TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

17 DECEMBER 2019

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS REVIEW UPDATE

REPORT BY SENIOR PARTNERSHIP MANAGER AND SENIOR STRATEGY OFFICER

This report asks the Partnership to note progress and engagement with Transport Scotland on the second Strategic Transport Projects Review.

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1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership note progress and engagement with Transport Scotland on the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2).

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 Partnership Group 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 (Report RTP/19/34 refers). Transport Scotland intend publishing the finalised NTS2 on 30 January 2020, with a Parliamentary statement scheduled for 4 February 2020.

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.

2.4 This second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) will also inform the National Planning Framework (NPF4), work on which has commenced.

3 DISCUSSION

3.1 The second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) forms an important part in the delivery of the National Transport Strategy. The draft NTS notes that the STPR2 *'will set out a 20 year plan for transport investment through the lens of the Strategy's Priorities and in line with the Sustainable Travel and Investment hierarchies. The STPR2 will involve a Scotland-wide appraisal of future transport interventions not only infrastructure. It will use objective-led*

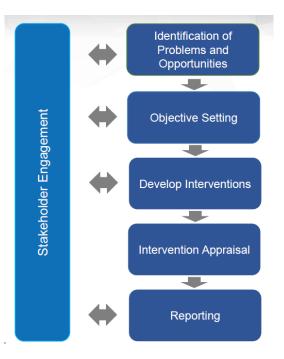*appraisal process set out in STAG, taking a national overview but contain a regional focus'.*

3.2   Transport Scotland have adopted the following definition of what may constitute a strategic project which will be considered in the review:

- Any transport project that plays a significant part in supporting the four draft NTS2 priorities and related outcomes;
- Projects or groups of projects related to transport networks owned, operated and funded directly by Transport Scotland;
- Passenger and freight access to ports and airports of national significance;
- The inter-urban bus and active travel networks and principal corridors within urban areas

Regional Transport Working Groups

3.3   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)

3.4   In both cases the 'regions' reflect economic and planning geographies and cover the predominant travel to work areas for those populations.

Process

3.5   The development of STPR2 is following the Strategic Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) process as set out below:

<u>Identification of Problems and Opportunities</u>

3.6   As reported to the Partnership at its meeting on 19 September 2019, in addition to reviewing and gathering background evidence, Transport Scotland held workshops during May and June 2019 in both regions as part of an exercise to develop an evidence base and identify problems and opportunities (Report RTP/19/41 refers).

<u>Emerging Themes</u>

3.7   Building on evidence gathered from consultations, data analysis and policy review, in recent weeks a second set of stakeholder workshops have been held in both regions to develop themes and understand the kind of interventions that stakeholders suggest could address the problems and opportunities identified. The emerging themes identified in the two regions are:

Tay Cities

- Reliance on private car
- Traffic congestion
- Vehicle emissions
- Improve public health
- Connectivity (inter/intra regional)
- Access to sustainable transport
- Competitiveness of public transport
- Transport exclusion

Stirling/Clackmannanshire/Falkirk

- Poor accessibility and connectivity
- Slow journey times
- Poor road user experience
- High cost of public transport fares
- Barriers to active travel
- Limited digital connectivity

3.8   Transport Scotland intend to develop these themes into a set of Regional Objectives to address the themes identified, together with a set of National Objectives based on NTS2 priorities that take account of the issues that impact on travel patterns across the country. It is intended that a list of potential strategic interventions will be identified by the end of January 2020, which will be discussed and further refined via the Regional Transport Working Groups.

<u>Elected Member Engagement</u>

3.9   Transport Scotland propose to undertake elected member engagement sessions to contribute to the identification of the interventions during January 2020. The invites are being targeted towards Council 'transport' portfolio holders, City Deal members, and RTP board members.

<u>Public Survey</u>

3.10   To help inform the STPR2, Transport Scotland has developed an online survey to seek the views of the public on their transport issues and challenges in day

to day journeys. The survey also seeks views on how the strategic transport network and systems could be improved in the future, across all modes, both nationally and regionally. An STPR2 survey seeking the views of the general public was launched online on 1 December 2019 and will close on 10 January 2020.

Next Steps

3.11 Following objective setting and identification of a long list of interventions, options will be sifted against the National and Regional objectives, before undertaking detailed appraisal. The intention is to have the full appraisal completed and interventions identified for reporting by early 2021.

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/19/41, Director's Report, 17 September 2019