

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

13 JUNE 2017

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This report updates members on various operational, policy and other matters of interest and relevance to the Partnership, seeks approval of a proposed response to consultation on the Hitrans Regional Transport Strategy refresh and arrangements for responding to a consultation on Improving Parking in Scotland, and updates the Partnership on staffing arrangements.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership :-

- (i) approves the proposed response to consultation on the Hitrans Regional Transport Strategy Draft as detailed in Appendix C to the report;
- (ii) notes the Transport Scotland consultation on Improving Parking in Scotland and remits officers to liaise with partner Councils and other RTPs on the development of an appropriate response(s);
- (iii) notes the position regarding Partnership staffing as outlined in the report; and
- (iv) notes the various other updates and information provided in the report and accompanying appendices.

2 DISCUSSION**Meeting with Minister for Transport and the Islands**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 14 March 2017 the Partnership noted that, in response to an earlier request for a meeting with the Minister for Transport and the Islands the Chair, Deputy Chair and Director would meet with the Minister at the Scottish Parliament on 16 March 2017 (Report RTP/17/10 refers).
- 2.2 Matters discussed at the meeting included (i) the Partnership's recent review and updating of the RTS and RTS Delivery Plan and the alignment of these with supporting achievement of national and local outcomes and priorities identified within Scottish Government economic, environmental, transport and other relevant strategies and with local Community Planning priorities; (ii) the current review and updating of the National Transport Strategy (NTS) and Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) and Tactran's regional priorities within that; (iii) the ongoing Planning Review and consultation and future role of RTPs in Development Planning within that; (iv) emerging City Deals and

Tactran's current and future role within these; (v) Regional Transport Model requirements linked with informing appraisal and development of emerging City Deal connectivity proposals and the forthcoming review of the STPR; (vi) Tactran's strong support for proposed rail connectivity improvements through the "Revolution in Rail 2018" proposals and need for inclusion in planned investigation of options for enhancing rail connectivity between Aberdeen and the Central Belt; and (vii) Tactran activity in support of Scottish Government/Ministerial priorities in relation to Climate Change and Active Travel.

Forum of Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships

- 2.3 Following the statutory establishment of Regional Transport Partnerships in 2005/06 a forum of RTP Chairs was established to enable cross-RTP discussion and liaison on matters of joint interest and to provide opportunities to improve transport planning and delivery through sharing of experience, best practice and information regionally and nationally. The Memorandum of Understanding for the Group is attached at Appendix A for information.
- 2.4 The RTP Chairs Forum meets roughly quarterly with meetings rotated around the 7 RTPs. The last meeting of the RTP Chairs Forum was hosted by SEStran in Edinburgh on 9 March 2017. The Minute of that meeting will be reported for information when available. The Minute of the previous meeting, hosted by Nestrans in Boddam, Aberdeenshire on 7 December 2016 is attached at Appendix B for information. The next meeting will be held on 23 August 2017, hosted by Tactran.
- 2.5 At their meeting on 9 March the Chairs also met with the Minister for Transport and the Islands. Discussion covered (i) potential elements of a forthcoming Transport Bill, to be issued for consultation later in 2017, which will include particular focus on measures and proposals to enhance the role and effective and efficient delivery of bus services; measures to tackle irresponsible parking; and a review of the role and powers of the Roadworks Commissioner; (ii) the relationship between the review of the National Transport Strategy and Planning Review and the role of RTPs within both processes and proposed governance arrangements arising from these processes; (iii) the current and future role of RTPs in contributing to promoting and increasing Active Travel in line with the Minister's commitment to maintaining funding for Active Travel and his establishing an Active Travel Summit to explore and identify innovative options and measures to increase walking and cycling for everyday travel needs.

