

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

17 MARCH 2026

2026/27 BUDGET AND PROGRAMME

JOINT REPORT BY DIRECTOR AND TREASURER

Purpose

This report updates the Partnership on Scottish Government and partner Council contributions towards the Partnership's 2026/27 Revenue Budget and seeks approval of a 2026/27 Core Revenue Budget and proposed 2026/27 RTS Revenue.

Summary

The Partnership approved a provisional 2026/27 Core Revenue Budget at its meeting on 16 December 2025. The forecast Reserves balance as at 31 March 2026 is £28,533 which represents approximately 5% of gross core expenditure. Core Revenue costs in 2026/27 are expected to be £540,929.

The RTS Revenue Programme budget is currently projected to be £186,609, subject to confirmation of final 2025/26 expenditure and interest income. This has been allocated to a number of budget headings to provide for maintaining momentum on RTS commitments and projects and anticipated emerging priorities over the coming year.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Partnership:

- (i) Notes requested Revenue contributions from partner Councils' towards the 2026/27 Core Budget;
- (ii) Notes the anticipated award of Scottish Government Grant in Aid of up to £496,613 in 2026/27;
- (iii) Approves the 2026/27 Core Budget as detailed in Appendix A;
- (iv) Approves an initial 2026/27 RTS Revenue Programme budget as detailed in sections 3.9 – 3.33 of the report and agrees to consider approval of a finalised 2026/27 Programme at the Partnership's next meeting on 16 June 2026; and
- (v) Notes the potential additional 2026/27 Revenue and Capital Income and agrees to receive a further update at its next meeting.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 16 December 2025 the Partnership approved a Core Revenue Budget for financial year 2026/27 and agreed to request that constituent Councils make provision for their respective funding contributions within their 2026/27 Revenue Budgets (Report RTP/25/44 refers). At that time the Partnership also noted the anticipated level of Scottish Government Grant-in-Aid funding to be provided for 2026/27 to Regional Transport Partnerships was awaited from Transport Scotland.

3 DISCUSSION

Income

- 3.1 In 2024/25 Transport Scotland informed Regional Transport Partnerships that they were to receive a one year 5% reduction in Grant-in-Aid from Scottish Government, this was repeated in 2025/26. Transport Scotland have indicated that the 5% reduction will remain for 2026/27. Hence it is now anticipated that the level of funding will remain as at 2024/25 levels, which for Tactran will be £496,613.
- 3.2 Partner Councils are expected to approve their 2026/27 Revenue Budgets following the issuing of this paper, but before the date of this Partnership meeting. At the time of writing of this report, the following information is based on the assumption that all Councils have made provision for contribution of their respective shares of the Partnership's Core operating costs, based upon the 2026/27 Budget approved on 17 December 2025, as follows:

Angus Council	£ 41,811
Dundee City Council	£ 51,856
Perth & Kinross Council	£ 55,312
Stirling Council	£ 33,586

2026/27 Core Revenue Budget

- 3.3 The 2026/27 Core Revenue Budget, as approved on 16 December 2025 is detailed in Appendix A. The 2026/27 Core Revenue Budget remains unchanged from the draft budget approved on 16 December 2025 (Report RTP/25/44 refers). The assumptions used to establish the Core Budget have been revisited and, at the time of writing this report, there is no justification to revise any of the budget lines.
- 3.4 The projected overspend in the 2025/26 Core Revenue Budget, as reported in the 2025/26 Revenue Budget and Monitoring Report remains in line with the update in December 2025. The reserves balance at 1 April 2026 is anticipated at £28,533 which represents 3.8% of gross budgeted expenditure, adjusted for recharges.

