

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held virtually via MS Teams on Tuesday 30th January 2024 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors Mark McDonald and Heather Doran (Angus Council); Councillors Dorothy McHugh and Steven Rome (Dundee City Council); Councillors Hugh Anderson and Richard Watters and Depute Provost Andrew Parrott (Perth & Kinross Council); Alan Stewart (Member).

In Attendance: M Speed (Director); N Gardiner, J Padmore, M Smith, J Cooper and C Stuerck (Tactran); S Hendry (Secretary); G Dailly (Angus Council); E MacNaughton (Dundee City Council); B Wilson, N Moran and E Williamson (Perth & Kinross Council); S Dickson and J Inglis (Transport Scotland).

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Mark Flynn (Dundee City Council); Councillors Rachel Nunn and Jen Prescott (Stirling Council) and Amy McDonald (Member).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. A NEW REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY: DRAFT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Manager and Strategy Officer (Strategic Connectivity) (RTP/24/01) seeking; (i) approval of the Integrated Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Appraisal reports that have informed the development of the Final Draft of a Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy 2024-2034 (RTS); (ii) approval to submit the Final Draft of the RTS to the Minister for Transport for approval and (iii) noting the next steps as they relate to preparing a RTS Delivery Plan and a consultation summary for circulation to public and stakeholders.

The Director provided a short introduction to the report and thanked the Board Members, local authorities and partner organisations for their work undertaken to this stage.

J Padmore provided a short presentation on the process and key decisions that informed the development of the RTS and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Integrated Impact Assessments.

Councillor Doran asked for confirmation that the wording agreed, in relation to reducing car km driven in rural areas not undermining the viability of living in those rural locations, was included in the document. J Padmore confirmed that the wording discussed was included both in Appendix C of the report outlining the changes made and in the RTS itself. He noted for Member awareness that

the example of charging mechanisms not undermining viability of town centres in rural areas had been widened to any location whether town centre or any rural location.

Post Meeting note: When submitting apologies for absence Councillor Nunn had confirmed via email that she approved the final draft of the RTS to be submitted to the Minister for Transport.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the Integrated Impact Assessment report undertaken to inform a Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy 2024-2034, available in the Members area of the Tactran website;
- (ii) To approve the Strategic Environmental Appraisal report undertaken to inform a Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy 2024-2034, available in the Members area of the Tactran website;
- (iii) To approve the Final Draft of the Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy 2024-2034 for submission to the Minister for Transport as included at Appendix D; and
- (iv) To note the next steps in relation to preparing the RTS Delivery Plan and a summary of consultation to circulate to those that participated in the engagement on the draft Strategy in 2023.

3. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

The Director advised that Transport Scotland is proposing to provide funding directly to Regional Transport Partnerships in 2024/25 for Active Travel Behaviour Change initiatives and a model for delivery is being worked on in partnership with Local Authority officers, with Transport Scotland providing £50,000 this financial year to assist in developing a programme. It is anticipated that Tactran will receive £1.9m in 2024/25. He noted that Community funding for smaller projects may also be directly funded by Transport Scotland and that Transport Scotland are also exploring options to directly fund Local Authorities for staffing in relation to embedded active travel officers.

The Director noted that Transport Scotland has suspended the Bus Partnership Fund for a year but has asked the Tayside Bus Alliance to submit proposals to continue development of a number of corridors where there is strong integration between Active Travel and Bus Priority. J Cooper confirmed he is working with Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council officers for proposals for 3 corridors: Arbroath Road and Lochee Road in Dundee and Dunkeld Road in Perth.

The Director noted that the above initiatives are still being developed and once a definitive position is confirmed either a report will be provided at the March Partnership meeting or a briefing note in advance of the meeting, depending on timing.

The Chair welcomed the potential addition funding for Active Travel.

Cllr Watters asked for an update regarding Active Travel infrastructure funding for Local Authorities in 2024/25. The Director advised that the current position is that discussions are continuing between Transport Scotland and CoSLA regarding providing funding directly to Local Authorities for Active Travel infrastructure. M Smith noted that this funding is likely to be included in Local Authority block funding from Government.

The Chair thanked Officers and Members for their work in getting the RTS to the stage it is at for submission to the Minister for Transport.