

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**18 JUNE 2019****LOCAL RAIL DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATE****REPORT BY SENIOR STRATEGY OFFICER**

This report provides an update to the Partnership on Transport Scotland's Local Rail Development Fund (LRDF), and seeks approval for applications to the 2nd Round of LRDF Funding.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership:-

- (i) notes the progress of the Stirling Strategic Park & Ride study and the Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal; and
- (ii) approves submission of a bid for a Tay Cities Park & Ride Strategy Update: Opportunities along the Perth-Montrose Corridor to the second call for Local Rail Development Funding.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 19 March 2019 2018, Transport Scotland launched a Local Rail Development Fund (LRDF) to fund appraisal work that could identify proposals aimed at tackling specific rail connectivity issues (Report RTP/18/23 refers).
- 2.2 Tactran submitted two bids to the Fund, in association with the respective Councils, and were successful in securing £222,000 to undertake investigations into a Stirling Strategy Park and Ride study and a Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal (Report RTP/18/33 refers).
- 2.3 On 28 February 2019, Transport Scotland announced a [second round](#) of LRDF funding, requesting bids by 28 June 2019. The Partnership meeting of 19 March endorsed officer discussions with constituent councils and community groups to identify any potential bids to the second call for Local Rail Development Funding (Report RTP/19/08 refers).

3 DISCUSSION

Current Stirling and Bridge of Earn LRDF Transport Appraisals

3.1 The LRDF requires a three stage appraisal process, namely:

- Case for change
- Initial Appraisal
- Detailed Appraisal

3.2 The [Case for Change reports](#) were submitted to Transport Scotland on 18 April, a response from Transport Scotland was expected within approximately 4 weeks. At the time of writing, Tactran are awaiting decisions from Transport Scotland to progress to the next stage of the appraisal process, i.e. the Initial Appraisal. This 'Initial Appraisal' stage identifies the options for detailed appraisal by sifting the 'long list' of options that have been developed using the projects' Transport Planning Objectives and the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) policy and deliverability objectives. The Initial Appraisal reports were intended to be submitted to Transport Scotland by the end of July 2019. This will now need to be reviewed. All three stages must be completed by end of March 2020.

LRDF 2nd Call

3.3 Following discussions with Council officers, it is proposed that a bid be developed to consider rail park & ride opportunities along the Perth-Montrose rail corridor that would complement the broader Tay Cities Park & Ride strategy and hence inform both the work of the Tay Cities Regional Transport Working Group as well as any submissions to Transport Scotland's second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2).

3.4 The study would identify whether:

- There are rail or coach opportunities between Dundee east and Arbroath/Montrose
- There are rail or coach opportunities between Dundee west and Perth east
- Any rail park & ride would complement the proposed Dundee south park and ride
- There is any opportunity for Glasgow and/or Edinburgh services to turn around north of Perth, and whether there is sufficient demand in this corridor to justify such

3.5 Equally, it is proposed that the following corridors are not included for the reasons stated:

- Dundee north (no rail option)
 - Perth south west: Broxden exists and rail opportunity wouldn't exist until Auchterarder (Gleneagles)
 - Perth south: Bridge of Earn appraisal ongoing.
- 3.6 During the last consideration of rail park and ride to the west of Dundee, specifically concerning Invergowrie (Report RTP/18/15 refers), the Partnership agreed to delay any future consideration until after Revolution in Rail. However, Revolution in Rail has been delayed, whilst in the meantime, a significant piece of work that considers Scotland's strategic transport infrastructure (STPR2) has commenced, and detailed input will be required prior to 'bedding in' of Revolution in Rail. It is therefore recommended that work that can inform the fullest picture of a Tay Cities park and ride strategy be commenced.
- 3.7 In addition to the bid proposed above, officers have – along with Stirling Council officers – been supporting a LRDF bid by Dunblane Community Council which considers the implications of station parking on the town.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 The report has been prepared in consultation with the Transportation Officers Liaison Group and the Public Transport Officers Liaison Group.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Tactran has been awarded £222,000 from Transport Scotland's Local Rail Development Fund. If any round two bids are successful, the grant awards will cover the cost of appraisal. The report has no further direct resource implications other than staff time.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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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.

Report to Executive Committee RTP/18/15 Local Rail Development, 18 May 2018

Report to Partnership RTP/18/23, Rail Update, 26 June 2018

Report to Partnership Report RTP/18/33, Local Rail Development Fund, 25 September 2018

Report to Partnership Report RTP/19/08, Local Rail Development Fund Update, 19 March 2019