National Transport Strategy Review

- 2.6 At its meeting on 8 March 2016 the Partnership noted publication of a Refresh of the National Transport Strategy (NTS) and the intention that a full review of the NTS would be undertaken after the May 2016 Scottish Parliament elections (Report RTP/16/06 refers). In September 2016, the Minister for Transport and the Islands confirmed the planned review of the NTS and STPR in alignment with the National Planning Framework (NPF4) in a letter on the Scottish Government's 2016/17 Programme for Government (Report RTP/16/33, Appendix B refers).
- 2.7 In line with the process for the previous NTS Refresh, Transport Scotland has established a National Transport Strategy Review Partnership Group of key stakeholders to inform and support the review. As with the previous NTS Refresh group, RTP interests are being represented by colleagues from Hitrans and SPT. An initial consultation on high level issues has been undertaken as reported on 14 March 2017 (Report RTP/17/07 refers). A subsequent call for evidence and relevant research was issued in April with a submission deadline of 14 July. It is the intention that a joint RTPs submission will be made on this, which is currently being collated.
- 2.8 The NTS process is to be undertaken over an extended period summarised as follows :-
- calls for evidence and further research – April 2017 to April 2018
 - development of NTS2 vision and policy options informed by working groups and stakeholder engagement – April 2017 to August 2018
 - Draft NTS2 produced – January 2019
 - consultation on Draft NTS2 – early 2019
 - publication of finalised NTS2 – summer 2019
- 2.9 As outlined above work on the NTS review is currently at a relatively early stage and will continue over the next 18-24 months. Progress reports will be submitted at key stages of the review process, including further stakeholder engagement and consultation stages.

Transport Scotland Consultations

Improving Parking in Scotland

- 2.10 Transport Scotland has issued a consultation [Improving Parking in Scotland](#) which seeks views on how the issue of pavement parking can be most effectively addressed and also views on how best to manage disabled parking provision and determining what parking incentives local authorities can provide to encourage the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles. The original deadline for responses was 30 June 2017 but this has now been extended to 31 August 2017.

- 2.11 The consultation seeks responses to 25 specific questions covering views on problems of parking on pavements and dropped kerbs; whether new legislation is required; what aspects and types of footways and roads should be included/covered by any new legislation; which vehicle types should be covered by any new legislation; the scope of any exemptions; views on implementation and enforcement including powers and responsibilities of local authorities and Police Scotland; views on unintended consequences such as vehicle displacement; potential impacts on town centres and town centre regeneration; use and abuse of disabled parking bays; and views on measures and incentives to encourage increased use of ultra-low emission vehicles.
- 2.12 This consultation raises and seeks views on a range of complex policy and operational issues. At the time of writing consultation is ongoing with partner Councils on views on the various aspects of the consultation, which will inform any Tactran response. It is also proposed that a joint RTP response will be submitted which, at the time of writing, is also under development and consideration with other RTPs and will be informed by local views.

Concessionary Travel

- 2.13 Transport Scotland has indicated the intention to undertake a consultation in the next few months seeking views on the future sustainability of the national concessionary travel scheme for elderly and disabled people. No specific consultation details or timescales are available at this time but the matter will be reported on to a future meeting.

Aberdeen to Central Belt – Reference Group

- 2.14 The Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR), published in 2009, includes a series of proposals to enhance strategic road and rail connectivity, a number of which are of direct strategic importance to the Tactran region, including STPR Project 23: Rail Service Enhancements between Aberdeen and the Central Belt.
- 2.15 In announcing funding for the Aberdeen City Region Deal in January 2016 the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities announced £200 million additional funding to help improve journey times and increase capacity on key rail links between Aberdeen and the Central Belt, including options for double tracking of Usan Junction and South Esk Viaduct at Montrose, located within the Tactran region.
- 2.16 The Minister for Transport and the Islands has recently established a Reference Group to drive forward progress on rail improvements to address capacity, improve performance and journey times on this key route. The Reference Group is Chaired by Transport Scotland and includes representation from Network Rail, ScotRail Alliance, Rail Delivery Group, Department for Transport, DB Cargo Ltd, Nestrans and Tactran.

