Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Annual Statement 2023/24

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Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Statement on Measures to Support Sustainable Economic Growth – 2023/24

1. Introduction

1.1 Tactran is the statutory Regional Transport Partnership covering the Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Stirling Council areas. The Partnership's principal statutory duties are to:

- create and oversee the delivery of the statutory Regional Transport Strategy (RTS);
- engage proactively in Community Planning and support implementation of Local Outcomes Improvement Plans;
- engage as a Key Agency in the Development Planning process at a regional and local level;
- support the achievement of statutory Climate Change objectives, as set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and associated Guidance; and
- meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

1.2 The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 requires listed public bodies to publish, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, a statement on the steps they have taken to promote and increase sustainable economic growth through the exercise of their functions. Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) are listed bodies within the Act.

1.3 Section 32(1)(a) of the Act places a duty on public bodies to publish a statement of the steps it has taken during the financial year to promote and increase sustainable economic growth through the exercise of its function.

1.4 This statement on Measures to Support Sustainable Economic Growth summarises the key areas of relevant Tactran activity during financial year 2023/24. It should be read in conjunction with the separate statement on Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy, and the financial information that is also required to be published under the Act.

1.5 All of this information can be viewed on, or downloaded free of charge from, the Partnership's website.

Regional Transport Strategy Development and Delivery

1.6 The Regional Transport Strategy 2015 – 2036 Refresh (RTS Refresh) was approved by the Minister for Transport and Islands in July 2015. The RTS Refresh supports Scottish Government's central purpose to promote inclusive, sustainable economic growth, whilst the 16 strategy Objectives align with Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes. The Strategy's 3 key strategic themes are:

- supporting economic prosperity;
- connecting communities and being socially inclusive; and
- promoting environmental sustainability and improving health and wellbeing.

1.7 Following completion of the RTS Refresh 2015 a comprehensive review and updating of the RTS Delivery Plan was completed during 2016/17, again in consultation with partner Councils and key stakeholders, with a progress report produced in 2018. A monitoring framework summary was included in the 2021/22 Annual Report outlining progress against key indicators.

1.8 Work commenced on developing a new Regional Transport Strategy for the Tactran region in late 2020, with a draft Main Issues Report developed in Spring 2021 and public and stakeholder engagement undertaken during Summer 2021. By the end of 2021/22 a draft set of objectives and outcomes for the RTS had been approved by the Partnership.

1.9 Between July 2022 and November 2022, a further public and stakeholder engagement was undertaken, 'A Conversation About Changing How We Travel'. This engagement exercise sought views on the draft objectives and outcomes; the scale of change required to hit national targets; and the types of measures which could help deliver the identified outcomes. In addition to this, work continued on a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Impact Assessments.

1.10 Tactran began 2023/24 by undertaking a 12-week public consultation on a draft Regional Transport Strategy and completed the year by submitting a new Draft RTS 2024 – 2034 to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport in February 2024 for approval. Ministerial approval was received on 30 April 2024 and the RTS 2024 – 2034 will be considered to be formally adopted by the Tactran Board at its meeting in June 2024.

1.11 Projects and initiatives progressed and/or implemented during 2023/24 are highlighted below.

Strategic Connectivity

- supporting Regional Transport Working Groups and City Deals for the Tay Cities and Stirling & Clackmannanshire city-regions.
- maintenance of the Tay Cities Regional Transport Model which is available to be used to assess projects in the Tay Cities Region, including joint working with other RTPs and Transport Scotland on all regional transport models undertaking a gap analysis and data collection exercise to update models following covid-19 pandemic.

Health and Transport

- further promotion of a Mobility as a Service (MaaS) pilot in partnership with NHS Tayside that will improve access to health facilities across the region.
- Supporting Safe Drive Stay Alive initiative in Stirling Council area and

continuation of the New Driver Scheme in the Tayside area.

Active Travel

- provision of £699,250 to Active Travel Grants projects aimed at improving the walking and cycling network and access to key services in the region,
- continued development of a Regional Active Travel Network including digital mapping and dashboard facility to provide a pipeline of prioritised projects across the region.
- preparation for active travel behaviour change initiatives to be implemented by Tactran in 2024/25 through a Transport Scotland grant.

Travel Planning

- further development and promotion of Travelknowhow Scotland website as a nationally available resource providing assistance to the Development Industry and Planners in designing, implementing and monitoring more sustainable approaches to travel planning associated with all types of development and land use.
- continued development and maintenance of regional and local Liftshare websites.

