

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**15 DECEMBER 2020****NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY AND STRATEGIC TRANSPORT
PROJECTS REVIEW UPDATE****REPORT BY SENIOR PARTNERSHIP MANAGER**

This report provides the Partnership with an update on progress with the National Transport Strategy and Strategic Transport Projects Review and asks the Partnership to delegate consideration and approval of a response to anticipated STPR Case for Change consultation, if the timescale requires.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership:

- (i) notes the update provided for the National Transport Strategy and Strategic Transport Projects Review; and
- (ii) delegates authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve a response to the anticipated consultation on the STPR Case for Change Reports, if the timescale requires.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In September 2016, the Minister for Transport and the Islands confirmed a planned review of the National Transport Strategy (NTS) and Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) in alignment with the National Planning Framework (NPF4) (Report RTP/16/33 refers).
- 2.2 Transport Scotland commenced a review of the National Transport Strategy (NTS) in 2017 and established a National Transport Strategy Review Board and various Reference/Working Groups of key stakeholders to inform and support the review, with the RTPs being represented on a number of these. This work resulted in a draft NTS being issued for consultation on 31 July 2019 and the Tactran Partnership approved a response to the consultation at its meeting on 17 September 2019. Transport Scotland subsequently published the finalised NTS2 on 5 February 2020. (Reports RTP/19/34 and RTP/20/16 refer).
- 2.3 Work commenced on the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) in early 2019, with the Partnership thereafter receiving regular updates at its Partnership meetings through the Director's Report. A more detailed update was provided at the Partnership meeting on 17 December 2019 (Report RTP/19/47 refers).

- 2.4 Transport Scotland published consultation on ‘Strategic Transport Projects Review 2: Case for Change Reports’ on 27 February 2020 seeking responses by 8 April 2020, subsequently extended to 4 September 2020. During March 2020 the Partnership agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve responses to the Transport Scotland consultation, in particular to three Case for Change reports, namely: National Case for Change; Tay Cities Case for Change; Forth Valley Case for Change. The Executive Committee approved responses to the three consultation documents and these have been submitted to Transport Scotland (Report RTP/20/20 refers)
- 2.5 This second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) will also inform the National Planning Framework (NPF4).

3 DISCUSSION

National Transport Strategy

- 3.1 Transport Scotland published the National Transport Strategy (NTS2) on 5 February 2020. The NTS2 sets out a vision for Scotland’s transport system for the next 20 years.
- *We will have a sustainable, inclusive, safe and accessible transport system, helping deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for communities, businesses and visitors.*
- 3.2 The vision is underpinned by four priorities: Reduces Inequalities, Takes Climate Action, Helps Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth and Improves our Health and Wellbeing.
- 3.3 In order to meet the challenges to deliver the desired outcomes for four priorities an overarching Sustainable Transport Hierarchy and Sustainable Investment Hierarchy will be pursued. This will be used to promote sustainable transport in preference to single occupancy private car use and investment that promotes reducing need to travel, maintaining and making more of existing assets and capacity, together with targeted infrastructure improvements.
- 3.4 Transport Scotland intended to publish a Delivery Plan that sets out how the Strategy will be delivered in Summer 2020. However, this has been delayed due to Transport Scotland’s resources being diverted elsewhere due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- 3.5 Transport Scotland have recently restarted work on a Delivery Plan, working with the partners involved in developing the Strategy, with the aim to have the Delivery Plan published during December 2020. This will be a short-term Delivery Plan and will be monitored on an annual basis.

- 3.6 In addition, there is a recognition that that Transport Scotland need to take account of partners' actions to deliver the NTS2 and these will be captured in a 'Working with Partners' document, which will include local and regional actions. It is intended that the 'Working with Partners' will be published after the first Delivery Plan, early to mid-2021.
- 3.7 In addition, the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) will inform transport investment in Scotland and will help to deliver the vision, priorities and outcomes for transport set out in the NTS2.