- 2.17 The inaugural meeting of the Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail Reference Group was held on 22 May 2017. Transport Scotland indicated they were delighted with the level of participation and approach taken by the members of the group at this early stage and look forward to our continued working over the forthcoming months, to seek to secure the best possible return from the £200 million investment committed to the development and operation of this rail corridor.
- 2.18 Further developments will be reported to future meetings.

Hitrans Regional Transport Strategy

- 2.19 Hitrans is currently undertaking a refresh of its Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) and has issued a [Draft RTS](#) for consultation. The deadline for comments on the Draft RTS is 5 July 2017.
- 2.20 Hitrans has sought the views of neighbouring RTPs. The consultation seeks responses on a range of detailed policies and proposals via an on-line Survey Monkey questionnaire. The majority of areas of interest to Tactran relate to issues and proposals concerned with cross-boundary connectivity. A draft response, focussing on these areas, is attached at Appendix C, which the Partnership is asked to approve for submission.

Partnership Staffing

- 2.21 At its previous meetings on 8 March, 14 June, and 6 December 2016, the Partnership approved various revisions to its staffing and management arrangements in response to planned and unplanned staff turnover, including the planned retirement of the Partnership Director in 2017, and having regard to other influences including emerging City Deals, review of the National Transport Strategy etc. (Reports RTP/P1/16; RTP/P2/16 and RTP/P3/16 refer). The approved revised staffing structure is attached at Appendix D for information.
- 2.22 As discussed in a report to the last Partnership meeting on 14 March 2017 the Tay Cities Deal includes proposals for a new approach to regional governance and transport planning and a suggested transfer of statutory duties which are currently undertaken by Tactran (Report RTP/17/10 refers). A separate City Deal is being developed for Stirling & Clackmannanshire.
- 2.23 In addition to evolving City Deals other ongoing potential influences include the review of the National Transport Strategy and an associated review of transport governance; the Planning Review; and the Economy & Enterprise Review, each of which are considering, potentially proposing or encouraging strategic regional partnership approaches to future integration and delivery of economic development, land use and transport planning. These processes are progressing concurrently over the next few months.

- 2.24 Pending further discussion on the implications of these various emerging proposals with City Deal promoters, partner Councils, Transport Scotland and other relevant stakeholders, a temporary pause had been put on progressing appointment to existing vacancies of Senior Strategy Officer and Strategy Officer and on arrangements for replacing the Partnership Director upon his retirement. At its meeting on 6 December 2016 the Partnership agreed to extend the Director's retirement date beyond 31 March 2017.
- 2.25 Whilst it was appropriate and sensible to defer taking immediate action on filling current vacancies for a short period of time, pending further discussion on and clarification of the implications of City Deals and other ongoing issues such as review of the NTS, the current resource position is not sustainable moving forward. Having regard to the ongoing workload of the Partnership including development and delivery of the RTS, the need to fulfil the Partnership's other ongoing statutory duties in relation to contributing to Community Planning and Development Planning, supporting work on City Deals, and inputting to the ongoing review of NTS and STPR, etc., and following consultation with partner Councils and City Deal promoters, it is the intention to now progress arrangements for appointing to the vacant posts of Senior Strategy Officer and Strategy Officer.
- 2.26 Discussions on the position and arrangements for planned retirement and replacement of the Partnership Director will continue with partner Councils and City Deal promoters, with a view to reporting further on this to the next Partnership meeting on 12 September 2017.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Elements of the report have been and are the subject of ongoing consultation with partner Councils and other RTPs, as appropriate.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report has no additional financial or other direct resource implications.

5 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Equality Impact Assessment and no major issues have been identified.

