

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**16 JUNE 2020****DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

This report provides updates on Tactran's response to Covid19; Dundee Low Emission Zone Update; Local Rail Development Fund and MaaS projects.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership :-

- (i) notes Tactran's response to Covid19;
- (ii) notes the Dundee Low Emission Zone update; and
- (iii) notes the progress being made on the Local Rail Development Fund and MaaS projects.

2 DISCUSSION**Tactran Covid 19 Response**

- 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. All those who could were asked to work from home, but this necessary response resulted in the closure of non-essential business and organisations who could not transfer their activities to an on-line platform. The effects of this lock down and the planning for the transition phase to reopen society has called for a response from Tactran and this section of the report will summarise those activities.
- 2.2 In the early stages of this crisis Tactran employees were asked to work from home and therefore it was essential that a strategy was implemented to engage our, forum members, partners and governance groups online. A review of our work programme was undertaken to ensure that any workstreams which were useful to help manage the current crisis were progressed. Tactran has continued with key elements of the Mobility as a Service (MaaS) project as they will be of assistance to NHS, College and Tourist partners during this event and through the transition phase. Recognising the need for Climate Emergency measures to continue for transitioning to the 'new normal', Tactran has continued the develop and deliver the Regional EV Strategy with Steering Group including our Local Authorities and Transport Scotland. Tactran has also continued the development of Local Rail Development Fund Project by adapting

Stakeholder workshops into Stakeholder webinars, which were successfully completed during May.

- 2.3 We have however adjusted the programme of work with regards to strategy development to minimise disruption to our Local Authority and National Colleagues. Tactran also contacted each Local Authorities director office and offered assistance with regard to freeing up time for their staff to concentrate on critical activities.
- 2.4 All messaging from Tactran, social media and project related was immediately simplified across our whole portfolio to only send out the “stay home, protect NHS, save lives” message.
- 2.5 Tactran was heavily involved in discussions with Transport Scotland throughout the initial response phase to the crisis. Tactran continues to engage and advise as the work moves into the transition recovery stage of re-opening. This engagement has mainly been co-ordinated through the Ministerial Advisory Group (includes Local Authorities), the Regional Transport Partnership Directors Group and the Tay Cities Management Group. As a member of the Tay Cities Heads of Economic Development team, Tactran has also been assisting to evaluate the impact of this crisis on businesses in our area and consider the support that maybe required.
- 2.6 Tactran has been liaising with Local Authorities and the NHS regarding Spaces for People initiative, to provide a forum for discussion, sharing of information and to identify suitable walking and cycling measures to implement. Tactran has also taken a role in co-ordinating a regional bid for funding to Spaces for People for monitoring of multi-modal transport movements and travel behaviour in the Tactran region.
- 2.7 Tactran continues to support NHS Tayside in identifying and addressing issues of NHS staff accessing hospitals. NHS Tayside team now has the information regarding staff numbers/shifts/origins and destinations and is able to introduce solutions with the assistance Local Authorities using their home to school contracts, their council fleet and drivers to respond to issues if and when they arise.
- 2.8 Tactran has fulfilled numerous liaison and co-ordinating roles including with the Freight Transport Association and ScotRail as well as providing a forum for the four Local Authorities to discuss active travel and local bus issues.
- 2.9 Finally, Tactran took on a coordinating role to connect individual offers of transport assistance to the public who needed help. Transport Offers of Help have and continue to be shared with Local Authorities, the NHS and other partners in our area.

Dundee Low Emission Zone

- 2.10 Low Emission Zones were expected to be implemented in Dundee and across Scotland's other three major cities later this year. A Dundee Low Emission Zone Steering Group, including Dundee City Council, Scottish Government, Transport Scotland, SEPA, NHS and Tactran, supported by consultants Systra were progressing toward implementation by end of 2020.
- 2.11 However, plans to implement low emission zones across Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee have been paused temporarily in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The decision has been taken by the Low Emission Zone Leadership Group (LEZLG), which includes Transport Secretary Michael Matheson, Climate Change Secretary Roseanna Cunningham and representatives from the four local authorities, Public Health Scotland & SEPA.
- 2.12 The LEZLG has come to the view that introducing low emission zones across our four biggest cities by the end of 2020 is no longer practicable. LEZ planning within local authorities will continue, the development of regulations is ongoing and funding to support businesses and individuals prepare for LEZs remains unchanged.

Local Rail Development Fund Update

- 2.13 As reported to the Partnership in March 2020, Scottish Government is providing Local Rail Development Fund grants for three studies:
- Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study
 - Bridge of Earn/South Perth Transport Appraisal
 - Tay Cities Park & Choose Strategy
- 2.14 These projects are being taken through the STAG process in 3 stages, the Case for Change, Initial Appraisal and Detailed Appraisal.
- 2.15 The Case for Change reports for the Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Study and Bridge of Earn/South Perth Transport Appraisal have now been completed and received approval from Transport Scotland to move onto the Initial Appraisal phase. The initial appraisal will consider a list of potential interventions and assess how these meet the objectives of each respective study. During this stage there will be opportunity for further stakeholder engagement.
- 2.16 The Tay Cities Park & Choose Strategy, which will consider opportunities along the Perth-Montrose transport corridor, is at an earlier stage and is currently developing the case for change. To date, this has included two stakeholder webinars involving the relevant Local Authority officers, Network Rail, ScotRail, Stagecoach, Xplore Dundee and several Active Travel organisations. Further engagement scheduled during this stage includes one

to one telephone interviews with key stakeholders; briefing papers and opportunity to comment for Tactran members, Tay Cities Regional Transport Working Group, local elected members, MSPs and community councils.

Mobility as a Service (MaaS) Project

- 2.17 In December 2019, Transport Scotland announced that Tactran had been awarded £550k from the Mobility Innovation Fund to take forward the Tactran ENABLE MaaS Project. The grant letter was received in March 2020, and subsequently Fuse Mobility have been appointed as the lead contractor, and Ansons Consulting as the Monitoring and Evaluation partner.
- 2.18 The ability to meet the planned, phased, launches of the project (with NHS Tayside, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority and Dundee and Angus College) is on track with only minor delays to the programme. As a result of the current travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been agreed, with the three pilot service partners, that any launch will only be undertaken if and when they are happy to promote access to their destinations.
- 2.19 NHS Tayside are currently comfortable with the planned launch of their pilot being mid-June. The launch of the other two pilots will be kept under review. It is worth noting that the intended launch of the pilot for the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park would appear to be at greatest risk. Transport Scotland have confirmed that they will consider any necessary extensions to the project as a consequence of Covid-19 restrictions.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Elements of the report have been the subject of consultation with partner Councils, other RTPs, Transport Scotland and other partners/stakeholders, as appropriate.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report has no direct or additional financial or other resource implications.

5 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Equality Impact Assessment and no major issues have been identified.

Mark Speed
Director

For further information email markspeed@tactran.gov.uk or tel. 01738 475771

NOTE

No 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 this Report.