have secured planning permission for the site which remains a core part of the overall Regional Transport Strategy. Both Craibstone and Portlethen projects were included in the Strategic Transport Projects Review carried out by the Scottish Government in 2008 and still remain within that national set of projects. Aberdeenshire Council officers are currently looking at the options around funding and intend to bring back a report to appropriate Committees as part of the overall consideration of the Capital Planning process in the next 3-6 months.

#### **o Ferry Services Procurement – Policy Review**

Members may be aware that Humza Yousaf MSP, Minister for Transport and the Islands, made a statement to the Scottish Parliament on 2 February 2017 announcing a policy review into the legal, policy and financial implications relevant to the future procurement of the Scottish Government's lifeline ferry services. The terms of reference for the review are published on Transport Scotland's website: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/public-transport/ferries/ferry-services-procurement-policy-review/>

Local community and key stakeholder events have taken place in:

- Shetland (18 May)
- Stornoway (23 May)
- Glasgow (26 May)
- Oban (30 May)
- Orkney (2 June)
- Benbecula (6 June)

A Nestrans officer attended the meeting in Glasgow, which involved a presentation from Transport Scotland setting out the specific context, purpose and remit of the policy review and gave representatives from local authorities, community, tourism and business groups an opportunity to discuss and feedback views on the future approach to the procurement of the lifeline ferry services. Transport Scotland will also engage with other key stakeholders, including ferry operators, Trade Unions and the European Commission.

The Policy Review will identify and consider in detail the legal, policy and financial implications relevant to the procurement of ferry services, including:

- the possible application of an in-house procurement option (using “Teckal exemption” rules);
- the requirement to ensure compliance with State aid rules; and
- all other legal, policy and financial implications relevant to the procurement of ferry services in future.

The review will examine alternative models to the current organisational structures and governance of David MacBrayne Ltd and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd within the context of meeting the conditions of Teckal and State aid rules. The review will produce a report on the sustainable provision of ferry services in future. It is currently anticipated that the review will be made available to Parliament and published on the Transport Scotland’s website in Autumn 2017, but this timescale may be subject to amendment as the review progresses.

Without prejudging the outcome of the policy review, the Minister made it clear in his statement that, should the policy review conclude that it would be possible to apply the Teckal exemption and meet State aid rules, the Government would be minded to provide the ferry services through an in-house operator. This would be subject to wider policy and value for money implications and, crucially, the views of the communities affected.

## • **Aviation**

On 17 April, the Nestrans Chair wrote to Lord Ahmed of Wimbledon, following his speech to the Aviation Conference on 7 March 2017. He had pointed out that following the decision on extra runway capacity in the south east of England, there was an opportunity to take a broader look at the industry, including three principles that will be behind the considerations:

- Supporting UK aviation as a whole, for the whole of the UK;
- The consumer matters;
- The market works best.

The Nestrans’ Chair’s letter sought that consideration also be given to the issue of surface access to airports, asking that he assist local authorities in improving public transport access to airports to help reduce congestion and emissions.

A copy of the letter is attached as Appendix A to this report and a response from Lord Ahmed is attached as Appendix B.

## o Sustrans' Community Links Awards

Sustrans has announced the following awards for Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council through the Community Links scheme in 2017/18.

Project Name	Sustrans Grant 2017/18	Partial, Provisional or Full Award
Part-pedestrianisation of Broad Street: Totem creation and installation	£10,000	Full Award
Riverside Cycle Route – Bridge of Dee to RGU – detailed design	£20,000	Full Award
Mugiemoss Link	£48,500	Full Award
Arjo Wiggins path	£61,375	Full Award
Farburn Bridge and Path	£40,000	Full Award
A96 Aberdeen to Blackburn Cycle Route	£15,000	Full Award
Junction Improvements	£50,000	Full Award
A90 Trunk Road cycle route connections	£30,000	Full Award
Wellheds cycle link	£10,000	Full Award
A944 cycle route follow on design	£25,000	Full Award
River Don paths: pedestrian and cycle bridge	£52,000	Full Award
Craigshaw Drive cycle improvements	£15,000	Full Award
Seaton Park Entrance	£11,000	Full Award
Anderson Drive Pedestrian and Cycle Routes Phase 1	£15,000	Full Award
A90 Trunk Road Cycle Route North extension – detailed design	£20,000	Partial Award
A90 Parkway Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements	£10,000	Provisional Award
Middlefield and Northfield Placemaking project	£46,910	Provisional Award
<b>Total Aberdeen City</b>	<b>£479,785</b>	