Eric Guthrie
Director

For further information email ericguthrie@tactran.gov.uk or tel. 01738 475771

NOTE

The following 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 :-

Transport Scotland Consultation on Improving Parking in Scotland, April 2017

Hitrans Regional Transport Strategy Draft for Consultation, May 2017

Report to Partnership RTP/16/06, National Transport Strategy, 8 March 2016

Report to Partnership RTP/16/33, Director's Report, 13 September 2016

Reports to Partnership RTP/17/07 National Transport Strategy Review and RTP/17/10, Director's Report, 14 March 2017

Report to Partnership RTP/P1/16, Proposed Review of Management Arrangements (EXEMPT), 8 March 2016

Report to Partnership RTP/P2/16, Partnership Staffing (EXEMPT), 14 June 2016

Report to Partnership RTP/P3/16, Partnership Staffing (EXEMPT), 6 December 2016

**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 2 years, 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

Regional Transport Partnerships

Chairs Meeting

Buchan Braes Hotel, Boddam, Aberdeenshire

Minute of Meeting held in Boddam on Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 9.30am.

Present Cllr Ramsay Milne, Nestrans (Chair)
 Cllr Michael Stout, ZetTrans
 Cllr James Stockan, HITRANS
 Cllr Will Dawson, TACTRAN
 Cllr Lesley Hinds, Sestrans
 Cllr Tom McAughtrie, Swestrans

In Attendance Mrs Joanne Gray, Transport Scotland
 Mr Ewen Milligan, Transport Scotland
 Mr Ranald Robertson, HITRANS
 Mr Bruce Kiloh, SPT
 Mr George Eckton, Sestrans
 Mr Douglas Kirkpatrick, Swestrans
 Mr Michael Craigie, ZetTrans
 Mr Derick Murray, Nestrans

Apologies Cllr Jonathan Findlay, SPT
 Cllr Stephen Hagan, COSLA
 Mr Eric Guthrie, TACTRAN
 Mr Eric Stewart, SPT
 Mr Robert Nicol, COSLA.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Milne welcomed everyone to Boddam for the RTP Chairs meeting and noted the apologies above.

2. Presentation by Iain Laidlaw, Chief Executive of Peterhead Port Authority

Mr Laidlaw gave an informative presentation on Peterhead Harbour and the Peterhead Port Authority. After questions, the Chair thanked Mr Laidlaw for his presentation.

The Chair and Mr Murray at this juncture then tabled a variation to the Agenda requesting that this be adopted as the Agenda for the meeting. The Chairs agreed to this change and the new Agenda was circulated in hard copy

3. Minute of RTP Chairs Meeting on 14 September 2016

The Minute was agreed as an accurate account of the meeting. Matters arising would be covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Discussion on Current Issues

a Option to hold a one day workshop

The Chairs agreed to hold a one day workshop in January 2017, location to be determined but potentially Edinburgh to discuss the NTS, Transport Bill, Planning Review and other significant issues. The workshop would also provide the input to a letter to the Transport Minister following up from the RTPs recent meeting with him at the Scottish Parliament.

RTP Lead officers to liaise and arrange the workshop. Agreed that each RTP would lead on an agenda item for the workshop.

RTP Lead officers to draft note of recent meeting with Transport Minister and Planning Minister.

RTP Lead officers, after workshop, to draft letter for sending to Transport Minister on key issues.

b Meeting with the Ministers – Outcomes / Next Steps

Noted that Minister would like to attend at RTP Chairs meetings twice a year.

RTP Secretariat to issue invitation to Minister for future Chairs meetings.

Mr Milligan noted that regarding the Transport Bill, an issue they had identified was the current lack of facility for RTPs to carry reserves into future years.

Regarding transport governance, Mr Milligan indicated that the Minister was thinking about reviewing the accountability of RTPs.

The Chairs agreed to consider this at the proposed workshop in January.

c ScotRail public sector bidder

The Chairs agreed that this be considered at the proposed workshop in January.

