

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**30 JANUARY 2008****DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

This report updates the Partnership on matters of interest and relevance to the work of TACTRAN and seeks agreement to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and submit a response to a Scottish Government consultation on the Draft National Planning Framework for Scotland 2.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership:-

- (i) delegates authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve submission of a response to Scottish Government's consultation on the Draft National Planning Framework for Scotland 2; and
- (ii) otherwise notes the report.

2 DISCUSSION**Forum of Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships**

2.1 The last meeting of the RTP Chairs Forum was held in Dumfries on 7 December 2007. The Draft Minute of the meeting is included as an Appendix for information. A number of matters are highlighted below.

Proposed RTP's Conference

2.2 At its meeting on 21 August 2007 the Partnership agreed to contribute a sum of £2,500 towards the costs of a proposed Regional Transport Partnerships conference, to be held in spring 2008 (Report RTP 07/26 refers). Detailed arrangements for this are being progressed on behalf of all RTPs by SEStran.

2.3 As reported to the meeting on 18 December 2007, a provisional date and venue for the conference, on 17 March 2008 in the SAS Raddison Hotel, Edinburgh, have been identified. Final arrangements for the event are to be considered by the RTP Chairs Forum at their next meeting on 1 February 2008 in Inverness. Further developments will be reported to Board Members after the meeting on 1 February.

RTP Members National Briefing Event

2.4 Members will recall that a previous proposal to hold a national RTP Members Induction/Briefing event on 27 September 2007 was postponed by Scottish Government officials, pending clarification of the new Government's position on the submitted Regional Transport Strategies and the outcome of the Government Spending Review. As is indicated in the Minute of the RTP Chairs meeting on 7 December (Branch 7 refers) further consideration is to be given to the merits of holding a similar event, possibly in parallel with the proposed RTPs Conference, at the next Chairs meeting on 1 February.

European Funding Opportunities

- 2.5 On 7 December 2007 the Chairs discussed the potential for RTPs working collaboratively on identifying and securing European funding to support delivery of regional and cross-regional transport projects. There is to be further joint discussion on the merits and options for taking this forward at the next meeting on 1 February. Any further developments will be reported to the Partnership's next meeting on 29 April 2008.

Scottish Government Consultation on National Planning Framework for Scotland 2

- 2.6 The Scottish Government launched a 14-week consultation on the Draft National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2) on 8 January 2008. Details of the consultation were forwarded to all Board members by e-mail on 16 January. The consultation and related documentation is available for inspection and downloading on the Scottish Government's website www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations.
- 2.7 The current consultation document follows on from the first National Planning Framework, which was published in 2004 and set out a national strategy for Scotland's development through to 2025. The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 puts the NPF on to a statutory footing, requiring Ministers to prepare a framework to guide spatial development over the next 25 – 30 years and to review this every 5 years. NPF2 will also drive the spatial aspects of Government policy commitments on sustainable economic growth and environmental objectives.
- 2.8 NPF2 has been drafted with the intention of supporting the strategic outcomes set out in the National Transport Strategy and reflects ongoing work on the Strategic Transport Projects Review. Sections 56 – 67 outline the current transport system in Scotland today; sections 115 – 122 outline the role of Transport and Land use as drivers for change; sections 191 – 225 identify transport infrastructure enhancements which are envisaged to be required to support sustainable economic growth and other policy objectives; and sections 264 – 270 outline the spatial issues of national significance in the "East Coast", which is one of 5 broad spatial zones identified and includes the TACTRAN region.
- 2.9 It will clearly be important to ensure there is a strong connection between NPF2 and the ongoing development and implementation of the Regional Transport Strategy. At the time of writing detailed review of the document is ongoing. The Scottish Government is holding a series of National Discussion Workshops in February and early March as part of the consultation and the Director plans to attend one of these which is being held in Aberdeen on 20 February 2008.
- 2.10 As with other similar national consultations, the intention is to compile any TACTRAN response in consultation with constituent Councils. In order to enable a response to be submitted by the consultation deadline of 14 April 2008, it is recommended that the Partnership agrees to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve submission of any response. The submitted response would also be reported to the Full Board on 29 April 2008.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

Eric Guthrie
Director

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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 this Report :-

Scottish Government Consultation : National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 – January 2008

APPENDIX A

Meeting of Chairs of the Regional Transport Partnerships

Aston Hotel, Dumfries
7 December 2007

Note of Meeting

Present:	Cllr Brian Collins	Chair, SWESTRANS
	Alistair Speedie	SWESTRANS
	Cllr Duncan MacIntyre	Chair, HITRANS
	Dave Duthie	HITRANS
	Eddie Anderson	Deputy Chair, Nestrans
	Derick Murray	Nestrans
	Cllr Russell Imrie	Chair, SEStran
	Alex Macaulay	SEStran
	Cllr Alistair Watson	Chair, SPT
	Rodney Mortimer	SPT
	Eric Guthrie	Tactran
	Cllr Allan Wishart	Chair, ZetTrans
	Michael Craigie	ZetTrans
	Ben Kerfoot	Nestrans (Secretariat)
Apologies:	Cllr Kevin Stewart	Chair, Nestrans
	Cllr Fraser Macpherson	Chair, Tactran

As SWESTRANS was hosting the meeting Cllr Collins took the Chair and welcomed everyone to Dumfries.

