

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**20 MARCH 2007****DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

This report updates the Partnership Board on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of the Partnership and invites the Partnership to consider an invitation to join SCDI.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Partnership Board :-

- (i) notes that the Partnership Headquarters at Bordeaux House, Perth is now operational and agrees to have a formal opening of the Headquarters on 24th April 2007;
- (ii) approves the adjustment which has been made to the 2006/07 Revenue Budget to enable funding of traffic surveys on the A90, in support of feasibility and development work on the Regional Transport Strategy;
- (iii) notes the arrangements which have been agreed with the Scottish Executive in relation to handling slippages in the 2006/07 Capital Programme; and
- (iv) considers an invitation to join the Scottish Council for Development and Industry.

2 DISCUSSION**Partnership Headquarters**

- 2.1 The Director's Report of 16th January 2007 provided a progress update on arrangements for establishing the Partnership Headquarters at Bordeaux House, 31 Kinnoull Street, Perth. At that time it was noted that the Headquarters was unlikely to be operational before late February/early March, as a result of delays in external contractors' supply of a communications link into the building.
- 2.2 Over the past 2 – 3 weeks there has been considerable progress and the Director, Office Manager/PA and Travel Plan Officer moved into the building over 9th – 12th March. Arrangements are in hand for notifying all relevant contacts that the Partnership Headquarters is now operational. A number of minor internal arrangements remain to be completed over the next few weeks. It is suggested that a formal launch of the Partnership Headquarters is held on the date of the Partnership's next meeting on 24th April 2007.

Revenue Budget 2006/07 – Traffic Surveys

- 2.3 At its meeting on 20th February 2007 the Partnership Board received a progress report on the projected 2006/07 Revenue Budget and approved the Revenue Budget for 2007/08 (Report RTP/07/07 refers). Within that report it was noted that the projected 2006/07 out-turn for Core Costs would be in the order of £150,000, resulting in an underspend of around £125,000 in the Scottish Executive's Core Costs contribution of £200,000 for this year. All other Revenue funding in relation to Regional Transport Strategy development, Feasibility Studies and Travel Planning is projected to be fully committed.
- 2.4 Updated traffic information is required to inform future appraisal of options for enhancing the A90, as proposed in the RTS. Traffic surveys needed to be undertaken during March to avoid the impacts of developments adjacent to the A90/Forfar Road, which are programmed to commence at the end of March and extend over a prolonged period. These surveys have the additional benefit of enhancing data inputs to the Transport Model for Scotland, which is being used by Transport Scotland to inform the Strategic Transport Projects Review.
- 2.5 Following negotiation with the Scottish Executive it has been agreed that the costs of these traffic surveys, amounting to between £25,000 - £30,000, will be met by transfer of an equivalent sum from the projected underspend in the Scottish Executive's contribution to 2006/07 Core Costs.

Capital Programme 2006/07

- 2.6 At its meeting on 19th December 2006 the Partnership received a progress update on the 2006/07 Capital Programme and approved a programme of Capital expenditure for 2007/08 (Report RTP/06/40 refers), the programmes for both years being funded from Scottish Executive Capital Grant of £3.327 million for each financial year. At the time of reporting on 19th December it had been anticipated that, with the exception of £300,000 which had been allocated for development of the A90/Swallow Roundabout improvement scheme in Dundee City, all other elements of the 2006/07 Capital Programme would be completed during the current year.
- 2.7 It has now become apparent that a number of schemes in the 2006/07 programme have suffered delays and will not be completed by the end of the financial year. At the time of writing it is understood that the level of this additional slippage across the whole programme could be in the order of £130,000 - £180,000. Board members will recall that, under the original Conditions of Grant Award, the Partnership is able to carry forward up to 10% of the full year Grant – i.e. £332,700, into the following financial year. Allowing for the Partnership's earlier decision to carry forward the £300,000 for the Swallow Roundabout scheme, this would have resulted in £32,700 being available to handle other slippages. However, at a recent Transport Partnerships Liaison Group (TPLG) meeting, Scottish Executive officials advised that they would consider allowing additional flexibility on carry forward/slippage into 2007/08 on a project by project basis.

- 2.8 Further discussions have taken place with Executive officials and it is expected that approval will be given to enable those projects which have been delayed to be completed during the early part of 2007/08, with funding met from the 2006/07 Capital Grant. Any further developments will be reported orally.

Scottish Council for Development and Industry

- 2.9 The Scottish Council for Development and Industry has invited TACTRAN to take up membership. SCDI is a not for profit, non political organisation, whose primary purpose is the promotion of sustainable economic development in Scotland, with transport issues being a major area of interest. SCDI have advised that SESTRAN and SPT are already members.
- 2.10 SCDI are a member of TACTRAN's own Key Stakeholders Group, which has helped inform development of the RTS. The main purpose and aims of SCDI are compatible with the objectives and priorities of the emerging RTS. The Director is currently seeking further information on membership, including any financial implications, and this will be reported orally. The Partnership Board is invited to consider whether it would wish to take up the invitation to join SCDI.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This report has no direct resource implications.

Eric Guthrie
Director

For further information email ericguthrie@pkc.gov.uk or tel. 01738 47544

NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing this Report.