

**TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP****EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****10 OCTOBER 2023****FIFE AND TAY CITIES TIMETABLE CONSULTATION****REPORT BY STRATEGY OFFICER (STRATEGIC CONNECTIVITY)**

This report seeks approval of a proposed response to ScotRail's consultation on the 'Fife and Tay Cities Timetable Consultation'

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Executive Committee considers and approves the proposed consultation response to the 'Fife and Tay Cities Timetable Consultation' as detailed in Appendix A.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On 11 September 2023 ScotRail published consultation on a proposed new timetable for services between Edinburgh, Fife, and the Tay Cities to contribute to ScotRail's vision to support thriving, connected, and resilient communities and destinations that are great places to live, work, and visit. This includes services to the new stations at Cameron Bridge and Leven.
- 2.2 The consultation period ends on 23 October 2023.
- 2.3 At its meeting on 12 September 2023, the Partnership delegated authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve a response to ScotRail's consultation on the Fife and Tay Cities Timetable (Item 4 'ScotRail Service Update' refers).

**3 DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 ScotRail notes that the reopening of the Levenmouth Rail Link will provide the region with a major boost to economic sustainability and connectivity. It will deliver opportunities for local people, unlocking access to education, culture, entertainment, and employment options, as well attracting new business and investment.
- 3.2 ScotRail have taken this opportunity to proposes changes to the timetable that will benefit people across Fife and beyond, based on feedback received from customers and stakeholders.
- 3.3 The planned timetable will be introduced in 2025.

3.4 In 2025, ScotRail plans to introduce the following service between Edinburgh, Fife, and the Tay Cities. This timetable has considered feedback from customers and stakeholders received during the Fit for the Future consultation in 2021 and more recent feedback:

- One local train per hour from Edinburgh to Leven via Kirkcaldy.
- One local train per hour from Edinburgh to Perth via Kirkcaldy (as operates at present).
- local train per hour from Edinburgh to Cowdenbeath via Dunfermline (as operates at present).
- One local train per hour from Edinburgh to Leven via Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath.
- One semi-fast train per hour from Edinburgh to Dundee via Kirkcaldy.
- Two intercity trains every three hours between Edinburgh and Aberdeen (as operates at present).
- Additional peak local services between Edinburgh and Fife (as operates at present).

3.5 When the Levenmouth Rail Link opens in early 2024, ScotRail will introduce one of two interim timetables that will deliver many of the benefits of the planned 2025 timetable.

3.6 ScotRail's proposed Interim Timetable A would provide the following:

- Two local trains per hour from Edinburgh to Leven via Dunfermline. These are extensions of the existing Edinburgh to Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes services that we operate.
- One local train per hour from Edinburgh to Perth via Kirkcaldy (as operates at present).
- One local per hour from Edinburgh to Dundee via Kirkcaldy (as operates at present).
- Two intercity trains every three hours between Edinburgh and Aberdeen (as operates at present).
- Additional peak local services between Edinburgh and Fife (as operates at present).
- The evening timetable will continue to provide one train per hour between Edinburgh and local stations via Cowdenbeath, and one train per hour between Edinburgh and local stations via Kirkcaldy.
- This timetable will offer Leven two trains per hour to Edinburgh, Cowdenbeath, and Dunfermline, but will not provide direct services to Kirkcaldy.

3.7 This timetable would not address feedback received about local connectivity in the existing Fife timetable between Dalmeny, North Queensferry and local stations to Kirkcaldy.

3.8 ScotRail's proposed Interim Timetable B includes the following services:

- One local train per hour from Edinburgh to Leven via Kirkcaldy.

