

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

19 JUNE 2007

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This report updates the Partnership Board on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of the Partnership.

1 RECOMMENDATION

That the Partnership notes the progress updates and other information provided in this report.

2 DISCUSSION**Regional Transport Partnership Members Induction Training**

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive previously organised an Induction Conference for members of the newly established Regional Transport Partnerships (RTP's) in May 2006. The event briefed Members on areas of relevance to the operation of the new statutory bodies, including Corporate Governance, RTP Membership, Ethical Standards in Public Life, Freedom of Information and Financial Accountability and Audit.
- 2.2 Following the elections and appointment of new Councillor Members to all 7 RTP's, the Scottish Executive plans to hold a similar event in September. The arrangements and content of the event are being developed in consultation between Executive officials and RTP Directors and further information will be issued to Board Members as they are confirmed.

Forum of Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships

- 2.3 At its meeting on 19 December 2006 the Partnership noted that a forum of RTP Chairs had been established to enable cross-Partnership discussion and liaison on matters of joint interest and provide opportunities to improve transport planning and delivery, through sharing of best practice and information (Report RTP/06/41 refers).
- 2.4 The last meeting of the group was hosted by TACTRAN in Perth on 29 March 2007. The Draft Minute of this meeting is attached at Appendix A, for information, and the Memorandum of Understanding the group has adopted is attached at Appendix B. The next meeting of the group is to be held on 28 June in Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's offices in Glasgow.
- 2.5 Scottish Executive officials are also seeking to identify a date in early July, when it is hoped it will be possible for the RTP Chairs Forum to meet with the new Transport Minister, soon after the anticipated approval of Regional Transport Strategies around the end of June.
- 2.6 In Branch 5 (a) of the Draft Minute of the meeting on 29 March reference is made to a proposed transport conference being jointly organised with Holyrood Magazine. Proposals for this remain under discussion with a view to this event being arranged sometime in the autumn. Further developments on this will be discussed at the next Chairs meeting on 28 June and reported to the Partnership's next meeting.

Strategic Transport Projects Review

- 2.7 An important role of the Regional Transport Strategy is to inform and influence the Scottish Executive's Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR), which will determine national transport spending priorities in the period from 2012 – 2022. The STPR is due to be completed in late summer 2008. The Scottish Executive and Transport Scotland have appointed consultants to support development work on the STPR.
- 2.8 A number of Reference Groups have been established by Transport Scotland to help inform the STPR and offer objective and constructive comment on emerging information, analysis and proposals. One of these consists of the seven RTP Lead Officers. Other groups have been established covering Planning; Enterprise, Business and Freight; Environmental Interests; and Public Transport and Mobility. The Director of Planning and Transportation for Dundee City Council sits on the Planning Reference Group.
- 2.9 The current consultants work programme for undertaking the STPR is outlined below :-
- (i) Review Current and Future Network Performance – May 2007
 - (ii) Determine Expectations Gaps and Shortfalls – June 2007
 - (iii) Option Generation and Sifting – August 2007
 - (iv) Scheme Appraisal Reports – April 2008
 - (v) SEA and Final Reports – August 2008
- 2.10 RTP officers have been invited to comment on the first phase of the work, which remains confidential at this time, but will be published shortly by Transport Scotland. In commenting on each stage of the work programme RTP's have been asked to liaise and consult with officers of constituent Councils.
- 2.11 The next meeting of the RTP's Reference Group is on 5 July. Further developments with the STPR will be reported regularly to the Partnership.

National Planning Framework

- 2.12 The National Planning Framework (NPF) is a key element of the long-term spatial planning system for Scotland. The first NPF was published in 2004 as a guide to spatial development up to 2025. The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 has put the NPF on a statutory footing and arrangements are in hand for development of NPF2, which will build on NPF1 and set out the Scottish Executive's strategic developments priorities in the period to 2030.
- 2.13 NPF2, which is due to be published in summer 2008, extends beyond land use planning. Identifying future transport needs and infrastructure will be a key element of the current review, drawing on the National Transport Strategy, the ongoing Strategic Transport Projects Review and the work undertaken by RTP's on Regional Transport Strategies. A meeting between Scottish Executive Planning officials and RTP officers, to discuss the role of Regional Transport Strategies within the NPF, is being held on 14 June. An oral update will be given on developments arising from this meeting.

