

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

23 OCTOBER 2007

CORE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

REPORT BY TREASURER

This report provides an update on the 2007/08 Core Revenue Budget position, as projected at 30 September 2007.
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1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Partnership notes the projected Core Revenue Budget outturn position for financial year 2007/2008, as detailed in the Appendix.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Regional Transport Partnerships are funded through a combination of Scottish Government grant and requisitions from constituent Councils. At its meeting on the 20 February 2007 the Partnership Board approved a Core Revenue Budget of £450,000 (Report RTP07/07 refers) based on receiving a Scottish Government grant of £210,000 with the remaining balance being funded through requisitions from constituent Councils of £200,000, plus £10,000 from retained requisitions and £30,000 contribution towards staffing costs funded from a separate Travel Plan Grant allocation by the Scottish Government for this purpose.
- 2.2 On 30 March 2007 the Scottish Government confirmed grant awards of £210,000 for Core Costs and £320,000 for Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) Development during 2007/08. These amounts are in addition to a separate grant of £65,000 in 2007/08 for ongoing development of Travel Plan activity, as previously confirmed in June 2006. These awards are in the form of "Grant in Aid" which allows RTP's greater flexibility to carry forward funding into future years, if required.

3 2007/2008 Update

- 3.1 Application of the specific grant for RTS development is dealt with in a separate report. Projected expenditure on Core Costs for the current year, as at 30 September 2007, is set out in the Appendix.
- 3.2 The projected Core Revenue expenditure for TACTRAN to the 31 of March is £325,299, which would give an overall underspend of £149,825 at the financial year end.

- 3.3 The majority of this projected underspend relates to Staffing Costs owing to delays in appointing to vacant posts. The Director has recently appointed two senior managers and this has been taken into account in the projected underspend position. A proportion of the Staffing underspend will be utilised to support work on the RTS development programme, as approved by the Partnership on 19 June 2007 (Report RTP/07/22 refers) and discussed in the separate report on Regional Transport Strategy progress. Further proposals for managing the budget in the current year will be presented to a future meeting of the Partnership.
- 3.4 The Partnership remains at a relatively early stage in its development and Core expenditure will continue to rise in line with budgeted expenditure as the organisation evolves. Many of the Core running costs are necessarily still based on initial estimates of Full Year requirements, whilst others, such as Premises Rates, have still to be finally confirmed.
- 3.5 Over the next few weeks the Director and Treasurer will be discussing with Scottish Government and constituent Councils the budget requirements for 2008/09, so that this can be built into Councils' own 2008/09 budget preparation processes, which are now underway. It is hoped that information on Scottish Government's funding for RTPs will also be available in early to mid-November to help inform these discussions, and enable submission of an early report on the 2008/09 Budget.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 There has been no consultation in the preparation of this report.

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