

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**21 AUGUST 2007****CONSULTATIONS****Report by Director**

This report seeks the Partnership Board's approval of arrangements for responding to various consultations received over the summer period.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Partnership Board is asked to :-

- (i) agree to delegate authority to the Director to prepare responses to consultations on the Network Rail East Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy; the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007; and the Transport & Works (Scotland) Act 2007, in consultation with the Chief Officers Liaison Group;
- (ii) agree that draft responses are circulated to Board members for comment before submission;
- (iii) note the consultation by CiPFA on the Local Authority Accounting for Transport Infrastructure Assets and defer this to Councils and the Society of Chief Officers for Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) to respond in detail; and
- (iv) note the Scottish Executive's publication of a consultation on Strategic Development Planning Authorities: Designation Orders and Statutory Guidance, and agree to receive a detailed report on responding to this consultation at its meeting on 23 October 2007.

2 DISCUSSION

2.1 A number of consultations have been received over recent weeks, which require response before the Partnership's next meeting on 23 October. Whilst it had been the intention to submit a report seeking approval of detailed responses to these consultations, review and analysis of the various documents is ongoing.

2.2 A summary of the relevant consultations is given below.

Network Rail East Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy

2.3 Network Rail has issued a consultation on its East Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS). This is one of a series of route strategies, which are designed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the rail network, by assessing current capacity and anticipated passenger and freight demand.

The Draft ECML RUS sets out proposals for investing in maintaining and improving the capacity and performance of the rail network between Edinburgh and London.

- 2.4 As the focus of this consultation is on the rail network south of Edinburgh it is likely that, subject to further detailed scrutiny of the document, any response by TACTRAN will relate primarily to seeking assurances on the protection of existing through service operation north of Edinburgh to Dundee and Aberdeen and Stirling, Perth and Inverness in future network developments, and the need to consider opportunities for improving direct and indirect rail connectivity north of Edinburgh with the south. The deadline for responses is 21 September 2007.

Transport and Works (Scotland) Act 2007

- 2.5 This is a detailed consultation on draft secondary legislation consisting of a series of orders, rules and regulations relating to transport and works applications, objections, hearings and other procedures. The consultation takes the form of a series of Draft Orders and invites answers to a number of specific questions on the implementation and effectiveness and consistency of the proposals.
- 2.6 Once again the detailed proposals are under review and it is not possible, at this stage, to advise on whether a response by the Partnership will be necessary. The deadline for response to this consultation is 31 August 2007.

Local Authority Traffic Orders (Procedures) (Scotland) Amendments Regulations 2007

- 2.7 This consultation seeks views on proposed regulations which are aimed at simplifying current procedures for roads and transport authorities making Traffic Orders, whilst at the same time safeguarding the interests of road users and the public.
- 2.8 Regulations currently require authorities promoting a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to hold a hearing in certain circumstances. Where a TRO is required to implement a project that has already been the subject of Parliamentary scrutiny (e.g. a tram or rail project), it is proposed to remove this requirement. This is considered to be a welcome simplification of current legislation and it is proposed that a response supporting the proposal is submitted.

Accounting for Transport Infrastructure Assets: CiPFA

- 2.9 This is a complex consultation on the financial procedures and arrangements for accounting for transport infrastructure assets within local authorities. Whilst more recognition and a more consistent approach to accounting for transport assets, possibly the most valuable public assets managed by local authorities, is worthy of examination, the consultation also touches on and relates to wider financial matters affecting the whole of local government.
- 2.10 Accordingly it is suggested that it would be more appropriate for the matter to be addressed by constituent Councils. It is understood that the Society of Chief Officers for Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS), which has an Asset Management group, is preparing a joint public sector response to the

consultation. All RTP Directors are members of SCOTS and will have the opportunity to contribute to the consultation.

- 2.11 It is proposed that the Partnership agrees to defer responding on the consultation to Councils and SCOTS. The deadline for responses to this consultation is 28 September 2007.

Strategic Development Planning Authorities: Designation Orders and Statutory Guidance

- 2.12 The Scottish Executive issued this consultation on 27 July 2007, with a consultation deadline of 26 October 2007.
- 2.13 This consultation is likely to raise a number of issues directly relevant to the further integration of transport and land use planning, which is a major theme within both the Regional Transport Strategy and the National Transport Strategy. It is, therefore, proposed that a report addressing issues raised by the consultation, the detail of which to be informed by consultation through the Chief Officers Liaison Group, is submitted to the next meeting on 23 October. In the meantime the consultation document can viewed or downloaded at www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/current.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 It is proposed that detailed consultation responses, where appropriate, are compiled in consultation with the Chief Officers Liaison Group, and circulated to Partnership Board members for comment, prior to submission.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

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Director

For further information email ericguthrie@pkc.gov.uk or tel. 01738 476544

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; (list papers concerned)

Network Rail East Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy Draft for Consultation

Transport & Works (Scotland) Act 2007 Consultation

Local Authority Traffic Orders (Procedures) (Scotland) Amendments Regs. 2007

Accounting for Transport Assets Consultation by CiPFA – July 2007

Strategic Development Planning Authorities: Designation Orders and Statutory Guidance Consultation by Scottish Executive – July 2007