Strategic Transport Projects Review

- 3.8 The second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) forms an important part in the delivery of the National Transport Strategy, with the development of STPR2 following the Strategic Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) process developing a Case for Change, undertaking an initial appraisal and a final detailed appraisal.

Regional Transport Working Groups

- 3.9 A number of Regional Transport Working Groups covering the whole of Scotland have been set up to oversee the development of STPR2 and Transport Scotland is progressing STPR2 through engaging with local stakeholders at this regional level and also with national stakeholders at a national level. Tactran is actively involved with two Regional Transport Working Groups:
- Tay Cities Region (Angus, Dundee, Perth & Kinross and North East Fife)
 - Forth Valley Region (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling)
- 3.10 In both cases the 'regions' reflect economic and planning geographies and cover the predominant travel to work areas for those populations.
- 3.11 In addition, national groups have provided input into the consideration of issues, opportunities, problems and constraints relating to national transport networks.
- 3.12 Work has been ongoing through these regional and national groups to develop Case for Change reports and these were published for consultation on the Transport Scotland website on 27 February 2020 with a deadline of 8 April 2020.
- 3.13 The Partnership provided responses to the National, Forth Valley and Tay Cities Case for Change documents in April 2020.
- 3.14 Following submission of these consultation responses Transport Scotland wrote to each Regional Transport Working Group noting that they were pausing work on both the STPR and National Transport Strategy Delivery Plan, as a result of the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on their resources and later extended the deadline for comments on the Case for Change report to 4 September 2020.

- 3.15 Subsequently Transport Scotland on 17 August 2020 informed the Regional Transport Working Groups that they intend now to take a phased approach to STPR2, with Phase 1 reporting along the original planned timescales and focusing on recommendations which “lock in”, in transport terms, the positive benefits and travel behaviors of individuals and provide a step change in investment which supports the priorities and outcomes of the National Transport Strategy. Transport Scotland currently envisage that Phase 2, which will complete the review, will report later in 2021.
- 3.16 Transport Scotland has now re-engaged with the Regional Transport Working Groups regarding completion of the Case for Change reports and are currently liaising with the RTWGs on sifting of the long list of options for projects and interventions to be taken forward to the next stage in the appraisal process. The sifting process includes consideration of interventions identified at the Members workshops held on 17 January 2020 (Tay Cities) and 29 January 2020 (Forth Valley).

Next Steps

- 3.17 Transport Scotland intend by mid-January 2021 to publish completed Case for Change reports for consultation, including covid-19 addendum and option generation chapter. It is anticipated that this consultation will be over an 8 week period and, depending upon timing, may permit the Partnership to consider a response at its next meeting in March 2021. However, if the timescale does not allow this, the Partnership is asked to delegate a response to the anticipated consultation to the Executive Committee, if required.
- 3.18 Transport Scotland also intend publishing STPR Phase 1 Report as outlined in paragraph 3.15 above, and a report on ‘Uncertainties’.
- 3.19 Work will then continue in 2021 to develop Phase 2 of the STPR, looking at longer term projects and initiatives, including scenario planning, with the aim of having STPR Phase 2 completed and published in the latter part of 2021. The ‘Working with Partners’ report is provisionally intended for Spring 2021.
- 3.20 Tactran officers will continue to engage through the Tay Cities and Forth Valley Regional Transport Working Groups, with officer representation on both Groups and the Tactran Director chairing the Tay Cities Group. Tactran officers will continue to update and involve Board members at appropriate points in the STPR process.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with the local authority officers.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

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 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:

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

Report to Partnership, RTP/19/34, National Transport Strategy, 17 September 2019

Report to Partnership, RTP/19/47, Director's Report, 17 December 2019

Report to Partnership, RTP/20/16, National Transport Strategy and Strategic Transport Projects Review, 17 March 2020

Report to Executive Committee, RTP/20/20, Strategic Transport Projects Review 2: Case for Change Reports, 31 March 2020