

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**22 SEPTEMBER 2009****DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

This report updates the Partnership on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of the Partnership and seeks agreement to related proposals.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership :-

- (i) endorses the nomination of the Director to represent RTP interests in the development of national SOA guidance;
- (ii) agrees to invite the Chief Executive of Transport Scotland to meet with the Partnership at its next meeting on 15 December 2009;
- (iii) agrees to support in principle the Hitrans "Oban 5" rail enhancement proposals, as outlined in the report;
- (iv) agrees to invite the TAYplan Manager to attend the next meeting of the Partnership on 15 December 2009;
- (v) remits the Director to report on arrangements for comprehensive review of the Regional Transport Strategy to a future meeting; and
- (vi) notes the various updates and other information provided in the report.

2 DISCUSSION**Forum of Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships**

- 2.1 The last meeting of the RTP Chairs Forum was hosted by Tactran in Perth on 9 September 2009. The meeting was attended and Chaired by Councillor Will Dawson. The Minute of that meeting will be circulated for information/interest when available. The Minute of the previous Chairs meeting, held in Shetland on 3 June 2009, is attached at Appendix A for information.
- 2.2 A number of items discussed on 9 September are summarised below. The Agenda for the day also included a meeting between the RTP Chairs and the new Chief Executive of Transport Scotland, and with representatives of the Confederation of Passenger Transport.

Alternative Funding Opportunities

- 2.3 As reported in previous Director's Reports RTP, CoSLA and Scottish Government officers are exploring alternative sources of funding transport improvements in Scotland. A paper on this is being submitted to the next Joint RTPs/CoSLA Transport Strategy Group meeting on 30 October. Various options including Prudential Borrowing and European Funding opportunities are being investigated.

Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs)

- 2.4 The Chairs received a report on RTP engagement with the second generation of Community Planning Partnership (CPP) SOAs. It was noted that all 7 RTPs had engaged positively in the development of the 2009/10 SOAs and that all had either formally signed or endorsed the 32 CPP SOAs. Over the summer the Chair has signed the Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Stirling SOAs, the Deputy Chair having previously signed the Angus SOA.
- 2.5 The Joint Transport Strategy Group had previously agreed to recommend to CoSLA, Scottish Government and the Improvement Service that RTPs should be more closely involved in the ongoing development of national Guidance and a model Performance Framework for SOAs. This was being developed by a "High Level Group" under the auspices of the Improvement Service, with input from CoSLA, Councils, Health, Police, Fire and Rescue and Further Education and Community Planning interests. Following a meeting between RTP Lead Officers and the Improvement Service, the RTP Chairs have agreed to nominate the Director of Tactran to represent RTP interests on the national Community Planning Group, which is now taking this work forward.

Meeting with Chief Executive of Transport Scotland

- 2.6 There was a constructive discussion on the future development of the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR). The Chief Executive of Transport Scotland reaffirmed Scottish Government's current priorities as being the Forth Replacement Crossing, Edinburgh – Glasgow Rail Improvement Programme, Aberdeen – Inverness rail enhancements and Highland Main Line rail enhancements. Within the context of the current economic climate it was recognised that funding to bring forward other STPR projects was extremely limited and the Chairs highlighted the work that was ongoing on exploring other potential sources of transport funding, as referred to in 2.3 above.
- 2.7 There was agreement on the need for ongoing liaison between Transport Scotland and RTPs on progressing projects contained within the STPR, including agreeing and working collaboratively on early project development work and feasibility studies. It was noted that a number of RTPs are already liaising with Transport Scotland on detailed appraisals and business case development for projects identified within the STPR, including Strategic Park & Ride, strategic rail and other projects. It was agreed that the RTPs would submit a proposal for ongoing liaison to Transport Scotland and Scottish Government for consideration. RTP Lead Officers will be discussing this at a meeting on 30 September.
- 2.8 Concerns over the need for commitment to delivery of a number of other regional priorities were raised, including enhancement of Dundee Station.
- 2.9 The Chief Executive of Transport Scotland indicated a desire to meet with each of the RTPs. As outlined in separate reports, work is continuing on various projects, including Strategic Park & Ride and the Tay Estuary Rail Study, which have direct and indirect relevance to a number of STPR projects. It is proposed that the Chief Executive of Transport Scotland is invited to attend the Partnership's next meeting on 15 December 2009 to discuss how STPR and RTS priorities can be progressed.

