

Extracts from “Scotland’s Transport Future: Regional Transport Partnerships – Guidance on Membership”

ROLE AND CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP AS AN RTP OTHER (NON-COUNCILLOR) MEMBER

The Role

- Consensual decision-making
- Long-term strategic planning
- Budget approval and resource allocation
- Communicating policy and strategy in public
- Negotiating and influencing

The Criteria

- **Essential**
 - Personal and/or operational expertise and demonstrable knowledge from working at board/strategic level in business, the public sector or the voluntary sector
 - Detachment from local and national politics
- **Desirable**
 - Transport knowledge (this could be knowledge of the transport issues pertinent to one or more sector e.g. business, healthcare, the environment, economic development etc)
 - Regional rather than local perspective
 - Political and media awareness
 - Financial awareness
 - Communication skills

KEY ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS

Other Members

26. Other members are appointed on a personal basis, primarily to assist in the strategic work of the RTP, and not to engage in representational activities. They should fulfil the kind of role that Non-Executive Directors make in other organisations.
27. The Order requires that around a third of the membership of RTPs to be drawn from beyond the constituent councils. These other members should bring a range of benefits to the work of the RTPs, for example:
 - Personal and/or strategic expertise and demonstrable knowledge from working at board/strategic level in business, the public sector or the voluntary sector
 - Regional rather than local perspective
 - Detachment from local and national politics
 - Political and media awareness
 - Transport knowledge (this could be knowledge of the transport issues pertinent to one or more sectors e.g. business, healthcare, the environment, economic development etc.)
 - Financial awareness
 - Communication skills.
28. Although not precluded by the legislation, there should be a presumption against one person being a member of more than one RTP.
29. The role of the other members is as important as that of the councillor members. An RTP that realises the potential of other members to benefit from a wider range of perspectives and from governance expertise gained in different organisational and operating environments.
30. Although other members might not initially have votes (this will depend on decisions by the councillor members), this should not lead to members being viewed as having first or second-class status. As few decisions should go to a vote, other members should be fully involved in the achievement of consensus. Their contribution to discussions will be as valid as those of the councillor members.
31. RTPs should aim to avoid distinctions between councillor and other members wherever possible. Although unavoidable in legislation and this guidance, and likely to be difficult to avoid in the early stages, as all RTP members get used to the new arrangements, in the longer term all RTP members should focus on their common purpose and goals and on their collective responsibility for drawing up and delivering a Regional Transport Strategy.
32. In making their appointments, RTPs (and, in the first instance, the Scottish Ministers) should aim to achieve a mixture of other members to promote a range of perspectives around the table – e.g. efforts should be made to try to ensure that where possible they are not all made or not all drawn from the

business sector. RTPs may also wish to consider recommending lay members to give a different perspective.

33. The list of potential members below is not an exhaustive list. It is intended to suggest to RTPs groups or organisations from which non-Councillor members might be drawn:

- Academics
- Business Associations and Interest Groups
- Chambers of Commerce
- Community Transport Organisations
- Environmental Groups
- Freight Interests
- Locals Enterprise Companies
- NHS Bodies
- Scottish Enterprise / Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Tourism Groups
- User Groups
- Voluntary Groups

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Relevant statutory provisions of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005

Other Members

17. The first set of other members will be formally appointed by the Scottish Ministers, in line with paragraph 1(3). This ministerial role will end at the time of the Council elections in May 2007. thereafter, paragraph 1(4) requires the RTP itself to appoint other members, subject to the consent of the Scottish Ministers.
18. Any vacancies arising prior to May 2007 will be filled by other members appointed by the Scottish Ministers; after that date by the RTP.
19. Other members are appointed for 4 years unless otherwise specified at the time of their appointment – see paragraph 2(7). It would be appropriate for this to be set out clearly in their letter of appointment, for the avoidance of any doubt. The first appointments of other members, by the Scottish Ministers, will run until around 6 – 12 months after the elections in 2007. This will enable some stability and continuity of membership.
20. Like councillor members, other members may resign at any time by writing to the Secretary of the Partnership. Unlike councillor members, other members can be removed by a vote of the partnership itself. However, this can only be if one or more of the conditions set out in paragraph 2(9) are met (bankruptcy, serious illness, consistent unapproved absence, inability or unsuitability for the role).

The complete Guidance and further information on RTPs is available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Transport/regional-partnerships>