

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**15 SEPTEMBER 2020****REGIONAL TRANSPORT TRANSITION PLAN****REPORT BY SENIOR PARTNERSHIP MANAGER**

This report asks the Partnership to note and discuss the development of a Regional Transport Transition Plan and agree to receive further update reports at future meetings.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership:

- (i) discusses and notes the development of a Regional Transport Transition Plan; and
- (ii) agrees to receive further update reports at future meetings.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Covid 19 is a global pandemic and the impacts on the UK will be felt for a significant amount of time to come. The response from the UK and Scottish Government was to instruct all non-essential personnel to Stay Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives. This has had a significant effect on society including travel and transport.
- 2.2 The Scottish Government published the first framework for decision making 'Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis' on 21 May 2020. This was closely followed by a National Transport Transition Plan which focuses on ensuring Scotland can keep on moving, whilst continuing to suppress the spread of the COVID-19 virus. There have been several updates to the route map and the national transport transition plan as Scotland continues a phased route out of lockdown.
- 2.3 The effects of this lockdown and the planning for the transition phase to reopen society has called for a response from Tactran and our constituent Local Authorities. Tactran has been liaising with Local Authorities and the NHS from the start of lockdown initially focussing on Spaces for People initiative and public transport requirements, but also to provide a forum for discussion, sharing of information and to assist in a consistent approach throughout the region.
- 2.4 This was formalised into a Regional Transport Liaison Group on 25 June 2020 with a primary aim to develop a Regional Transport Transition Plan that captures the work undertaken to date in the region and to set out an action plan to assist in a transport route out of lockdown in the region.

3 DISCUSSION

The Need for a Regional Transport Transition Plan

- 3.1 During lock down demand for public transport fell by between 85 and 90 per cent from pre Covid-19 levels, on 23 March. As we move towards easing lockdown measures operators are estimating that capacity will be between 10 and 50 per cent of 'normal' with the level of physical distancing required. There is a specific risk this will result in increased private car use, leading to congestion, poor air quality and increased transport inequalities, particularly for the 29 per cent of households in Scotland that do not have access to a car.
- 3.2 As more employment sectors return to workplaces and the economy restarts, thousands of commuters within the Tayside and Central Scotland region may be left with limited or no public transport option to access their place of work – even with a large percentage of employees working from home.
- 3.3 This Regional Transport Transition Plan aims to:
- support management of travel demand;
 - support travel choices by;
 - discouraging unnecessary travel;
 - staggering journeys to avoid peak times;
 - encouraging active travel options; and
 - sustaining behavioural changes;
 - inform passengers and road users of busy areas and times to encourage alternative choices;
 - inform passengers about when and how to safely access public transport; and
 - reinforce broader messages on physical distancing.

Developing the Transport Transition Plan

- 3.4 The Regional Transport Transition Plan has been developed by the Regional Transport Liaison Group (RTLGL) and membership consists of officers from the following organisations; Tactran, Dundee City Council, Stirling Council, Angus Council, Perth & Kinross Council. In addition, officers from Fife Council, Sustran and Hitrans provide input as guests and Transport Scotland and Public Transport Operators are invited as required. The RTLGL has been meeting fortnightly since 25 June 2020.

Regional Transport Transition Plan

- 3.5 The purpose of the Regional Transport Transition Plan is to align approaches and share knowledge of national, regional and local transport planning activity to safely increase capacity across the transport system and manage demand in our Region while contributing to the National strategy to assist Scotland through and out of the COVID 19 crisis.
- 3.6 The following objectives have been developed:
- To support a fair and sustainable recovery
 - To reduce the need to travel, particularly unnecessary journeys by private car
 - To support walking, cycling, wheeling and micro-mobility for all or part of commuter and non-commuter journeys as far as practical.
 - To maximise safe and efficient use of public transport including to support continued viability of the public transport system.
 - To ensure public transport is available for those most dependent on bus and rail services during the easing of lockdown.
 - To ensure measures facilitate access for all and connected, multi-modal journeys.
 - To co-ordinate and disseminate regional messaging to support the safe use of the transport network, restore passenger confidence, and manage travel demand in line with national guidance.
- 3.7 Issues have been identified and actions described together with potential and actual funding streams; progress in implementation; timescale for delivery; lead organisation and objective being addressed and developed into an action plan under the following headings:
1. Active Travel
 2. Public Transport – Bus
 3. Public Transport – Rail
 4. Shared Transport
 5. Private Transport
 6. Freight
 7. Travel Planning
- 3.8 The initial timescale for the plan is looking at actions that can be implemented or commenced this financial year. However, the timescale and other aspects of the Regional Transport Transition Plan require to be flexible and will evolve during this uniquely challenging period and will be under continual review.
- 3.9 The most recent version of the Transport Transition Plan is attached at Appendix A and Tactran members are invited to note and discuss the Regional Transport Transition Plan. It is intended that further versions of the Plan will be reported at future Partnership meetings as appropriate.

3.10 Following development of the Delivery Plan, and throughout its delivery, the officers of each Local Authority will ensure its elected members are kept informed of progress through their own reporting processes.

4 CONSULTATIONS

4.1 The Transport Transition Plan has been developed by the Regional Transport Liaison Group.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Officer time and resource from Regional Transport Liaison Group member organisations is being co-ordinated to take forward the Regional Transport Transition Plan. Funding sources are being identified for each action.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.2 Equalities Impact is being assessed on an individual action basis and is integrated into the Regional Transport Transition Plan.

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NOTE

Background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:

Covid-19 – Framework for Decision Making, Scotland’s route map through and out of crisis, Scottish Government, May 2020

Transport Transition Plan, Transport Scotland, May 2020