Future Funding for Rural Public Passenger Transport and Demand Responsive Transport Services

- 2.14 At its meeting on 16 January 2007 the Partnership Board was advised of an announcement by the former Transport Minister on 10 January, that the existing Rural Public Passenger Transport (RPPT), Rural Community Transport Initiative (RCTI) and Rural and Urban Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) schemes, and associated funding to Councils, Community Transport and DRT providers, will end on 31 March 2008, with related funding streams being merged into a single budget and transferred to RTP's from 1 April 2008 (Report RTP/07/04 refers).
- 2.15 These proposals have a number of operational and management implications for RTP's, Councils and existing DRT/CT providers. CoSLA Leaders met in April with the former Transport Minister to raise concerns about the proposed arrangements and implications for continued funding for existing public transport services. At that time the Minister confirmed the decision to merge the existing funds into a single budget and invited RTP's and CoSLA to bring forward alternative arrangements for managing the grant funding post-April 2008.
- 2.16 Officer discussions involving RTP Directors, CoSLA, the Society of Chief Officers for Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) and the Association of Transport Coordinating Officers (ATCO) are ongoing, with a view to identifying alternative options for implementing the proposed changes to grant funding, whilst safeguarding existing funding to Councils for provision of supported bus services.
- 2.17 A meeting between the above groups and Scottish Executive officials is being held on 20 June, following which any agreed proposals for alternative approaches to managing future funding and operation of DRT services will go forward for joint consideration by RTP's at the RTP Chairs Forum meeting on 28 June, and by Councils at a CoSLA Leaders meeting on 29 June. The outcome of these discussions and proposals for addressing the implications for TACTRAN and constituent Councils will be reported to the next meeting.

InterCity East Coast Rail Franchise

- 2.18 At its meeting on 20 February 2007 the Partnership Board approved a response to a Department for Transport (DfT) consultation on the re-franchising of the InterCity East Coast (ICEC) rail service between Scotland and London (Report RTP/07/09 refers). The DfT subsequently announced that Arriva plc, FirstGroup plc, Virgin-Stagecoach and NXEC Trains Ltd (National Express Group) had been shortlisted to bid for the renewed ICEC franchise.
- 2.19 Prospective franchisees made contact with stakeholders prior to submitting bids by 6 June 2007. One to one meetings have been held with each of the bidders, during which the following issues, aspirations and expectations for the new franchise were raised :-
- (i) Service Pattern – need for protection of existing services and stopping pattern to/from and within TACTRAN area;
 - (ii) Journey times – support for faster journey times to Edinburgh and destinations south;

- (iii) Fares – need for clearer and easier to access fares and innovative ticket types, which encourage greater use of rail for business, leisure, tourism travel etc., including better availability of integrated ticketing with other rail and bus services;
- (iv) Passenger capacity and comfort – need to address overcrowding on trains north of Edinburgh, provide improved luggage accommodation and improve passenger area cleanliness north of Edinburgh
- (v) On-board catering – need for more flexible arrangements which address needs of longer distance and local travellers
- (vi) Consultations – need to include RTP's as key stakeholders in consultations on franchise developments.

2.20 It is understood that a preferred bidder will be selected in late summer, with the new franchisee due to start operations in December 2007. Further developments will be reported to a future meeting.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

3.1 This report has no direct financial or other resource implications.

Eric Guthrie
Director

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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.

Meeting of Chairs of the Regional Transport Partnerships

Queen's Hotel, Perth
29 March 2007

Note of Meeting

Present:	Cllr Alan Livingstone	Chair, Tactran (Chair)
	Eric Guthrie	Tactran
	Cllr Charles King	Chair, HITRANS
	Howard Brindley	HITRANS
	Dave Duthie	HITRANS
	Cllr Alison McInnes	Chair, Nestrans
	Peter Cockhead	Nestrans
	Ben Kerfoot	Nestrans (Secretariat)
	Cllr Russell Imrie	Chair, SEStran
	Alex Macaulay	SEStran
	Cllr Ivor Hyslop	Chair, South West Scotland Transport Partnership (SWESTRANS)
	Alistair Speedie	South West Scotland Transport Partnership (SWESTRANS)
	Cllr Alistair Watson	Chair, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
	Rodney Mortimer	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
	Cllr Jim Irvine	Chair, Zetland Transport Partnership (ZetTrans)
	Michael Craigie	Zetland Transport Partnership (ZetTrans)

As Tactran was hosting the meeting Councillor Livingstone took the Chair and welcomed everyone to Perth. Councillor King introduced Dave Duthie who had recently been appointed as the new HITRANS Director.

