

**TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP****23 JUNE 2009****SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENTS****REPORT BY DIRECTOR**

This report updates the Partnership on the finalisation of Single Outcome Agreements covering the 4 partner Council areas and seeks the Partnership's formal endorsement of finalised SOAs.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Partnership :-
- (i) formally endorses the Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Stirling Single Outcome Agreements as outlined in the report;
  - (ii) remits the Director and Proper Officers to review the Partnership's Governance procedures to align with SOA governance, accountability and reporting requirements, as appropriate, and to report on this to a future meeting; and
  - (iii) agrees to receive periodic reports on progress towards supporting the delivery of SOA outcomes to future meetings, as appropriate.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 30 January 2008 the Partnership agreed to review the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) and associated delivery arrangements within the context of the Government/Local Government Concordat and emerging Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs), as requested by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth in his letter dated 7 January 2008 (Report RTP/08/02 refers).
- 2.2 The finalised RTS, as approved by Ministers in June 2008, and subsequently approved for publication by the Partnership on 28 October 2008, aligns the RTS with Government's National Outcomes (Report RTP/08/27 refers), as detailed in Appendix C to the RTS. The revised RTS Delivery Plan, which forms a separate report on the Agenda, seeks to align RTS delivery priorities with National and Local Outcomes identified in evolving SOAs.
- 2.3 As previously reported, the 2009 SOAs are agreements between Scottish Ministers and Community Planning Partnerships. A Good Practice Advice Note setting out Scottish Government's expectations of all public bodies with regard to governance and accountability for SOAs was noted by the Partnership on 10 March 2009 (Report RTP/09/18 refers). At that meeting the Partnership also noted progress on the development of 2009 SOAs and agreed to delegate authority to the Chair and Director to formalise the Partnership's commitment to finalised SOAs, prior to their submission to Ministers in May/June.

### 3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Finalised 2009 SOAs have now been submitted on behalf of Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) to Scottish Government. SOAs are intended to be “high level” strategic documents, which identify how each CPP will address local priorities within the context of the 15 National Outcomes identified in the Government/Local Government Concordat, as summarised in the Appendix.
- 3.2 As has been noted in previous reports on the development of SOAs, there are few direct references to transport within Government’s 5 key Strategic Objectives and 15 National Outcomes. Ministers do, however, recognise that effective transport infrastructure and services are essential to ensuring successful delivery of outcomes at both the national and local level. Reflecting the focus of National Outcomes and Indicators, the majority of Local Outcomes within the Finalised 2009 SOAs relate primarily to the key, locally relevant economic, social, health & wellbeing and environmental outcomes, with similarly few direct references to specific transport outcomes or indicators. In SOA jargon, much of the contribution made by transport and the RTP will be addressed “below the waterline” – i.e. through supplementary and supporting measures and indicators which support the high level outcomes and indicators which are specified on the face of the SOAs.
- 3.3 Over the past 3 months TACTRAN officers have continued to engage in the development of each SOA through the respective CPP mechanisms.

#### **Angus SOA 2009 – 2012**

- 3.4 The finalised SOA was submitted to Ministers on 1 June. The document can be viewed on the TACTRAN website or via the following link <http://www.angus.org.uk/>.
- 3.5 Input has been through officer membership of the Angus Rural & Environmental Partnership (AREP) and through dialogue with Council officers. The Strategy Manager also attended a CPP SOA Workshop event on 20 March 2009. Discussions are ongoing regarding TACTRAN having officer representation on the Angus Economic Development Partnership, which is responsible for overseeing the economic aspects and outcomes of the SOA.
- 3.6 Whilst the majority of transport issues and references are currently “below the waterline” the Partnership and RTS have a role in contributing to the following identified SOA outcomes and indicators/targets :-
- (i) **sustainable business growth;**
  - (ii) **growth in tourism and visitor numbers;**
  - (iii) **improving the health and wellbeing of the Angus population;**
  - (iv) **improving social inclusion and accessibility ;**
  - (v) **reducing carbon footprint** - specific indicator/target for reducing carbon emissions by 18% by 2011/12;
  - (vi) **improving community safety** - specific indicators/targets for reducing road deaths and accidents.

- 3.7 Specific references in the SOA which relate directly with the RTS include the fact that over 10,000 people commute from Angus to Dundee and 2,000 people commute to Aberdeen for work, and that the Council is working in partnership on the joint development and implementation of its Travel Plan.
- 3.8 Through AREP indicators for improving access to key services and facilities by more sustainable modes of transport are being developed. TACTRAN is identified as a “Responsible Agency” in relation to supporting these “below the waterline” aspects of the SOA.
- 3.9 In line with the delegation of authority approved on 10 March 2009, the Angus SOA was signed on behalf of the Partnership by the Deputy Chair on 29 May, prior to its submission to Scottish Government. The Partnership is asked to endorse this formal commitment to supporting the Angus SOA 2009 – 2012, with particular reference to the elements outlined above.

