

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

26 JUNE 2018

GENERAL CONSULTATIONS

REPORT BY SENIOR PARTNERSHIP MANAGER

This report asks the Partnership to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve responses to consultations on the Future of the Rural Economy in Scotland and the next Cross Country Passenger Rail Franchise

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Partnership delegates authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve responses to :-
- (i) the National Council of Rural Advisors consultation on the Future of the Rural Economy in Scotland; and
 - (ii) the Department for Transport consultation on the next Cross Country Passenger Rail Franchise.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The National Council of Rural Advisors published a consultation document '[A Rural Conversation: Together We Can, Together We Will](#)' on the Future of the Rural Economy in Scotland on 12 June 2018, asking for responses to be submitted by 24 July 2018.
- 2.2 The Department for Transport published consultation on the [Cross Country Passenger Rail Franchise](#) on 7 June 2018, with responses to be submitted by 30 August 2018.

3 DISCUSSIONThe Future of the Rural Economy in Scotland

- 3.1 The National Council of Rural Advisors (NCRA), an independent body providing advice and recommendations on rural policy to Scottish Government, is consulting on behalf of the Scottish Government on the Future of the Rural Economy in Scotland.
- 3.2 The NCRA has a vision for a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rural economy, which offers potential for growth and the creation of new opportunities. The NCRA is consulting in order to explore the opportunities Scotland's rural economy presents and to submit potential recommendations on this to the Scottish Government.

- 3.3 A document titled 'A Rural Conversation: Together We Can, Together We Will' has been prepared for consultation. The consultation focuses on three key areas – people, vision and infrastructure – and comprises ten questions on various issues, including how best to create valuable employment opportunities; how to effectively represent the contribution and value of rural Scotland; what skills are needed to encourage entrepreneurship; and how to ensure that infrastructure is fit for purpose. A copy of the 10 questions is included at Appendix A for information.
- 3.4 The Partnership is asked to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve a response by the deadline of 14 July 2018.

Cross Country Passenger Rail Franchise

- 3.5 The current Cross Country passenger rail franchise is due to end in December 2019 and the Department for Transport will be running a competition to select the next operator for the franchise.
- 3.6 The Cross Country Passenger Rail Franchise consultation seeks views on various aspects of the Cross Country passenger rail service which will inform the Department for Transport's 'ask' from potential operators when re-letting the franchise in 2019.
- 3.7 The Partnership is asked to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve a response by the deadline of 30 August 2018.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Responses to both consultations will be prepared in consultation with relevant officers from constituent Councils.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has no direct resource implications.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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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 the above Report:

A Rural Conversation: Together We Can, Together We Will, National Council of Rural Advisors, June 2018

Cross Country Passenger Rail Franchise, Department of Transport, June 2018

A Rural Conversation: Together We Can, Together We Will The Future of the Rural Economy in Scotland

Consultation questions

We are clear in our goal of the creation of a defined and ambitious Rural Economic Strategy. We would welcome your feedback on the following questions to enable us to shape it going forward.

- 1. The development of relevant Scottish Government mainstream policies should consider the effect upon the Rural Economic Strategy and its consequent policies**
 - How should policy makers in Government make sure that the economic needs of rural Scotland are taken into account?
 - Should there be an ability to call to account Scottish Government and their Agencies to ensure collaboration and actions to meet the objectives of the Rural Economic Strategy?

- 2. Create quality job opportunities (that are well paid, flexible, and purposeful) to promote skills and opportunities, but also deal with inequalities in the rural labour market (such as the gender pay gap)**
 - What employment opportunities do we need to meet the current and future needs of our changing rural economy? Where should these be? (either by location and/or sector)
 - How do we tackle the inequalities we face in rural Scotland? i.e. challenges faced due to age, gender, socio-economic, educational and ethnic background

- 3. Build on existing work to gather evidence and data to measure the true value of the rural economy and monitor its growth**
 - Going beyond the economic contribution of rural businesses, what positive examples of social (i.e. community cohesion), cultural (i.e. protection of heritage and traditions) and environmental (i.e. carbon reducing) impacts of rural businesses can you think of?
 - What specific outcomes of rural businesses should be measured and why?

- 4. Encourage future entrepreneurship by ensuring the Scottish Government's rural skills action plan meets the needs of the Rural Economic Strategy**
 - What skills are required to have a vibrant rural economy?
 - How do we best ensure that people of all ages, genders, areas, socioeconomic, educational and ethnic backgrounds receive appropriate support?

- 5. Develop opportunities for the businesses of urban and rural Scotland to share ideas and work together**
 - How do you think we could do this? (for example through schools or membership organisation groups)

- Facilitating learning/sharing between urban and rural areas to improve and have a better understanding of the opportunities that are available would be new for Scotland. What would interest you in this approach? Are there any benefits/drawbacks?
- 6. Create communities of interest (digital, physical) where businesses and people can come together to solve problems, share ideas and understand opportunities**
- Is there any place that you can think of in your community where people already do this? Can you please tell us about it?
 - What might be the benefits of this approach?
 - What things would your local community need to help people in your local area come together?
- 7. Help ensure there are the same opportunities and access to services between urban and rural areas**
- For people living and working in rural areas there are often big differences compared to urban areas in what services might be available (things like broadband, childcare, transport, community development etc.) What do you need to enable you to choose to live and work in rural Scotland?
- 8. Make sure Government policies, regulations, planning and support mechanisms help local businesses**
- What types of policies, regulations, planning and business support need to be strengthened or removed to help a wide variety of small and micro businesses in rural areas?
 - Can you think of any problems in transport, housing, social care and digital infrastructure that prevent economic growth for your industry sector, business or community?
- 9. Make sure that community resources that contribute to our economy (like tourist attractions) also deliver benefits to their communities.**
- Can you think of any examples of resources in your community e.g. that attract visitors and make money but do not benefit the community?
 - Are there examples of attractions in your community that you would like to promote? What could help you do this?
- 10. Please tell us below if there are any key issues you believe we may have missed**