It was noted that Shetland Transport Partnership would now be known as ZetTrans and that South West Transport Partnership had adopted the name SWESTRANS.

1. **Note of Last Meeting, 9 January 2007**

The note of the meeting was agreed. One matter arising:

- ❖ **Item 4 – Scottish Executive funding for RTPs for 2007-08** – Peter Cockhead advised that notification of revenue grant for 2007-08 was expected today from the Executive. There was general concern at the delay in receiving this information, which had been requested at the meeting with the Minister on 9 January. This had caused uncertainty and meant that RTPs had needed to set budgets, with no guarantee that the current level

of funding would continue. It was also noted that at the most recent meeting of the Transport Partnerships Liaison Group, the Executive had indicated a more relaxed approach to carry-forward of grant, enabling RTPs to establish general funds. However written confirmation of this was awaited. Eric Guthrie suggested that in future a 'one stop shop' approach should be adopted by the Executive to provide greater clarity and consistency on budgets. However Alex Macaulay noted that the situation regarding early notification of funding had improved compared to previous years.

Councillor Livingstone noted the mismatch between tight deadlines required of RTPs and the delays in receiving information from the Executive. He suggested writing to the Minister to express the Chairs' concerns at the uncertainty caused by late notification of budgets and it was agreed that a letter should be sent in Councillor Livingstone's name.

2. Note of Meeting with the Minister for Transport, 9 January

The note of the meeting was agreed. One matter arising:

- ❖ **Item 5 – RTP input to Strategic Transport Projects Review and Comprehensive Spending Review** – Councillor Hyslop referred to the discussion with the Minister regarding input to the forthcoming Spending Review, at which the Chairs had requested the Minister to consider giving RTPs a formal input to the process. Eric Guthrie noted that Executive officials had recently requested information on future capital projects for this purpose. It was agreed that the issue of a formal input to the Spending Review be included in the letter to the Minister. In addition, it was noted that in some cases, the Executive had been slow in providing feedback on the draft Regional Transport Strategies, missing consultation deadlines. It was agreed to include this issue in the letter to the Minister also.

3. Regional Transport Strategies – Issues arising

Councillor Livingstone invited the Chairs to give an update on progress in producing their respective Regional Transport Strategies:

- ❖ **SWESTRANS** – Councillor Hyslop reported that the final strategy was nearing completion and was due to be submitted by the deadline.
- ❖ **SPT** – Councillor Watson advised that some difficulties had arisen during the consultation process but that the final strategy was nearing completion and would be submitted on time.
- ❖ **Nestrans** – Councillor McInnes reported that the consultation had been broadly supportive and the final RTS had been submitted electronically and would follow in hard copy.

- ❖ SEStran – Councillor Imrie reported that a workshop with constituent councils had taken place to gain endorsement of the final strategy which was now completed and would be submitted on time.
- ❖ ZetTrans – Councillor Irvine reported that the strategy was complete and would be submitted to the Scottish Executive on time. Michael Craigie added that there had been some discussion with the Scottish Executive regarding the level of detail required for the Appropriate Assessment of the strategy's environmental impacts and they were awaiting confirmation that the Executive was content with the approach taken.
- ❖ HITRANS – Councillor King advised that the final RTS would be submitted on 30 March, having been considered by all constituent Councils. He reported that the consultation had been broadly supportive, although there had been resistance from one particular stakeholder group.
- ❖ Tactran – Councillor Livingstone reported that they intended to submit on 30 March, although work on the final RTS was still ongoing. He reported that there had been a large number of responses in the final week of the consultation which had taken time to address. Eric Guthrie advised that he shared ZetTrans' concerns relating to the level of detail for SEA and had been in discussion with Scottish Executive officials.

Peter Cockhead advised that there was some uncertainty over how the approval process would be implemented and the potential for amendments to the document during or following the approval process.

Councillor Livingstone welcomed and congratulated the achievement of all RTPs in producing final RTSs by the 31 March deadline.

4. RTP Input to Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) – Update

Eric Guthrie reported that the RTPs Reference Group for the STPR had met on 12 January and Transport Scotland had taken on board the concerns expressed at the last meeting of the RTP Chairs. A further meeting scheduled for February had been postponed due to delays in the consultants completing their reports. The next meeting of the Reference Group would now take place in May. Transport Scotland has advised that the STPR would be taking the final RTSs into account, however it was noted that there is still some uncertainty over how much input RTPs will have to the process.