### **Dundee SOA 2009 – 2012**

- 3.10 The finalised SOA was submitted to Ministers on 18 May. The document can be viewed on the TACTRAN website or via the following link <http://www.dundeepartnership.co.uk/>
- 3.11 Input has been through dialogue with Council officers and the Dundee Partnership. The Director has recently become a member of the Dundee Partnership Management Group.
- 3.12 The document contains a number of specific references to the RTS and relevant Delivery Plan priorities, including Park & Ride and promoting more sustainable approaches to travel in order to reduce the economic and environmental effects of growing car use (page 12 of SOA refers).
- 3.13 The Partnership and RTS have a role in contributing to the following identified SOA outcomes and indicators/targets :-
- (i) **Dundee will be a regional centre with better job opportunities and increased employability** – specific indicators/targets for completion of implementation of the Dundee Waterfront programme; Dundee is a popular tourism destination;
  - (ii) **our children will be safe, healthy, active** – specific indicators/targets for increasing the number of pupils walking and cycling to school; increasing young peoples acces to outdoor recreation;
  - (iii) **our people will have fewer health inequalities** – specific indicators/targets for improving older peoples access to services and transport;
  - (iv) **our people will have high quality and accessible local services and facilities** – specific indicators/targets for improving pedestrian, cycling and public transport facilities; reducing road deaths and accidents;
  - (v) **Dundee will have a sustainable environment** – specific indicators/targets for reducing carbon footprint for Dundee; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; increasing knowledge and awareness of Climate Change issues; developing an integrated and sustainable transport system through increasing the efficiency and inclusivity of public transport, minimising private car use and maintaining transport infrastructure; meeting national air quality standards.

- 3.14 TACTRAN is identified as a Core Delivery Partner within the SOA and the RTS is recognised as a “Relevant Supporting Document” on the Dundee Partnership website.
- 3.15 The Partnership is asked to endorse the Dundee SOA 2009 – 2012 and to confirm its commitment to supporting the SOA, with particular reference to the elements outlined above. Dundee City Council has advised that the SOA will be formally signed on 29 June, which would be undertaken by the Chair in accordance with the previous delegation of authority.

### **Perth & Kinross SOA 2009 – 2011**

- 3.16 The finalised SOA has been submitted to Scottish Government. The document can be viewed on the TACTRAN website or via the following link <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/Council+and+government/Community+planning+-+working+in+partnership/Working+together+for+Perth+and+Kinross.htm>.
- 3.17 The Director attends the Perth & Kinross Community Planning Economic Partnership, through which there has been direct input to development of the Perth & Kinross Economic Development Strategy, a key supporting strategy underpinning the SOA.
- 3.18 The document includes reference to the RTS, primarily in relation to National and Local Outcomes concerning economic and business growth. There are specific references to a number of the transport priorities contained within the RTS, including improvements to the A9; the A94 to A9 link and river crossing; continued improvement to rail passenger and freight connections; improved connectivity at Perth Harbour, development of Park & Ride; and improved transport interchange at Perth Railway Station (page 17 of SOA refers).
- 3.19 The Partnership and RTS have a role in contributing to the following identified SOA outcomes and indicators/targets :-
- (i) **our area will have a thriving and expanding economy;**
  - (ii) **our area will have improved infrastructure and transport links;**
  - (iii) **our communities will have improved quality of life, life chances and health;**
  - (iv) **our communities will be safer** – specific indicators/targets for reducing road deaths and accidents;
  - (v) **our communities will have access to the key services they need;**
  - (vi) **our area will have a sustainable natural and built environment** - specific indicators/targets for reducing reliance on the private car and increasing use of sustainable modes.
- 3.20 The RTS is identified as a key “Joint Delivery Strategy” which will contribute towards sustaining a thriving and expanding economy, ensuring the area has improved infrastructure and transport links, and a sustainable natural and built environment.
- 3.21 The Partnership is asked to endorse the Perth & Kinross SOA 2009 – 2011 and to confirm its commitment to supporting the SOA, with particular reference to the elements outlined above. A formal signing of the SOA by all Community Planning partners and the Scottish Government will take place during the annual Ministerial visit in the summer.