It was agreed to take items on the Outcome of the Scottish Budget, Correspondence with the Cabinet Secretary, Feedback from the Scottish Parliament and 2008/09 Financial Arrangements together as they were all relevant to the forthcoming meeting between the RTP Chairs, Cosla and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth.

1. Note of Last Meeting, 27 September 2007

The note of the meeting was agreed. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Outcome of Scottish Budget and Forthcoming Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth

It was agreed that the focus of discussion should be on agreeing a joint strategy for the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, John Swinney, and Cosla on 11 December. It was agreed that this would be a crucial meeting for RTPs.

Alistair Speedie outlined the outcome of the Scottish Budget for RTPs. The key issues concerned the transfer of funding for capital projects from RTPs (except SPT) to councils, the removal of ringfencing and the decision to allocate funding for Rural Public Passenger Transport, Demand Responsive Transport and Community

Transport to councils rather than RTPs. It was also noted that the Government's provisional allocation to RTPs for revenue costs for the coming year had produced mixed results, with some RTPs receiving an increase while others stood to receive less. Officers had queried the rationale for this with Scottish Government officials and there was to be further discussion with Government officials on the distribution of "Core" and "non-Core" funding.

Concern was expressed that the removal of direct funding for capital projects from RTPs (except SPT) would weaken the ability to deliver regionally strategic projects and make it more difficult to manage funding on a regional basis. The end of ringfencing gave rise to the possibility that money could be diverted away from transport projects in the event of underspending, rather than being allocated to another transport project in the region. It was also noted that the Government's requirement to have balanced budgets and therefore not build up any reserves had been challenged by SPT. Temporarily transferring funds between RTPs ('bed and breakfasting') was being considered as a means of managing likely over and under spends among RTPs to ensure that funding was not lost from transport.

The Chairs agreed that in approaching the meeting with the Finance Secretary it was important to maintain a strategic focus and highlight the ways in which RTPs were already adding value and how they could help deliver the Government's objectives. This would build on the content of the paper already submitted to the Finance Secretary on the role and future of RTPs and cover the following points:

- The role of RTPs as part of the local government family, working with local authorities to achieve common goals.
- RTPs' role in assisting the Government Economic Strategy
- RTPs' ability to help the shared services agenda
- Efficient government through collaboration
- Innovation in exploring new ways of working, developing new partnerships and finding external sources of funding

It was agreed that each Chair would lead on an agenda item, with Cllr Collins leading off the discussion. The lead officers undertook to produce some briefing papers in advance of the meeting to demonstrate how RTPs can contribute to achieving the national outcomes set out in the Concordat and the Government's Economic Strategy. It was also noted that in moving forward, it may be useful to link in with other Ministers, such as the Enterprise Minister, in view of the contribution that transport makes to economic regeneration.

It was considered important to agree a common position with Cosla and a pre-meeting with Cosla had been arranged to ensure this. The Chairs agreed that it was important to work closely with Cosla and look at how RTPs can help deliver the Concordat. Cllr Watson noted that he had contacted Cllr Pat Watters, President of Cosla, with a view to setting up a meeting between RTPs and the Cosla leadership. The Chairs agreed that there should be increased liaison between RTPs and Cosla. It was also noted that RTPs needed to be fully involved with their local authorities in the development of Single Outcome Agreements to ensure that transport priorities are included and to work together to achieve the local outcomes.

3. Role and Function of RTP Chairs' Forum

Alistair Speedie introduced a paper produced by the lead officers which reviewed the operation of the RTP Chairs' Forum, sought confirmation of the existing

Memorandum of Understanding and proposed ways in which the operation of the Forum could be strengthened.

The Chairs agreed to confirm the existing Memorandum of Understanding as the basis for the operation of the Forum, however also agreed that all statements and representations made on behalf of the RTP Chairs must be on the basis of unanimity. Where unanimity could not be reached, no representations would be made and the issue would either be dropped or rolled forward for further discussion. It was agreed to modify the Memorandum of Understanding to reflect this. Eric Guthrie advised that he had discussed the paper with Cllr Macpherson who was happy with the recommendations. (*The Memorandum of Understanding with amended article 8 is appended to this minute*).

The Chairs also agreed to develop their relationship with Cosla with a view to working more collaboratively in future. It was also agreed that it would be appropriate for the Chairs to meet on a more frequent, bi-monthly cycle at the present time.

Cllr MacIntyre noted that some RTPs were involved in European Union funded transport projects and suggested that the Chairs give consideration to working together on these initiatives, with a view to sharing good practice and attracting European funding. Cllr Watson advised that SPT employed a dedicated European officer and suggested that they give a presentation to the next meeting of the RTP Chairs. RTPs could then consider whether there would be merit in closer joint working on European projects.

