

Action Plans

5b Bus Quality Partnership

o Purpose of Report

To present proposals for the development of a new North East Bus Alliance and a draft North East Quality Partnership Agreement for approval.

o Background

At its meeting on 26th June 2017, the Board agreed to:

1. a two tier approach for a region-wide voluntary partnership agreement and subsequent corridor specific agreements such as statutory or enhanced partnership agreements.
2. the involvement of Nestrans in the establishment of a Quality Partnership Board and development of the Terms of Reference of a future Quality Partnership Board; and
3. requested a more detailed report on the establishment of a Quality Partnership Board and region-wide Voluntary Quality Partnership Agreement to the next meeting of the Board in September 2017.

This report provides a draft region-wide voluntary quality partnership agreement and sets out the proposed structure and governance of a new North East Bus Alliance. The purpose of this agreement is to commit all partners to the agreement to the new Alliance and to working in partnership to deliver improvements for buses across the region. It also commits all partners to a programme working towards the development of Statutory Quality Partnership agreements on individual corridors.

This Quality Partnership agreement and subsequent Statutory Quality Partnership agreements are a mechanism for the delivery of the wider Nestrans Bus Action Plan which covers the region as a whole. The Bus Action Plan is due to be refreshed and this voluntary region-wide agreement will feed into this process and provide a means of monitoring progress towards achieving the objectives

The draft North East Quality Partnership agreement is provided in Appendix A.

o Development of the QP agreement

This draft agreement has been developed by the current Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum (LABOF) partnership which includes representatives from Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, First and Stagecoach.

The draft agreement has been discussed and agreed at both Executive and Steering Group level of LABOF.

The principles of the two-tier approach to the Quality Partnership agreement, as reported to Nestrans Board in June 2017, has also subsequently been discussed at both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council committees and the principles agreed and supported by both.

Recommendation

The Board is recommended to:

1. Agree to Nestrans' participation in the proposed North East Bus Alliance and voluntary Quality Partnership Agreement, under the terms set out in the draft agreement; and
2. Refer this draft to the two Councils and bus operators for their consideration.