

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**29 APRIL 2008****REVIEW OF REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN****REPORT BY DIRECTOR**

This report asks the Partnership to consider and approve a revised Regional Transport Strategy for submission to Scottish Ministers and to agree a proposed process for review and refinement of the Regional Transport Strategy Delivery Plan, in consultation with partner Councils and other key stakeholders.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS**1.1 That the Partnership:-**

- (i) considers the revised Regional Transport Strategy, as set out in Appendix A and approves this, amended as necessary to reflect any revisions by the Board, for submission to Scottish Ministers; and
- (ii) agrees a process for developing a revised RTS Delivery Plan, in consultation with partner Councils and other key stakeholders, as outlined in the report.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At successive meetings over recent months the Partnership has received progress reports, updating Members on the position on gaining Ministerial approval of the finalised Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), as submitted to the Transport Minister on 30 March 2007.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 30 January 2008 the Partnership noted a letter received from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, in which he requested that all RTPs prepare and re-submit revised Strategies in the form of "high-level" documents, focussing on the transport strategies necessary to support the Government's key objectives and Single Outcome Agreements. The letter also indicated that Interventions should be removed from Strategies and addressed in RTS Delivery Plans (Report RTP/08/02 refers).
- 2.3 At the time of reporting on 30 January it had been the intention to review the RTS in parallel with development of Single Outcome Agreements, which are due to be submitted by Councils in finalised form by the end of June 2008. In light of this intention, the Partnership agreed on 30 January to receive a report on detailed proposals for reviewing and re-submitting the RTS, within the context of the Concordat between Scottish Government and Local Government and emerging Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) at this meeting.
- 2.4 Subsequent to the meeting on 30 January, Scottish Government officials requested that RTPs submit their revised Strategies as close to the start of the new Financial Year on 1 April 2008 as possible. Consequently the present report now presents a revised RTS, which has been amended in line with Scottish Government requirements. The report also seeks the Partnership's

agreement to a proposed process for reviewing the RTS Indicative Delivery Plan, in line with the Cabinet Secretary's wishes.

3. DISCUSSION

Revised Regional Transport Strategy

- 3.1 A revised RTS document forms Appendix A to the report. In accordance with the Cabinet Secretary's request, the principal revision is the removal of the former **Chapter 6: Interventions**. These will now be addressed in detail within the updated Delivery Plan as discussed below.
- 3.2 **Chapter 5: TACTRAN Strategy** has been revised to include general references to the sorts of policies and proposals which are likely to be pursued in support of the Strategy, through the Delivery Plan. It is considered appropriate to retain a general indication of the nature of policies and proposals that will put the strategy into effect, to assist explanation and understanding of the overall Strategy.
- 3.3 The removal of Interventions also requires alteration to the previous **Chapter 7: Strategy Appraisal**. A new Chapter 6 indicates that detailed appraisal of Interventions under Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) will be addressed within the revised Delivery Plan. A summary of the STAG-based process used to appraise the overall Strategy remains in new Chapter 6.
- 3.4 The section on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been amended to delete references to Interventions. These aspects of SEA and related Appropriate Appraisal, will also now be included within the Delivery Plan. References to the separate SEA Environmental Report on the Strategy remain in new Chapter 6. The Equality Impact Assessment methodology and conclusions have been amended to relate to the revised RTS. An additional section has been added outlining the general approach to be applied in relation to monitoring and targets. Again, detailed information on monitoring and targets will be included in the revised Delivery Plan.
- 3.5 Otherwise the majority of the document and, importantly, the core Strategy Vision, Aims and Objectives which were developed in light of and having regard to extensive consultations undertaken in the development of the RTS, remain unaltered. However, as it is over twelve months since the Finalised RTS was originally submitted, the opportunity has been taken to update the document to take account of changed circumstances during the interim. The main updates are:-
 - (i) References to the new Partnership membership following the Council elections in May 2007;
 - (ii) Reflection of revised funding arrangements for RTPs and Community Transport/Demand Responsive Transport initiatives as a result of the Government Spending Review in November 2007;
 - (iii) Opening of Kinross Park and Ride;
 - (iv) Changes to proposals for enhancing rail access to Edinburgh Airport;
 - (v) Removal of tolls from the Tay and Forth Road Bridges and deletion of related Interventions and Actions;

- (vi) Expansion of Chapter 3: Our Vision and Objectives and inclusion of a new Appendix mapping the RTS Objectives to the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes, introduced in autumn 2007.
- 3.6 Changes have also been made to the Appendices. Appendix A: The RTS Process has had references to Interventions removed. Appendix C: Links between Interventions and Objectives; Appendix D: Reference Case Schemes; and Appendix E: Appraisal Summary Tables have been deleted and will be placed in the Delivery Plan. A new Appendix C has been inserted that includes the detailed mapping of RTS Objectives to the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes (this is attached as Appendix B to this report). Appendices F and G (Glossary and TACTRAN Board respectively) have been re-ordered to become new Appendices D and E.
- 3.7 The Partnership is asked to approve the revised RTS as set out in Appendix A, amended as necessary to reflect any additional input or amendments agreed by the Partnership, for early re-submission to Scottish Ministers.
- 3.8 Upon receipt of Ministerial approval of the RTS arrangements will be made to convert the approved Strategy into a final format for publication. It is hoped that proposals for publication of the document post-Ministerial approval will be able to be reported to the Partnership's next meeting on 24 June 2008.