5. National Issues Warranting Joint RTP Position

a) Proposal for Joint Briefing/Position papers – Following the discussion at the previous meeting, Alex Macaulay introduced a paper which proposed a number of issues on which the RTP Chairs might wish to agree joint position papers. Following discussion, it was agreed to add items on lifeline ferries, waterway and coastal transport

and connectivity in remote and island regions. It was also agreed to expand the item on Road User Charging to include wider demand management. The Chairs agreed to delegate to officers to allocate responsibility for drafting papers and determining their order of priority, with a report back to the next meeting.

Alex Macaulay referred to a linked issue regarding an approach from Holyrood Magazine to participate in a transport conference planned for June at which joint position papers might be presented. It was considered that this was likely to be too soon to present joint papers and may not be appropriate depending on the rest of the agenda. The Chairs agreed that Alex Macaulay liaise with Holyrood Magazine on whether the conference might take place at a later date.

b) Example of Position Paper – High Speed Ground Transport – Councillor Watson introduced the paper which sought to establish an agreed joint position on the development of High Speed Rail. He noted that the Minister was supportive of the concept of High Speed Rail and considered it important that Scotland did not lose out from developments elsewhere in the UK. Councillor Livingstone considered that it was important that links into a High Speed network existed between north and central Scotland. Councillor King noted that air services would remain vital to the north of Scotland, even with the development of High Speed Rail and sought to ensure that this was reflected in the paper. In particular he voiced concerns at the impact of the Open Skies agreement on landing slots at hub airports for regional services.

The Chairs agreed the paper, with amendments to emphasise the continued importance of regional air services and to specify Heathrow and Gatwick as the main London airports. It was also agreed the paper should emphasise that there should be no detriment to Scotland, particularly beyond the central belt, arising from High Speed Rail developments.

6. DRT/RPPT/RCTI – Role of RTPs in New Arrangements

Eric Guthrie reported that following communication of the Scottish Executive's proposals for reforming the funding streams for DRT, RPPT and RCTI after the last Chairs meeting, the RTP officers had met with Executive officials to discuss the implications. Concern at the way in which the proposals had been communicated to RTPs had been expressed to the Executive. A further meeting with the Executive had been scheduled for 12 April, at which the Finnish model of DRT would also be discussed. It was noted that it was important to get inputs to the discussion from SCOTS and ATCO. Councillor McInnes reported that Nestrans had written to the Minister expressing concern both at the way in which the changes had been announced and the lack of prior consultation with RTPs on the implications. She noted that a meeting between Cosla and the Minister had been postponed but that

the Minister had indicated he was open to alternative delivery models. Councillor Imrie noted that despite the handling of the announcement, there were benefits in RTPs taking a greater role in DRT. It was agreed that further discussion with the Executive on the proposals was required following the elections and it was considered important that the views of RTPs were clearly represented, particularly in discussions with Cosla.

7. Research to support Strategy for Lifeline Ferry Services

Councillor King referred to the letter he had sent to the Minister seeking the involvement of the relevant RTPs in developing a long-term strategy for lifeline ferry services. He noted that this was a commitment in the National Transport Strategy and would be preceded by research to review ferry services. This was endorsed by the RTP Chairs and noted that it had been agreed under Item 5 to bring forward a position paper on lifeline ferry services to provide a joint input into this process.

8. Re-casting of ScotRail timetable – Consultative role for RTPs

Councillor Watson referred to recent correspondence he had with Malcolm Reed, Chief Executive of Transport Scotland, seeking a formal role for Regional Transport Partnerships in contributing to the forthcoming re-cast of the ScotRail timetable. He considered that RTPs should be consulted on a statutory basis. The RTP Chairs endorsed this position.

9. RTP Operators and Other Organisations

a) Network Rail Real Estate Issues – Councillor Watson raised an issue regarding Network Rail's approach to Park and Ride facilities on its land. There was concern that any move to charge for parking, in order to raise revenue, would undermine moves to attract rail patronage. Councillor Imrie added a concern that the Scotland Route Utilisation Strategy (produced by Network Rail) referred to charging for parking at stations. It was agreed that this issue be raised with Transport Scotland and the Minister for Transport. Eric Guthrie also raised the difficulties that had been experienced in acquiring land from Network Rail for transport projects and this was endorsed by other RTPs. It was agreed that this issue should be raised with Transport Scotland and the Minister also.