Buses

- maintenance and development of the Thistle Assistance website, App and Card.
- Bus Alliances, comprising Tactran (in conjunction with Sestran), Local Authorities, Bus Operators and Bus User organisation, continued to mature for both the Forth Valley area and Tayside area.
- Tayside Bus Alliance submitted its Strategic Business Case for 12 Bus Priority Corridors at the start of 2023/24 and provided further information to Transport Scotland's Gateway process. This led to funding upgrades to Urban Traffic Control to provide bus priority at signalised junctions in Dundee and Perth.
- as a result of Tayside Bus Alliance work, Perth & Kinross and Dundee City Council, in conjunction with the Tayside Bus Alliance submitted proposals to Sustrans' Places for Everyone fund to integrate active travel and bus priority measures on 3 sustainable transport corridors in Perth and Dundee.
- Forth Valley Bus Alliance has completed its Strategic Business Case at the end of 2023/24 but was yet to submit to Transport Scotland Gateway.
- a review of the opportunity and benefits arising from the new powers contained within the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 was undertaken, utilising funding from Community Bus Fund.

Park & Ride/Rail

- participation in East Coast Mainline Authorities (ECMA) consortium aimed at improving rail infrastructure and services on the East Coast Mainline between Aberdeen and London, with a particular focus on the economic benefits this provides.

- further development of Local Rail Development Fund (LRDF) assessments for Stirling Strategic Park & Ride; Tay Cities Park & Choose Strategy, while waiting on feedback from Transport Scotland on Bridge of Earn LRDF.
- participation as a key stakeholder in the development of Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail project aimed at improving journey times and increased capacity for passenger services and rail freight.

Freight

- continued support for Stirling and Tayside Timber Transport Group
- continued liaison with the freight and logistics industry through the Tactran Regional Freight Quality Partnership.

Travel Information

- under the banner of Integrated Mobility Partnership with Sestran continued development and promotion of the ENABLE Mobility as a Service (MaaS) project, with three projects in the Tactran region - GoNHS Tayside; Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority Journey Planner and Dundee and Angus College, myD&Atravel – aimed at using technology to improve access to health, education and rural areas.
- co-ordination of the Get on the Go Tayside social media campaign in partnership with the three Tayside Local Authorities, providing walking and cycling information and advice and encouraging healthier lifestyles.

Climate Change

- continuation of the Regional EV Steering Group, to assist in shared practice and the development of Local Authority EV strategies and expansion plans funded through Transport Scotland's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (EVIF).
- completed a Hydrogen analysis for larger vehicle in the public sector fleet in Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Stirling and continued to work in partnership with Transport Scotland and other partners to progress Hydrogen fuelling and vehicles in the area.

Community Planning

1.12 RTPs are statutory Community Planning agencies and partners. At its meeting on 12 December 2017 the Partnership endorsed the 4 partner Council area Local Improvement Output Plans (LOIPs). In formally endorsing the LOIPs the Partnership also agreed, in principle, to contribute to Participatory Budgeting in each CPP area, subject to further consideration of the detailed resource implications.

1.13 RTS Refresh policies were comprehensively mapped and aligned to support Community Planning priorities. The RTS Delivery Plan was aligned with the emerging LOIP priorities. This was to ensure that the Partnership's own activity and delivery priorities moving forward continue to support and contribute to achievement of defined National and Local Outcomes, including those relating

to inclusive, sustainable economic growth. The new Draft RTS 2024 – 2034 continues to support Community Planning.

1.14 Throughout 2023/24 Tactran continued to engage proactively and support the process of developing and implementing LOIPs, participatory budgeting and associated Locality Action Plans/Programmes and this will continue to be a key focus for the Partnership.

Development Planning

1.15 RTPs are designated as statutory Key Agencies in the Development Planning process reflecting the importance of ensuring that strategic transportation and land use policy and planning are aligned and integrated in a manner that fully supports inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

1.16 The RTS Refresh and the new Draft RTS 2024 – 2034 recognise and promote the principle that new development should be directed to the most economically and environmentally sustainable locations, supported by efficient, effective and sustainable transport systems and infrastructure, and also that existing developments should adopt more sustainable approaches to meeting current and future transport demands.

1.17 Along with other RTPs, Tactran has strongly promoted the integration of strategic transportation, economic development and planning in response to national consultations in line with its statutory Key Agency role in Development Planning.

1.18 The first statutory review and refresh of the RTS was aligned with the second iteration of the TAYplan Strategic Development Plan including a joint Main Issues public consultation. Following Scottish Parliamentary approval of the Fourth National Planning Framework, Strategic Development Plans are being replaced by Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). Tactran continues to engage proactively with the various Development Planning Authorities and Tactran officers have been involved in providing input and helping shape the interim Regional Spatial Strategies (iRSS) for Forth Valley and Tay Cities.

1.19 Tay Cities Region Deal has commenced a refresh the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). Tactran continued to be involved in developing the RES in 2023/24 through participation in the Heads of Economic Development group and the Director of Tactran chairing the Transport Board.

