

15 JUNE 2010

DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT**REPORT BY STRATEGY MANAGER**

This report updates the Partnership on progress in implementing an urban DRT pilot scheme in Dundee and in investigating the scope of a rural DRT pilot in west Kinross-shire and DRT options for Forth Valley Royal Hospital. It seeks agreement to enter into a legal agreement for the delivery and operation of the pilot Dundee DRT scheme.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership:-

- (i) notes progress in implementing the urban DRT Pilot in Dundee;
- (ii) agrees to enter into a legal agreement with Dundee City Council and Dundee Community Transport Limited (DCT Ltd) to deliver and operate the urban DRT pilot in Dundee, and agrees to delegate authority to the Director and Proper Officers to conclude the agreement;
- (iii) notes progress in investigation into the scope of a rural DRT pilot in west Kinross-shire in partnership with Perth & Kinross Council; and
- (iv) receives a report on investigation into DRT options for Forth Valley Royal Hospital at a future meeting.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) under the strategic theme Connecting Communities & Being Socially Inclusive includes a proposal to maximise the role and contribution of Community and Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) in improving general accessibility and social inclusion.
- 2.2 Consultants Steer Davies Gleave (SDG) were appointed to consider the feasibility of urban and rural DRT pilots. This took account of interest expressed by Dundee City Council in investigating the scope for piloting urban DRT solutions within the City, as part of an "in-house" review of their existing pilot DRT and TaxiCard schemes.
- 2.3 SDG's Pilot Area Selection Report was noted by the Partnership at its meeting on 23 June 2009 (Report RTP/09/26 refers) at which time the Partnership also approved the selection of the urban pilot in Dundee.

- 2.4 The report on Revenue Budget Monitoring 2009/10 to the Partnership on 22 September 2009 (Report RTP/09/36 refers) noted the selection of the Mid-Craigie/Linlathen area of Dundee for the urban DRT pilot. A further report on DRT to the Partnership on 16 March 2010 (Report RTP/10/03 refers) outlined progress in implementing the urban pilot, investigating options for a rural DRT pilot in west Kinross-shire and the role of DRT in serving the Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

3 DISCUSSION

Urban DRT Pilot : Dundee City

- 3.1 It is anticipated that the urban DRT pilot should be operational by the end of 2010. Dundee City Council's City Development Committee meeting on 24 May 2010 approved authority to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Dundee Community Transport (DCT Ltd) to deliver the urban DRT pilot. It is proposed that Tactran will also be a party to this agreement. It is intended that DCT Ltd will recruit and employ appropriate staff as well as maintain the vehicles. Dundee City Council will purchase the vehicles and provide the booking service for intending passengers. The scheme will comprise two elements; a semi fixed route connecting the Mid-Craigie/Linlathen area with the Forfar Road corridor and the city centre, which will be open to the public; and a totally flexible service providing transport between the Mid-Craigie/Linlathen area and any other location within the City Council area and available only for use by elderly people and people with restricted mobility.
- 3.2 The pilot will be in operation for approximately 12 months, and will be evaluated after 8 months. This would include consideration of the potential for extending the scheme within Dundee and neighbouring areas. Consideration will also be given in further development of urban and rural DRT to the potential which has been identified for shared use of the SPT booking centre. SPT has offered to host a telephone booking service for other RTPs using capacity in their booking centre which currently provides a comprehensive service for DRT schemes based in the Strathclyde region and which could be extended to cover similar travel booking needs in other regions on a "shared services" basis.

Rural DRT Pilot : West Kinross-shire

- 3.3 Discussions have been entered into with Perth & Kinross Council with public transport operators and the voluntary sector, to examine the scope for a rural DRT pilot in west Kinross-shire. These are considering the options for DRT to feed into main line local bus services and therefore improve accessibility in the area. It is intended to report to the Partnership meeting on 14 September 2010 on further progress with these discussions.

DRT Study at Forth Valley Royal Hospital

- 3.4 A review is in progress, jointly funded with SEStran, which is examining the potential for the wider integration of passenger transport, including conventional public transport, the Scottish Ambulance Service and DRT, in improving access to the Forth Valley Royal Hospital at Larbert. Consultants, Colin Buchanan, were appointed through SEStran's Framework Agreement to identify options which may be developed in support of NHS Forth Valley's Travel Plan for the new hospital.

- 3.5 It was anticipated that a draft final report would have been produced by the end of March 2010, for reporting on the outcome to this meeting. However the work has not been completed, therefore it is intended to report on the outcome of this study to the Partnership's next meeting on 14 September 2010.

4 CONSULTATIONS

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

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An allocation of £30,000 for development of DRT pilot schemes exists within the proposed 2010/11 Revenue Programme which forms the basis of a separate report.

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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 DRT Pilot Feasibility Study Pilot Area Selection Report

Report to Partnership RTP/09/26 Demand Responsive Transport, 23 June 2009

Report to Partnership RTP/09/36 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2009_10, 22 September 2009

Report to Partnership RTP/10/03 Demand Responsive Transport, 16 March 2010