b) Consequences for Councils of RTP expenditure – Alistair Speedie raised an issue regarding revenue implications arising from capital expenditure. He noted that while infrastructure may be funded by the RTP, there was a reliance on Councils to meet the ongoing maintenance costs. Councillor King advised that when installing new bus shelters funded by HITRANS, the relevant local authority had been required to sign a written agreement to commit to maintenance. Alistair

Speedie volunteered to prepare a paper on this issue and this was agreed by the Chairs.

c) Provision of Public Transport infrastructure on Trunk Roads – Councillor Watson referred to difficulties experienced by SPT in getting commitment from Transport Scotland to install public transport infrastructure, such as raised kerbs, on trunk roads. It was agreed to raise this issue with Transport Scotland and the Minister. Alistair Speedie added that disruption to supported bus services arising from Transport Scotland works had an impact on local authorities and RTPs.

10. Possible Joint RTPs 2007 Conference/Training

The RTP Chairs agreed that a conference for members of all the RTPs be held in the autumn as a means of discussing common issues and to provide training for Board members. It was agreed that officers liaise with Executive officials on its organisation. It was noted that there may also be a need for training of Board members on particular issues and that this be discussed with the Executive also.

11. Meeting with CPT

The agenda for the meeting to be held later that day was agreed. In relation to Item 2, Eric Guthrie advised that he had been appointed to the Bus Action Plan Steering Group which had its first meeting on 26 March.

12. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 28 June 2007 and at the invitation of Councillor Hyslop, it was agreed to hold the meeting in Dumfries. It was also agreed that it would be appropriate to have another meeting with the Minister for Transport around this time, potentially on the same date.

Councillor Livingstone noted that three RTP Chairs: Councillors McInnes, King and Irvine, were retiring from local authority politics at the election. He paid tribute to their commitment and achievements and wished them well for the future. Councillor Livingstone also wished well those who were standing for re-election.

BK/30 April 2007

Forum of Chairs of Scottish Regional Transport Partnerships

Memorandum of Understanding

1. Members

The Chairs of the Highland & Islands, North-East of Scotland, South-East of Scotland, South-West of Scotland, Shetland, Strathclyde and Tayside & Central Scotland Transport Partnerships (respectively referred to as HITRANS, NESTRANS, SESTRAN, South-West of Scotland RTP, Shetland RTP, SPT and TACTRAN) agree to form an informal association to discuss matters of mutual interest relating to regional, local and national transport strategy and delivery. The association shall be known as the Forum of Chairs of Scottish Regional Transport Partnerships.

2. Objects

- a) To provide a forum for discussion of matters of common interest to member Partnerships and a means by which joint views may be formulated and expressed.
- b) To provide opportunities to improve transport planning and delivery in Scotland through the sharing of best practice.
- c) To disseminate and share accurate and timely information on all matters relating to transport and other relevant issues.
- d) To make available the skills of the individual Partnerships to provide a range of cost-effective services to other Partnerships in accordance with their wishes.

3. Meetings

Meetings shall be held quarterly, or as required, and shall deal with such business as may have been notified by the Chairs of the Partnerships to the Secretariat. Each Partnership shall be represented by its Chair, Vice Chair or other nominated member, accompanied by an officer if they wish. In the event of no member being available, an officer of an RTP may represent their Partnership.

4. Chair

The Chair of the Partnership hosting any meeting shall chair the meeting.

5. Secretariat

The Forum shall appoint one of its member Partnerships to provide a Secretariat which will hold office for a period of one year, following which provision of the Secretariat shall pass to another member Partnership, and so on in rotation.

The Secretariat shall ensure the timely preparation and issue of Agenda and all relevant reports that member Partnerships may wish to place before the Forum.

The Secretariat shall take a note of each meeting which, once approved in draft by the Chair of that meeting, shall be circulated to members prior to adoption at the next meeting of the Forum.

6. Withdrawal from the Association

At any time a Partnership may intimate by notice in writing to the Secretariat the withdrawal of that Partnership from the Forum with immediate effect.

7. Alteration of the Memorandum and Dissolution of the Forum

At any meeting a Partnership may propose that this Memorandum be altered or that the Forum be dissolved. Such a proposal shall take immediate effect if passed by a majority of the Partnerships in membership of the Forum at the time when the motion is proposed, each Partnership having a single vote.

8. Public Statements on behalf of the Association

Public statements will only be made in the name of the Forum by an agreed spokesperson if there is consensus to do so.