RTS Delivery Plan

- 3.9 The Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 and associated RTS Guidance requires RTPs to produce a Delivery or Business Plan, setting out a 3-year implementation programme for the RTS, which will be updated annually to reflect Local and Central Government planning and funding cycles. In addition an Investment Plan covering the first 10 – 15 years of the Strategy, setting out the anticipated programme of Capital investment required for the successful implementation of the RTS should also be produced.
- 3.10 An Indicative Delivery Plan, setting out initial estimates of Revenue and Capital costs and delivery timescales for the previously identified Interventions in the short (Years 1 – 3), medium (Years 4 – 9) and long terms (Years 10 – 15) was approved for submission to Government officials by the Partnership on 24 April 2007 (Report RTP/07/21 Refers).
- 3.11 In his letter of 7 January 2008 the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth indicated that RTS Interventions should now be contained and addressed in a Delivery Plan, which is agreed by the Partnership and its constituent Councils, and which prioritises Interventions having regard to the Government's National Outcomes, Single Outcome Agreements of the constituent Councils, and the funding and resources likely to be available as agreed by the Partnership and Councils. This document would also be expected to identify delivery roles and responsibilities, as agreed by the Partnership, Councils and other relevant delivery agencies.
- 3.12 The process for producing a refined Delivery Plan, in compliance with Scottish Government's requirements will include:-
- (i) Sifting of existing Interventions to remove any which have been superseded or have already been progressed – e.g. planned rail improvements; Tay Bridge tolls – and identify any new Interventions;

- (ii) Prioritise updated Interventions programme against RTS Objectives; Single Outcome Agreements and National Objectives;
 - (iii) Develop more detailed costings of updated Interventions programme;
 - (iv) Consult formally with constituent Councils on agreed prioritisation and funding/delivery requirements;
 - (v) Consult with other Key Stakeholders.
- 3.13 It is envisaged that stages (i) – (iii) of the above process will be progressed with a view to reporting back with an Outline Delivery Plan to the Partnership’s next meeting on 24 June. This would be developed further prior to being the subject of formal consultation with Councils, in terms of prioritisation, funding and delivery, during late summer/early autumn. Consultation with other Key Stakeholders would also be undertaken during this period.
- 3.14 The intention is to develop a detailed Delivery Plan for the period 2008/09 – 2010/11, and indicative programme for the medium and long term periods of the RTS in compliance with RTS Guidance. There will be ongoing consultation with partner Councils in the context of emerging SOAs and resourcing, including implications for Council Capital Programmes and external funding sources. The revised Delivery Plan will also require to identify delivery responsibilities and any transfer of powers or functions to the RTP which are considered necessary to support effective delivery of the RTS.
- 3.15 The outcome of the above review process and a Finalised Delivery Plan would be reported back for consideration and approval by the Partnership at its meeting on 28 September 2008.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with the Chief Officers Liaison Group who are in agreement with the proposals.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The costs of developing the submitted RTS were met from Scottish Executive grant allocations for this purpose, totalling £265,000 in 2006/07. A provision of £15,000 within this amount to cover costs associated with publication of the finally approved RTS has been accrued, as approved by the Partnership on 30 January 2008 (Report RTP/08/02 refers).
- 5.2 Costs associated with review, re-submission and publication of the Finalised RTS will be met from the Partnership’s Core Revenue Budget for 2008/09 and the Scottish Government Grant allocation for RTS Implementation in 2008/09. As indicated in a separate report on the Revenue Budget 2007/08 and 2008/09, a provision of £15,000 is being recommended for this purpose.
- 5.3 The costs of developing a revised RTS Delivery Plan will be met from staff time within the approved Core Revenue Budget plus an additional estimated provision of £50,000, which has been identified in the 2008/09 RTS Implementation Programme which the Partnership is being asked to approve in the separate report on the Revenue Budget 2007/08 and 2008/09. This funding would be used to meet the costs of appointing external consultancy support

required to develop a fully prioritised and costed Delivery Plan through the process outlined above.

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NOTE

Background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report :-

TACTRAN Regional Transport Strategy

TACTRAN Indicative Delivery Plan

Reports to Partnership on 19 June 2007, 21 August 2007, 23 October 2007, 18 December 2007 and 30 January 2008 on Regional Transport Strategy: Progress Update