- One local train per hour from Edinburgh to Perth via Kirkcaldy (as operates at present).
  - One local train per hour from Edinburgh to Cowdenbeath (as operates at present).
  - One local train per hour from Edinburgh to Glenrothes with Thornton via Cowdenbeath (as operates at present).
  - One semi-fast train per hour from Edinburgh to Dundee via Kirkcaldy.
  - Two intercity trains every three hours between Edinburgh and Aberdeen (as operates at present).
  - Additional peak local services between Edinburgh and Fife (as operates at present).
  - This timetable will provide an enhanced evening service of two local trains per hour between Edinburgh and Cowdenbeath, and two local trains per hour between Edinburgh and Kirkcaldy.
- 3.9 This timetable will provide customers in Leven with one train per hour from Leven to Kirkcaldy and Edinburgh. However, there would be no direct service from Leven to Cowdenbeath and Dunfermline, requiring customers to change trains at Inverkeithing.
- 3.10 This timetable would address feedback received from customers and stakeholders over connectivity between Dalmeny, North Queensferry, and the Fife coastal stations along with addressing feedback received regarding journey times between Dundee, Leuchars, Cupar, Ladybank, Markinch, and Edinburgh.
- 3.11 The phased approach is required to ensure that ScotRail operates a reliable train service across all of Fife and beyond when the line reopens. This is key in making rail an attractive mode of transport and ensuring that the new stations at Leven and Cameron Bridge are a success.
- 3.12 Tactran notes the planned timetable changes in 2025 which will then fully realise the wider benefits of the Levenmouth Rail Link for Fife but also for the the Tactran region. As the proposals will capitalise on the improved connectivity to and from Edinburgh from 2025 onwards, the timetable will, subsequently, increase the opportunities for local people as it unlocks access to education and employment opportunities in Edinburgh's identified Growth Areas. Improved connectivity will also help to attract inward investment in the Tactran region.
- 3.13 The Partnership notes that the proposed interim timetables for 2024 will either provide a half-hourly weekday service with all trains running to and from Edinburgh via Dunfermline and no direct links with Kirkcaldy (Option A) or an hourly service via Kirkcaldy with no direct trains via Dunfermline (Option B).
- 3.14 With the proposed reduction in journey times between Edinburgh and Dundee, Tactran is supportive of the proposals contained within Option B. as this will bring forward the wider benefits of the scheme, including to the Tactran area, at the earliest opportunity.

3.15 The Executive Committee is asked to consider and approve the proposed Tactran response, as detailed in Appendix A to allow submission by the deadline of 23 October 2023.

#### **4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

#### **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.

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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.

Edinburgh, Fife and the Tay Cities Planned 2025 Timetable – Draft timetable for consultation, ScotRail, 11 September 2023

Edinburgh, Fife and the Tay Cities Planned 2024 Interim Timetable A – Draft timetable for consultation, ScotRail, 11 September 2023

Edinburgh, Fife and the Tay Cities Planned 2024 Interim Timetable B – Draft timetable for consultation, ScotRail, 11 September 2023

ScotRail Service Update to Partnership, Item 4, 12 September 2023

## **Fife and Tay Cities Scotrail Timetable Consultation**

### **ScotRail Consultation**

#### **Tactran Response**

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **ScotRail's Fife and Tay Cities Scotrail Timetable Consultation**

Tactran welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on ScotRail's Fife and Tay Cities Scotrail Timetable Consultation.

The Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership (Tactran) notes that the proposed interim timetables for 2024 would either provide a half-hourly weekday service with all trains running to and from Edinburgh via Dunfermline and no direct links with Kirkcaldy (Option A) or an hourly service via Kirkcaldy with no direct trains via Dunfermline (Option B). From 2025 there would be a half-hourly weekday service alternately via Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline. In all cases there would be an hourly late evening and Sunday service.

While Tactran is supportive of Option B with the proposed reduction in journey times between Edinburgh and Dundee for the Interim Timetable up to 2025, Tactran notes the planned timetable changes in 2025 which will then fully realise the wider benefits of the Levenmouth Rail Link also for the Tactran area. As the proposals will capitalise on the improved connectivity to and from Edinburgh from 2025 onwards, the 2025 timetable will, subsequently, increase the opportunities for local people within the region as it unlocks access to education and employment opportunities in Edinburgh's identified Growth Areas, and also attract inward investment in the Tactran region.