4. Agenda for Meeting with CPT, 7 December

The agenda for the meeting with CPT was agreed. Cllr Watson suggested that there would also be merit in the RTP Chairs having meetings with transport operators from other sectors.

Eric Guthrie noted that the Scottish Government had arranged for a high level bus summit to take place on 11 March. Cllrs Watson and Collins had been invited.

Cllr Collins indicated that he was not able to be present for all of the meeting with CPT and asked Cllr MacIntyre to Chair the meeting. Cllr Wishart also gave apologies for the meeting.

5. Position Papers

It was noted that no new joint position papers had been circulated for discussion. Alex Macaulay advised that a proposed joint paper on rail fares had been produced but was being considered by officers and would be circulated for a future meeting.

6. RTPs Conference

Alex Macaulay referred to the progress update and draft programme which had been circulated to the Chairs for information. He noted that no decision had yet been taken on whether the conference should go ahead and no payments were due at this time. He expected that the programme would need revisited in the light of recent events. Eddie Anderson noted concern at some of the wording proposed by Holyrood for the conference publicity and stressed that the conference would need to emphasise how RTPs can add value.

Cllr Watson suggested inviting Dave Wetzel, a Board Member of Transport for London to speak to the conference about innovative financing of transport projects.

It was agreed that Alex Macaulay would continue to work with Holyrood to develop the conference programme and that a final decision on whether to go ahead would be made at the next Chairs meeting.

7. RTP Members' Briefing Event

Alistair Speedie noted that as the original Members' briefing/training event had been cancelled, consideration should be given to whether there was still merit in holding an event for members of all the RTPs. There was a general view that such an event would be useful. It was suggested considering whether the event could tie in with the proposed RTPs conference.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Agreed to take place on 1st February 2008, to be hosted by HITRANS.

BK/3 January 2008

ANNEX

ACTIONS ARISING FROM RTP CHAIRS' MEETING – 7 DECEMBER 2007

Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility
2	Lead officers to prepare briefing for meeting with John Swinney.	Lead officers
3	Memorandum of Understanding to be amended and re-circulated. Invite SPT European officer to address meeting of RTP Chairs.	Ben Kerfoot Rodney Mortimer
5	Comments to be provided by officers on rail fares position paper and revised version circulated to future Chairs' meeting.	Alex Macaulay
6	SEStran to continue to liaise with Holyrood on programme for proposed conference – consider inviting speaker from TfL.	Alex Macaulay
8	Arrangements for next meeting – 1 February.	Dave Duthie

Forum of Chairs of Scottish Regional Transport Partnerships Memorandum of Understanding

1. Members

The Chairs of the Highland & Islands, North-East of Scotland, South-East of Scotland, South-West of Scotland, Shetland, Strathclyde and Tayside & Central Scotland Transport Partnerships (respectively referred to as HITRANS, NESTRANS, SESTRAN, South-West of Scotland RTP, Shetland RTP, SPT and TACTRAN) agree to form an informal association to discuss matters of mutual interest relating to regional, local and national transport strategy and delivery. The association shall be known as the Forum of Chairs of Scottish Regional Transport Partnerships.

2. Objects

- a) To provide a forum for discussion of matters of common interest to member Partnerships and a means by which joint views may be formulated and expressed.
- b) To provide opportunities to improve transport planning and delivery in Scotland through the sharing of best practice.
- c) To disseminate and share accurate and timely information on all matters relating to transport and other relevant issues.
- d) To make available the skills of the individual Partnerships to provide a range of cost-effective services to other Partnerships in accordance with their wishes.

3. Meetings

Meetings shall be held quarterly, or as required, and shall deal with such business as may have been notified by the Chairs of the Partnerships to the Secretariat. Each Partnership shall be represented by its Chair, Vice Chair or other nominated member, accompanied by an officer if they wish. In the event of no member being available, an officer of an RTP may represent their Partnership.

4. Chair

The Chair of the Partnership hosting any meeting shall chair the meeting.

5. Secretariat

The Forum shall appoint one of its member Partnerships to provide a Secretariat which will hold office for a period of one year, following which provision of the Secretariat shall pass to another member Partnership, and so on in rotation.

The Secretariat shall ensure the timely preparation and issue of Agenda and all relevant reports that member Partnerships may wish to place before the Forum.

The Secretariat shall take a note of each meeting which, once approved in draft by the Chair of that meeting, shall be circulated to members prior to adoption at the next meeting of the Forum.

6. Withdrawal from the Association

At any time a Partnership may intimate by notice in writing to the Secretariat the withdrawal of that Partnership from the Forum with immediate effect.

7. Alteration of the Memorandum and Dissolution of the Forum

At any meeting a Partnership may propose that this Memorandum be altered or that the Forum be dissolved. Such a proposal shall take immediate effect if passed by a majority of the Partnerships in membership of the Forum at the time when the motion is proposed, each Partnership having a single vote.

8. Statements on behalf of the Association

Statements or other representations will only be made in the name of the Forum or on behalf of the RTP Chairs where there is unanimity of view to do so.

15 September 2006
Amended 7 December 2007