

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**16 MARCH 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 feasibility of a rural DRT pilot in west Kinross-shire and DRT options for Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership:-

- (i) notes progress in implementing the urban DRT Pilot in Dundee;
- (ii) notes progress in investigation into the detailed feasibility of a rural DRT pilot in west Kinross-shire in partnership with Perth & Kinross Council; and
- (iii) receives a future report following investigation into DRT options for Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

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 Demand Responsive Transport to the Partnership on 15 December 2009 (Report RTP/09/44 refers) outlined progress in implementing the urban pilot.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 In December 2009, Dundee City Council Development Department's Sustainable Transport Team Leader took up post with responsibility for progressing the scheme to full implementation. Consultation was undertaken in January 2010 in the Mid-Craigie/Linlathen community which has enabled operational details of the scheme to be finalised.

- 3.2 A report is being made to Dundee City Council's City Development Committee on 22 March 2010 to seek authority to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Dundee Community Transport (DCT) to deliver the urban DRT pilot. It is intended that DCT will recruit and employ appropriate staff as well as purchase and maintain the vehicles. Dundee City Council will 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; and a totally flexible service providing transport between the Mid-Craigie/Linlathen area and any other location within the City Council area. The pilot will be in operation for approximately 12 months, starting in summer 2010, and will be evaluated after 8 months. This would include consideration of the potential for extending the scheme within Dundee and neighbouring areas.
- 3.3 The report made to the Partnership on 15 December 2009 noted that west Kinross-shire was considered to offer the greatest potential for a rural DRT pilot. Consultation has been undertaken in the area by means of focus group meetings with different sectors of the population. The consultation results are being considered and it is intended to report to the Partnership meeting on 15 June 2010 on the feasibility of a rural pilot.
- 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. A further report will be made to the Partnership on 15 June 2010 with the results of this review.

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 £25,000 for development of DRT pilot schemes exists within the approved 2009/10 Revenue Programme.

Michael Cairns
Strategy Manager

Report prepared by Michael Cairns. For further information contact email michaelcairns@tactran.go.uk or tel. 01738 475774

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, 2009-10 Revenue Budget Monitoring, 22 September 2009
Report to Partnership RTP/09/44, Demand Responsive Transport, 15 December 2009