## **Stirling SOA 2009 – 2011**

- 3.22 The finalised SOA was submitted on 5 June. The document can be viewed on the TACTRAN website or via the following link [www.stirling.gov.uk/soa\\_final\\_document\\_-\\_formatted\\_030609.pdf](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/soa_final_document_-_formatted_030609.pdf)
- 3.23 The Director is a member of the Stirling CPP Executive Delivery Group (EDG), which gives strategic direction to the Stirling CPP and oversees the activity of various Critical Partnerships addressing specific priorities within the Community Plan and SOA.
- 3.24 The document contains references to the RTS and specific elements of the RTS Delivery Plan, including improvements to the strategic road and rail networks to improve connectivity, working with the freight sector to develop more efficient and sustainable movement of goods; enhancing public transport services and facilities through partnership working with transport providers; and encouraging more sustainable forms of transport, particularly walking and cycling; and Demand Responsive Transport (pages 14, 18 and 33 of SOA refer).
- 3.25 The Partnership and RTS have a role in contributing to the following identified SOA outcomes, actions and indicators/targets :-
- (i) **making Stirling a place with a vibrant economy that is open for business** – specific Action to maximise connectivity within Stirling and with neighbouring economies, and indicators/targets on business satisfaction with area and volume and value of tourism activity;
  - (ii) **making Stirling a place with jobs and opportunities for all** – specific Action to developed enhanced integrated transport opportunities to support rural development;
  - (iii) **making Stirling a place where improved wellbeing adds life to years, not just years to life** – indicators/targets for increasing proportion of children taking active travel modes to school;
  - (iv) **making Stirling a place with safe, strong and resilient communities** – specific indicators/targets to reduce road deaths and accidents;
  - (v) **making Stirling a place with a high quality environment** – Actions to protect and enhance the quality of the built and natural environment, promote and sustain healthy lifestyles and wellbeing; address issues of public access to the natural and cultural environment; and indicators/targets to maintain air quality at acceptable levels;
  - (vi) **making Stirling more sustainable** – Actions to promote sustainable development in infrastructure, economy, transport and energy through the Local Development Plan; to mitigate the cause of climate change; and indicators/targets to reduce the collective eco-footprint of Stirling's citizens and communities; to achieve a 15% reduction in carbon emissions of the Council.
- 3.26 The Partnership is asked to endorse the Stirling SOA 2009 – 2011 and to confirm its commitment to supporting the SOA, with particular reference to the elements outlined above. It is understood that the SOA is to be signed by all Community Planning partners at an event during the early summer.

## **SOA Governance, Accountability, Monitoring and Reporting**

- 3.27 The SOA Governance Guidance noted on 10 March 2009 confirms that SOAs should be signed by all statutory Community Planning partners/public bodies. In doing so Community Planning partners are confirming their commitment to supporting the whole of the SOA, including supporting SOA delivery as appropriate to their duties and responsibilities.
- 3.28 The Guidance also states that Community Planning partners/agencies should seek to reflect SOA priorities within their own corporate or organisational plans. Performance and accountability frameworks for public bodies are to be progressively focused on the National Outcomes and SOAs. Best Value 2 will make SOAs and Local Outcomes a key part of the performance and accountability for Councils and for the public sector generally.
- 3.29 This is being addressed through the work which has been undertaken to align the RTS with National Outcomes and on progressive alignment of the RTS Monitoring Framework and RTS Delivery Plan with SOAs, as discussed in separate reports. These linkages, and the need to align RTS monitoring and reporting with performance monitoring and reporting for SOAs, will continue to be developed.
- 3.30 It is proposed that the Director and Proper Officers undertake a review of the Partnership's existing governance arrangements within the context of the evolving framework for governance, accountability and reporting on SOAs, and report back to a future meeting.

## **4 CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 The Partnership's involvement within SOAs has been the subject of ongoing consultation through individual Community Planning Partnership mechanisms and with the relevant officers who have lead responsibility for SOA development within partner Councils.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Other than staff time and commitment to engaging with CPPs and Councils, this report has no direct resource implications. The Partnership has a statutory duty to engage in Community Planning and officer time will continue to be committed to developing relationships with and within CPPs as a key function of the Partnership, in line with this statutory duty.
- 5.2 As SOAs evolve it is envisaged that there will be increasing alignment of cross-sector resources in support of collaborative achievement of SOA outcomes. The alignment of the RTS Delivery Plan with SOAs will assist in demonstrating the contribution that RTS delivery and resourcing can make in supporting SOA priorities and outcomes.

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## **NOTE**

The following 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 the above Report :-

Single Outcome Agreement for Angus 2009 – 2012

Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee 2009 – 2012

Single Outcome Agreement for Perth & Kinross 2009 – 2011

Stirling Single Outcome Agreement 2009 – 2011

## Appendix

### Scottish Government Strategic Priorities

- 1 Wealthier and Fairer Scotland
- 2 Healthier Scotland
- 3 Safe and Stronger Scotland
- 4 Smarter Scotland
- 5 A Greener Scotland

### National Outcomes

- 1 We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
- 2 We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
- 3 We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.
- 4 Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- 5 Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- 6 We live longer, healthier lives.
- 7 We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
- 8 We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- 9 We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
- 10 We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
- 11 We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- 12 We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
- 13 We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.
- 14 We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
- 15 Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.