Project Name	Sustrans Grant 2017/18	Partial, Provisional or Full Award.
Strategic Cycle Routes – Detailed Design: Stonehaven - Aberdeen	£22,500	Full Award
Strategic Cycle Routes – Detailed Design: Formartine and Buchan Way	£20,000	Full Award
Detailed design work Huntly ITT: West Park – East Park and associated quiet lanes.	£10,000	Full Award
Detailed design work for the development of the ITT Masterplan for Fraserburgh.	£10,000	Full Award
Detailed design work Ellon ITT: Knockothie to Auchterellon shared-use path	£8,500	Full Award
Detailed design work for the development of the ITT Masterplan for Inverurie	£7,500	Full Award
Design work Inverurie ITT: Town centre improvements	£2,500	Full Award
Ellon Riverside to Formartine and Buchan Way	£13,500	Provisional Award
Huntly Deveron Road shared-use path school link	£7,500	Provisional Award
<b>Total Aberdeenshire</b>	<b>£102,000</b>	

## o **Getabout Update**

Getabout adverts are currently being aired on television on STV, on Original FM radio and in local cinemas. All of the adverts are promoting the Getabout website [www.getabout.org.uk](http://www.getabout.org.uk). The most recent radio advert is promoting the new Park and Ride facility at Craibstone off the A96. We are also working alongside colleagues at Aberdeen City Council and both local bus operators to help plan further promotion for the site and for Park & Ride in general.

A review of the new Getabout website is due to take place to improve the site now it has been live for some months.

Getabout colleagues also had a stand in Union Terrace Gardens during the Cycling Tour series when it was held in Aberdeen on 25 May to promote Cycling and other sustainable forms of travel. They also attended an Environment Day held at Wood Group and promoted National Clean Air Day on 15 June at a stand outside of Marks and Spencer, St Nicholas Centre, Aberdeen.

A series of events happened during Bike Week 10-16 June with the Adventure Aberdeen Cycle Roadshow at NHS Grampian Foresterhill Campus and schools in the Bridge of Don area.

## o **Nestrans Press Releases**

Since the last meeting of the Board, Nestrans website has carried the following press releases (the full press release and details are available from the Nestrans' website).

7 April 2017 [Views sought on proposed Wellington Road corridor improvements](#)

The public's views are to be sought to help define and assess transport improvement options put forward for the Wellington Road Corridor.

02 May 2017 [Apply Now for Greener Travel Funding](#)

The Nestrans Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme (STGS) is now open for funding applications from organisations across the north east to help support active and 'greener travel....

12 June 2017 [A96 Park and Ride building opens to public](#)

A new building with waiting room, cycle lockers, toilets and showering facilities opened to the public today at the £15.2million Park and Ride beside Craibstone roundabout.

## o **Marketing and Public Relations Update**

A summary of Nestrans' marketing and PR activities in recent months are attached in **Appendix C** to this report.

## o **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board note the contents of this report.

KC/KW/NL/RD/LJ 15 June 2017

# Nestrans Communications Report

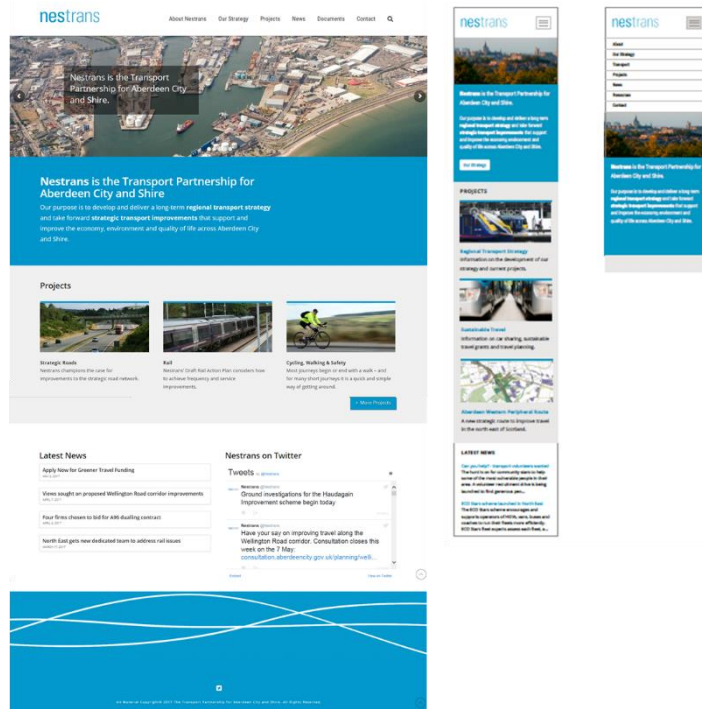
April & May 2017

- **Redevelopment and launch of the new Nestrans website**

A number of years have passed since the Nestrans website had been developed so the site has been redesigned to improve the experience and ease of use of the site for visitors.

The new site features a clean, inviting and responsive design, which will allow the site to render correctly on mobile and tablet devices.

The address for the website remains unchanged ([www.nestrans.org.uk](http://www.nestrans.org.uk)).



