

News Release

31 October 2007

Photo story

Work starts on £1.8 million pound transport project



Stirling Council
Viewforth Stirling
FK8 2ET
Tel. 01786 443362
Fax. 01786 443444

DRIVERS heading to Stirling from the north and west will soon be able to benefit from a brand new park and ride service. Work officially got underway today (Wednesday) on the £1.8 million project that will feature the latest in environmental design.

Located adjacent to Castle Business Park, just off junction 10 of the M9 motorway, the site was chosen as it provides a convenient link for drivers arriving from the north and west, as well as increasing travel options for drivers from the south.

In June 2006, Stirling Council agreed a Transport Strategy for the City area, which identified a large number of potential transport developments. A key element of the strategy is the provision of park and ride facilities on the periphery of the City to provide more sustainable access, reduce traffic volumes and lower the impact of vehicles within the city centre.

Councillor Graham Reed, executive member with portfolio for environment visited the site as construction got underway. He said ""Following the terrific success of the Springkerse Park & Ride service, I am delighted that we will soon be providing a similar high quality service to commuters and visitors arriving in Stirling from the North and West. This site confirms Stirling Council's commitment to reducing congestion on our roads, and it's an important element of our transport strategy. Our roads are getting busier each year and the more we as a Council can do to provide alternatives, the more it improves the experience of visiting Stirling."

more/...

2/

The project includes altering the roundabout at Castle Business Park to allow access to the site, constructing a passenger waiting building, main access road, bus turning area and 200 car parking spaces with provision for 200 further spaces in the future.

The passenger waiting building will include many sustainable construction methods and technologies, including solar power, ground-source heat pumps, sun pipes and rainwater harvesting. The site will be monitored using CCTV, and parking attendants will be on duty all day to help with any queries.

The £1.8 million project has been funded by Stirling Council, the TACTRAN Regional Transport Partnership and Scottish Government. TACTRAN Director Eric Guthrie said "TACTRAN is delighted to be supporting this expansion to Stirling's increasingly popular Park & Ride service. Building on the success of schemes like Springkerse and replicating these at other locations in the Stirling, Perth and Dundee commuter catchment areas, is a key element of our Regional Transport Strategy. When this high quality facility becomes operational next year, it will offer drivers an extremely convenient and attractive option to driving into the City Centre, As work on this site is progressing we will be working with the Council to identify other Park & Ride opportunities on the road and rail network"

Traffic levels in Stirling are forecast to increase by 19% between 2005 and 2010 and the creation of an additional park and ride site on the approach to the city centre will assist in freeing up road space, improving air quality and provide improved travel options to visitors heading for Stirling city centre.

more/...

The first dedicated Park and Ride Facility in Stirling was opened at Springkerse in 2005. This service continues to grow in popularity and is extremely well used by commuters, shoppers and visitors to Stirling for convenient and stress-free travel into in the City Centre.

-ends-

Photo caption

Digging in to kick off construction are (Centre L to R) Councillor Graham Reed and Eric Guthrie, Director, TACTRAN. Also pictured L to R are Councillor Andrew Simpson, Cllr Jim Thomson, Les Goodfellow, Head of Roads, Transport and Streetscape all Stirling Council and Niall Gardiner, Projects Manager, TACTRAN and (L to R back) staff of the contractors Stirling Council's Road Repair Service.

***Media contact:
Corrinne Douglas
01786 443362***