

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**24 JUNE 2008****DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

This report updates the Partnership on matters of interest and relevance to the work of TACTRAN and seeks agreement that the Director progresses arrangements for the Partnership's formal involvement in relevant Community Planning Partnerships.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership :-

- (i) authorises the Director to progress discussions with Community Planning Partnerships, with a view to the Partnership becoming a formal partner within each CPP covering the TACTRAN area; and
- (ii) otherwise notes the updates and other information provided in the report.

2 DISCUSSION**Single Outcome Agreements**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 18 December 2007 the Partnership received a report on the outcome of the 2007 Government Spending Review. This also advised of the related Scottish Government/Local Government Concordat (Report RTP/07/42 refers).
- 2.2 At the following meeting on 30 January 2008 the Partnership noted a letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, requesting that RTPs review their Strategies and associated RTS Delivery Plans (Report RTP/08/02 refers). In this the Cabinet Secretary advised that RTPs and their RTSs should focus on the transport strategies necessary to support Government's key Strategic Objectives and the SOAs of constituent Councils.
- 2.3 The RTS Delivery Plan is being developed to take account of the Minister's wishes and the Government/Local Government Concordat, as dealt with in a separate report. The work which is ongoing on developing the RTS Delivery Plan is intended to support future SOA development and related identification of relevant performance monitoring indicators and targets. It is also intended that the Delivery Plan will inform and influence individual Council Revenue and Capital budget setting processes, within the context of agreed SOAs.
- 2.4 Councils were requested to submit Draft SOAs to Scottish Government by the end of March 2008, with finalised SOAs to be submitted by the end of June. TACTRAN has engaged with each partner Council during the development of the Draft SOAs, and liaison has continued as Councils finalise their first SOAs for submission and agreement with Government by the end of June.
- 2.5 SOAs are "high level" strategic documents, which identify how Councils will address local priorities within the context of the 15 National Outcomes

identified in the Government/Local Government Concordat. Whilst the first SOAs covering the period 2008/09 – 2010/11 were to be submitted by Councils, it is expected that subsequent versions from 2009/10 onwards will be developed to include wider ownership by Community Planning Partnerships in each Council area. A number of Councils have already adopted this approach and it is understood that approximately half of the initial SOAs are being developed with input from Community Planning partners. It is important that the RTP is fully involved in this process as it moves forward, as discussed in the section below on Community Planning Engagement.

- 2.6 Through discussion with officials in each Council, references to the RTP as being a key partner in the delivery of SOAs, and to the RTS as a key strategy which will support the achievement of locally identified SOA outcomes, has been included in each SOA. Councils are currently finalising SOAs for agreement with Government by the end of June. Details of the final SOAs will be reported to Partnership members for information. The RTP Chairs Forum will be engaging with CoSLA on how RTPs collectively can be included in the process of reviewing and developing the SOA framework.

Community Planning Engagement

- 2.7 As members are aware the Partnership has a statutory duty to engage in Community Planning. As part of the process of engaging with Councils on the development of SOAs, the opportunity has been taken to explore the potential for closer involvement in each Community Planning Partnership (CPP).
- 2.8 At the time of writing the Director is having ongoing discussions with Council Community Planning staff, with a view to the Partnership becoming formally involved in each CPP. Initial indications are that all 4 Councils are content for the Partnership to become involved in this way.
- 2.9 In discussion with Councils it is suggested that the most effective means of ensuring effective engagement within Community Planning would be through the Director being co-opted onto the relevant CPP Steering Groups in each Council area. These groups typically involve the Chief Executives or senior officials from the various bodies who have a statutory duty to support Community Planning – e.g. health, further education, Police, etc – and it would seem appropriate for the RTP to engage in this way.
- 2.10 The Partnership is asked to authorise the Director to progress discussion with each CPP, with a view to the Partnership becoming a formal partner within CPPs. Further progress will be reported to the next meeting.

Forum of Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships

- 2.11 The last meeting of the RTP Chairs Forum was held in Edinburgh on 17 March 2008. Relevant issues were reported to the Partnerships' last meeting on 29 April 2008 (Report RTP/08/12 refers).
- 2.12 The next meeting of the Chairs Forum is to be hosted by HITRANS in Inveraray on 20 June 2008. The meeting is to be attended by Councillor Alison Hay, CoSLA spokesperson on Regeneration and Sustainable Development, to enable discussion on how best to develop working

relationships between RTPs and CoSLA. The meeting also includes the regular 6-monthly liaison meeting between RTPs and the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT).

- 2.13 Any issues arising will be reported orally by the Director, with a full report on the meeting being submitted to the Partnership's next meeting on 24 September.

Strategic Transport Projects Review

- 2.14 As members are aware an important role of the RTS is to inform and influence the Scottish Government's Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR), which will determine national transport spending priorities in the period from 2012 – 2022. Developments with the STPR are reported routinely within the Director's Report. As has been reported previously, the STPR is due to be completed in late summer 2008.
- 2.15 At the last meeting on 29 April 2008, it was reported that the outcomes from STPR work package SWP5: Options Generation and Sifting, which will determine the national priorities to be taken forward, was expected in June. At the time of writing this information is still awaited. The outputs from this work will help inform the work TACTRAN is undertaking on development of its own RTS Delivery Plan, including identification of national funding to support priorities within the RTS.
- 2.16 Transport Scotland has confirmed that it remains the intention to report on the final outcomes of STPR in late summer. RTP officers have requested an update from Transport Scotland on the latest timescale for receipt of information from this crucial phase of the STPR. Any further developments will be reported orally.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

Eric Guthrie
Director

For further information email ericguthrie@tactran.gov.uk or tel. 01738 475771

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.