2026/27 RTS Revenue Programme

- 3.5 The Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) Revenue Programme is funded from Scottish Government's Grant in Aid allocation, supplemented by any additional contributions identified or secured from other funding sources.
- 3.6 The increase in Council contributions allows £358,364 of Scottish Government Grant in Aid to be allocated towards Core costs, leaving a balance of £138,249 Grant in Aid available to support RTS implementation (an increase of £78,598 compared to 2025/26).
- 3.7 The £138,249 Grant-in-Aid will be supplemented with anticipated interest income transferable from Core at the time of writing this report of c£11,000; and £35,860 arising from final variance in the 2025/26 RTS Revenue Programme budget, as discussed in the separate report on 2025/26 Programme and Monitoring. The provisional 2026/27 RTS Programme budget is therefore £185,109 subject to confirmation of final 2025/26 expenditure and interest income.
- 3.8 It is anticipated that this amount will be supplemented by funding contributions from the Tay Cities Local Authorities totalling £12,500 for their contribution to the maintenance, development and use of the Tay Cities Regional Transport Model.
- 3.9 The 2026/27 RTS Revenue Budget is aligned with the RTS Strategic Objectives of Take Climate Action; Improve Health and Wellbeing; Reduce Inequalities; Help Deliver Inclusive and Sustainable Growth. A proposed initial programme allocation of the anticipated budget of £197,609 which provides for RTS commitments and projects and anticipated emerging priorities over the coming year, is summarised in the table and paragraphs below:

RTS Project/Strategy	2026/27 Allocation
Development of RTS and Delivery Plan	£27,000
Take Climate Action	£30,000
Improve Health & Wellbeing	£14,000
Reduce Inequalities	£33,000
Help Deliver Inclusive & Sustainable Growth	£71,500
Contingency	£22,109
Total	£197,609

- 3.10 Opportunities for other income will be pursued throughout 2026/27.

Development of RTS and Delivery Plan (£27,000)

- 3.11 The proposed budget of £27,000 allows for work associated with the Regional Transport Strategy and annually recurring costs for required licences (Arc GIS license), memberships (Scotland Excel) and Tactran's Digital Marketing Strategy (£2000).
- 3.12 It is proposed £12,000 of this budget line be allocated to support monitoring of the RTS; and £5,000 contribution to a project led by NESTRANS which considers accessibility to services for those living in the Mearns area (North Angus / South Aberdeenshire).
- 3.13 Both of these work streams are intended to support the RTS outcomes of:

Improve ability for young people, and disadvantaged & rural communities to access jobs, education and services

Improve the ability of rural communities to access healthcare

Take Climate Action (£30,000)

- 3.14 This budget line supports Climate Action measures, such as supporting regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Hydrogen Decarbonisation projects and work understanding the options and issues in relation to the Draft Climate Change Plan target of reducing car km.
- 3.15 It is proposed £30,000 be allocated to initiatives continue work on understanding the implications of measures to reduce in car km.
- 3.16 This work stream supports the RTS outcomes of:

Reduce car kilometres (car km) driven

Reduce estimated CO₂ emissions from transport in the region

Improve Health & Wellbeing (£14,000)

- 3.17 It is proposed £2,000 providing be allocated to the annual Safe Drive/Stay Alive road safety campaign in Stirling Council area. The New Driver Scheme will continue to be implemented by Fire & Rescue and the Police in the Tayside area, with no funding requirement from Tactran. This work supports the RTS outcomes which seek to:

Reduce fatalities and injuries

- 3.18 It is also proposed that £12,000 be allocated to assist with NHS Health and Transport initiatives. This work stream supports the RTS outcomes which seek to:

Improve access to healthcare

Increase levels of physical activity

Reduce Inequalities (£33,000)

- 3.19 This budget line provides for initiatives that support reducing inequalities, such as Thistle Assistance Card App, Bus Alliances and MaaS.

