

**TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP****23 OCTOBER 2007****EQUALITIES SCHEME****Report by Director**

This report seeks the Partnership's agreement to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve for publication an Equalities Scheme addressing the Partnership's various statutory duties in this regard.

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 That the Partnership agrees to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve an Equalities Scheme.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Equalities legislation requires that public bodies publish schemes setting out their policies and arrangements for complying with statutory duties in relation to Gender, Disability, Race and other equalities issues. In late April 2007 the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), now the Equality and Human Rights Commission since 1 October 2007, wrote to all Regional Transport Partnerships advising that they had a duty to publish a Gender Equality Scheme by 29 June 2007.
- 2.2 In addition RTPs have a duty to publish a Disability Equality Scheme by 2 December 2007. Advice on the deadline for publication of a Race Equality Scheme is awaited.

**3 DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 It was not possible to undertake the significant work associated with compiling and publishing a Gender Equality scheme between the end of April and the 29 June deadline for publication. Consequently RTPs wrote collectively and individually to the EOC seeking agreement on a process and revised timescale by which all RTPs could comply with this duty. The EOC responded requesting that RTPs set out a firm programme for complying.
- 3.2 RTPs have been working collaboratively on a "model" Scheme, which seeks to encompass the range of Equalities obligations they must comply with. It had been hoped to be able to submit a finalised Scheme for approval at this meeting. However, further work on drafting this document, including consultation with Legal and Personnel advisers, is required.
- 3.3 In order to comply with the outstanding duty to publish a Gender Equality Scheme and the impending duty to publish a Disability Equality Scheme by 2 December, the Partnership is asked to agree to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve an Equalities Scheme for publication.

### **3 CONSULTATIONS**

- 3.1 A proposed Equalities Scheme for RTPs is being developed in consultation with other RTPs. The detail of this will be the subject of consultation with TACTRAN's own Legal and Personnel advisers.

### **4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This report has no direct resource implications.

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