This proposal can happen due to the new Scotland Act and the Minister had indicated that options were being considered for how to take this forward. Next opportunity for a bid may be 2020 when there is the potential for a break in the ScotRail franchise contract

d NTS

The Chairs agreed that the agenda for the Cities Alliance on the NTS could be considered for the proposed workshop in January.

e The Transport Bill

The Chairs agreed that this be considered as part of proposed workshop in January.

f Planning Review

The Chairs agreed that this be considered as part of proposed workshop in January. Noted apparent lack of momentum of the Roads Collaboration programme.

g City Deals / Growth Deals

each RTP gave brief update on the relevant ones for their areas.

5. Modal Updates

a Active Travel

No update.

b Bus

Mr Kiloh highlighted progress on Strathclyde Bus Alliance proposal and that the document would be circulated to RTPs in due course.

SPT to circulate SBA proposal document once complete.

Next Bus Stakeholders Group to be arranged for early 2017.

c Ferries

Mr Craigie and Mr Robertson gave brief update on Northern Ferries contract.

d Rail

Update given on ECMA – recent event in London went well, although concerns raised over future of ECMA as some English authorities had apparently pulled out and there were also concerns over organisational arrangements. Cllr Dawson suggested that the 4 funding RTPs should agree a position on issues arising from how the group is operating and future funding ahead of the next ECMA meeting on 20 February and this was agreed. The Chairs also agreed to a joint RTP response to the TS Rail Infrastructure Strategy, responses due in February 2017.

ECMA partner RTPs to discuss/agree position on future involvement and funding ahead of ECMA Consortium meeting on 20 February 2017.

e Air

Mr Murray noted the UK Government's recent announcement on the third runway for Heathrow. Mr Robertson noted the importance of good connections to Heathrow and that the new Inverness – Heathrow service had made a very strong start.

6. Dates of Future Meetings

The Chairs agreed to these subject to the 6 September meeting being moved to late August, and the June meeting being cancelled due to local council elections.

RTP Secretariat to circulate updated list of dates of future Chairs meetings.

Next meeting - 8 March 2017 hosted by Sustran

7. AOB

Mr Milligan also noted regarding the RTP members voting issue that the Planning Minister had indicated that a consultation on this would be issued soon.

HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy Draft (May 2017)

HITRANS has published its draft updated Regional Transport Strategy for an 8 week consultation period ending on Friday 5 July 2017.

The overarching vision of the [HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy Draft](#) is to deliver better connectivity across the region that enables sustainable economic growth and helps communities actively participate in economic and social activities. The Strategy also sets out the key projects and initiatives that have been identified to deliver the vision. Tactran's response to the consultation pays particular regard to cross boundary issues and common connectivity issues to the Central Belt, London, the rest of the UK and Europe and is set out below:

Tactran is supportive of the HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy Draft vision and objectives, which are compatible with Tactran's. In particular Tactran welcomes HITRANS intention to work with neighbouring RTPs to support the delivery of economic prosperity (paragraphs 3.4.5.1 and 3.4.5.2) by making the case for improvements to networks and services to key locations outside the region, including the Central Belt and London. This mirrors Tactran's Regional Transport Strategy 2015-2036 Refresh commitment to work with neighbouring RTPs and other stakeholders to deliver key strategic connectivity infrastructure and service improvements.

In this regard Tactran notes and welcomes HITRANS intention to work with Transport Scotland and others regarding the A9 Dualling between Perth and Inverness to deliver a transport corridor with benefits for public transport and active travel users as well as a strategic road link, as this coincides with Tactran's intention that the A9 Dualling and Highland Main Line rail projects are considered to form a transport corridor with full regard to all modes of transport. Tactran is also supportive of HITRANS desire to see average journey times by rail between Inverness and Central Belt improve to be below 3 hours and an hourly service frequency by 2025. Tactran is keen that in addition to Highland Main Line improvements between Perth and Inverness, that journey time and capacity improvements south of Perth to Edinburgh and Glasgow are pursued and looks forward to working with HITRANS, Transport Scotland and the rail industry in achieving these aims.

The Partnership is asked to approve the proposed response to HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy Draft consultation, as detailed above.

Tactran – Revised Staffing Structure