- 3.20 It is proposed that £3,000 supports the Thistle Assistance Card Programme. This work stream supports the RTS outcomes which seek to:

Improve the ability of people with disabilities to access jobs, education and services

- 3.21 It is proposed that £30,000 supports the work of the Bus Alliances and in particular the Bus Development Plan. This work stream supports the RTS outcomes which seek to:

Improve access to healthcare

Increase the share of personal trips made by sustainable modes such as walking, cycling and public transport

Improve ability for young people, and disadvantaged & rural communities to access jobs, education and services

Help Deliver Inclusive and Sustainable Growth (£71,500)

- 3.22 It is proposed that £2,500 continues to support the work of the Stirling and Tayside Timber Transfer Group. This work stream supports the RTS Outcomes of:

Reduce the impact of traffic on communities

Improve journey time reliability for freight to key destinations

- 3.23 It is proposed £15,000 be allocated to a joint RTP workforce mobility planning tool which assists in the mapping and planning of public transport services to improve (employee and visitor) access to destinations. This work stream supports the RTS outcomes of:

Improved ability for young people, and disadvantaged and rural communities to access jobs, education and training

Modal shift to more sustainable modes of travel

- 3.24 It is proposed that £12,500 is allocated to the update of the Tay Cities Regional Transport Model. This would be matched by £12,500 from the Tayside Authorities and £25,000 from Transport Scotland. This work stream supports the RTS outcome of:

Reliable inter and intra-regional journey times

- 3.25 It is also proposed that £29,000 be allocated to support the work of the Freight Partnership. This work stream supports the RTS outcomes of:

Increase the share of EV and low emission vehicle use

Reducing freight mileage by road

Reduce transport emissions in declared air quality management areas

Reduce the impact of traffic on communities

Improve journey time reliability for freight to key destinations

Contingency (£22,109)

- 3.26 It is proposed that the balance of £22,109, around 12.4% of the budget, is retained as a general RTS Revenue Budget contingency to accommodate other emerging priorities and opportunities that may occur.
- 3.27 A final RTS Programme Budget for 2026/27, incorporating the final position in relation to underspend from 2025/26 and other anticipated income will be reported to the Partnership's next meeting on 16 June 2026.
- 3.28 The Partnership is asked to approve the indicative 2026/27 RTS Revenue Programme, as detailed above.

2026/27 Active & Sustainable Travel

Active Travel Behaviour Change - People and Place Grant Funding

- 3.29 As noted in a separate report to this meeting, it is anticipated that Tactran will receive approximately £2.28m grant funding directly from Transport Scotland in 2026/27 for Active and Sustainable Travel Behaviour Change initiatives from Transport Scotland's People and Place fund.
- 3.30 The draft proposals for this funding are outlined in the separate report to this meeting.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 The report has been prepared in consultation with the Tactran Regional Transport Liaison Group.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The main resource implications are addressed within the 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.

Mark Speed
Director

Scott Walker
Treasurer

Report prepared by Jonathan Padmore. For further information contact email jonathanpadmore@tactran.gov.uk or telephone 07919 880826.

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 this Report.

Report to Partnership RTP/25/44, 2026/27 Core Revenue Budget and Reserves Policy, 16 December 2025

**2026/27
Approved
Budget
£**

Income

Scottish Gov Grant Revenue	358,364
Council Requisition Revenue	182,565
Interest Received	-
	<u>540,929</u>

Expenditure**Staff Costs**

Salary GP	434,636
Salary Supn	68,238
Salary NI	59,954
Secondments	80,808
Project Recharge	(203,156)
Training/Conferences	2,000
Subscriptions	400
	<u>442,880</u>

Property Costs

Energy	6,000
Cleaning	2,500
Maintenance	500
Rent	13,490
Rates	4,942
	<u>27,432</u>

Supplies and Services

Office Consumables	4,125
Communications	1,500
Insurance	7,500
Information Technology	2,200
Hospitality	700
Board Expenses - misc.	500
	<u>16,525</u>

Transport Costs

Public Transport, Travel and Subsistence	3,000
Expenses - Board Members	500
	<u>3,500</u>

Third Party Payments

Audit Fees External	14,062
PKC Finance Service	14,000
PKC Secretariat Service	8,000
PKC Legal Services	3,000
PKC IT Services	8,250
Other Third Party Payments	3,280
	<u>50,592</u>

Gross Expenditure	<u>540,929</u>
-------------------	-----------------------

Net Income/(Expenditure)	-
--------------------------	---

Opening Core Reserves	28,533
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserve	-
Transfer to/(from) General Reserve	-
Closing Core Reserves	28,533