- **Nestrans Media Releases & Statements Issued**



Date	Type	Details
07.04.17	Press Release	<b>Views sought on proposed Wellington Road Corridor Improvements</b> Aberdeen City Council launches the multi modal corridor study, funded by Nestrans who also carried out the pre-appraisal in 2015.
02.05.17	Press Release	<b>Apply Now for Greener Travel Funding</b> Launch of the Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme.
30.05.17	Statement	Statement to confirm that Nestrans are undertaking the Fraserburgh and Peterhead to Aberdeen Strategic Transport Study and the current status of the project
12.06.17	Social Media	<b>A96 Park and Ride Building Opens to Public</b> Craibstone Park and Ride now fully open



o **Nestrans News Coverage**

Date	Media	Headline	Details
<b>08.04.17</b>	Press and Journal	Views wanted on road plans	Aberdeen residents are being urged to have their say as part of the Wellington Road Corridor Multi Modal Study. Options put forward in the consultation come from a Nestrans study from 2015. P&J article includes a quote from the Nestrans Chair.
	Evening Express	Council seeks opinions on road corridor	
<b>14.04.17</b>	Evening Express	Government's refusal of cash could scupper north east Park & Ride	The Transport Minister has written to Nestrans to confirm that the Scottish Government cannot help fund a A90 (S) facility north of Portlethen. Nestrans Chair had written to the Minister back in October 2016.
<b>18.04.17</b>	Press and Journal	Firms get grant to provide cycle parking under transport scheme	Article discussed the Sustainable Travel Grant in advance of the Nestrans April Board.
<b>18.04.17</b>	Press and Journal	Controversial plans to cut train service axed	CrossCountry trains have withdrawn changes to the timetable which would have resulted in losing four of the six services operating out of Aberdeen later this year. (Nestrans had responded to Arriva's timetable consultation in December last year to highlight the issue.)
<b>19.04.17</b>	Evening Express	Cash boost for firms' green travel plans	Discusses the Sustainable Travel Grant which was at the Nestrans board that day. Article quotes the Transport Strategy Manager from discussions at the board.
<b>20.04.17</b>	Press and Journal	Firms offered 10k to encourage cycling to work	Article follows the discussion of the Sustainable Travel Grant at the board meeting. Nestrans Chair and the Transport Strategy Manager are quoted from the discussion of the paper at the meeting.
<b>22.04.17</b>	Evening Express	Alternative transport grant scheme extended	Article discusses the new closing date for applications to Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme.
<b>26.04.17</b>	Press and Journal	Probe into spending on boundary	Aberdeen City Council launches a probe into the repair of a boundary wall alongside a national cycle path. Sustrans note that they have been in discussions with Aberdeen City Council and Nestrans since 2016 after the

			wall collapsed as a result of bad weather.
<b>27.04.17</b>	Evening Express	Scrapping of park and ride plan could mean loss of £660,000	Portlethen and District Community Council fear that developer contributions could be lost if money is not spent within the necessary time period. The concerns come after the Scottish Government confirmed they could not provide funding for the park and ride site. The Nestrans Chair is quoted and says that the Nestrans led project is 'still progressing and looking at potential funding avenues.'
<b>03.05.17</b>	Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce	Nestrans sustainable travel grant scheme opens for applications	Article features history of the scheme and other projects which have benefitted from the grant, including most recently the Sport Aberdeen facilities. Includes quote from Nestrans Director regarding the importance promoting sustainable transport and of reducing car dependence where possible.
<b>09.05.17</b>	Evening Express	'£662k must be used for the park-and-ride'	A spokesman for Stewart Milne Homes has said that developer contributions earmarked for the Park and Ride cannot be used for other projects and must be spent by 2019. Aberdeenshire Council are confident that the issues can be addressed before 2019 and are continuing to look at funding avenues.
<b>15.05.17</b>	Press and Journal	Bumpy ride for passengers	The number 80 Jet Connect bus service from Stagecoach has been withdrawn, due to low passenger numbers, leaving no bus connection between Aberdeen International Airport and Dyce Railway Station. The service had been using the Nestrans funded bus interchange prior to its withdrawal.
<b>16.05.17</b>	Evening Express	Meeting held over station improvements	Members from Nestrans and MSP Mike Rumbles met to discuss work to allow better access at Insh Railway Station. Mr Rumbles thanked the team from Nestrans for taking the time to meet with him.
<b>26.05.17</b>	Press and Journal	Coalition plan puts 'Aberdeenshire first'	The new Aberdeenshire Council administration released its manifesto. The document includes: a campaign to reinstate the Dyce to Ellon railway line; the continuing campaign to reopen Newtonhill railway station; early delivery of the new Kintore station and addressing access issues at Insh.

<b>30.05.17</b>	Press and Journal	Shock over 'killer' road	Campaigners have called for action on the A952 Mintlaw to Fraserburgh road after the release of recent accident statistics for the route. Article notes that Nestrans are currently undertaking a study (FPASTS) to improve transport links north of Aberdeen.
-----------------	-------------------	--------------------------	--