Climate Change Public Sector Duties

1.20 RTPs are designated public bodies with a statutory responsibility to contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets and generally act in a way that supports national climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes and frameworks.

1.21 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, which amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest.

1.22 Contributing to the achievement of the Scottish national targets and obligations on reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a specific key objective of the Regional Transport Strategy 2015-2036 Refresh and the new Draft RTS 2024 - 2034.

1.23 Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places duties on public bodies relating to climate change. The duties require that a public body must, in exercising its functions, act:

- in the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
- in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme; and
- in a way that it considers most sustainable.

1.24 A Climate Change Adaptation Policy Statement has also been prepared and approved by the Partnership in response to earlier feedback from the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) on previous annual reporting. The Transport Carbon Assessment and Climate Change Adaptation Policy Statement are available on the Climate Change page of the Tactran website.

1.25 Tactran has continued to assist our Local Authorities in developing Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategies and Expansion Plans. Tactran has also investigated measures to reduce car-km by 20% which considers options to assist in meeting the Climate Change targets. These initiatives require to be undertaken through a just transition.

1.26 Tactran submits an annual Public Sector Climate Change Report, with the latest report submitted in November 2023.

Further Information

1.27 Specific measures which the Partnership has progressed, implemented or supported through its 2023/24 activity, in fulfilment of its statutory role and duties, have been summarised above. However, further detailed information on projects, initiatives and the Partnership's activity generally can be obtained by visiting our website.

Mark Speed
Partnership Director
June 2024

Appendix C

Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Statement of Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy – 2023/24

1. Introduction

1.1 Tactran is the statutory Regional Transport Partnership covering the Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Stirling Council areas. The Partnership's principal statutory duties are to:

- create and oversee delivery of the statutory Regional Transport Strategy (RTS);
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1.2 The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 requires listed public bodies to publish, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, a statement on the steps they have taken to promote efficiency, effectiveness and economy through the exercise of their functions. Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) are listed bodies within the Act.

1.28 Section 32(1)(a) of the Act places a duty on public bodies to publish a statement of the steps it has taken to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in the exercise of its functions.

1.3 This statement summarises the key steps Tactran has taken during 2022/23 to improve its efficiency, effectiveness and economy in the exercise of our functions. It should be read in conjunction with the separate statement on Sustainable Economic Growth and the financial information that is also published under the Act.

1.4 All of this information can be viewed on, or downloaded free of charge from, the Partnership's website.

2. Progress and Activity During 2023/24

2.1 During the year a number of operational and/or cost efficiency initiatives were implemented, developed or maintained.

Public Sector Efficiency

2.2 Over previous years the Partnership has generated cumulative, recurring efficiency savings in its Core operating budget. As a small strategic body the scope and opportunities for achieving year on year efficiency savings, whilst maintaining the capacity and capability to fulfil and deliver on the Partnership's various and increasing statutory duties and obligations, is now limited.

2.3 This was highlighted in the KPMG Audit Report for 2018/19:

"Operationally, Tactran works with a small and efficient body of staff. As reflected in the prior year audit report, efficiency savings have been identified in the past years, with limited opportunities for further significant savings. The Partnership Board minutes and reports demonstrate an ongoing commitment to reviewing the staffing and operating model to ensure activities are delivered as efficiently as possible."

2.4 Although efficiency savings are limited these continue to be made where possible

Hybrid Working

2.5 Covid 19 global pandemic had a significant impact on working practices throughout the UK.

2.6 In the early stages of the pandemic Tactran employees were asked to work from home and were provided with the necessary IT equipment and other resources to allow homeworking to continue efficiently throughout the pandemic, with all meeting taking place virtually, whether this be internal or external meetings. As Covid 19 restrictions were lifted, Tactran staff adapted to hybrid working with a mixture of working at home on-line and in the office, undertaking meetings virtually or in-person, as suits the requirements. This hybrid working arrangement has continued throughout 2023/24.

2.7 In 2023 the Partnership Board meetings were also hybrid with members encouraged to attend in person but also able to attend virtually via Teams, with provision being made for these meeting to be open to public access and recorded on-line. In 2024 it has been agreed to hold three scheduled Partnership Board meetings virtually and one in person.

Staffing and Related Resources

2.8 In 2024/25 the Partnership retained a cash standstill of income contributions in terms of the Scottish Government Grant-in-Aid and the financial contributions from partner Councils.

2.9 The Tayside Bus Alliance Project Manager continued be part of the staff of Tactran, with funding for this post provided by Transport Scotland through the Bus Partnership Fund in 2023/24. The post has subsequently been extended to end of 2024/25.

2.10 The Partnership has an approved workplace Travel Plan for its own staff and a number of staff have undertaken fuel efficient driving training delivered by the Energy Savings Trust.

Shared Services

Administrative Support

2.11 Tactran receives Secretariat, Financial, Legal and IT support services, including cyber resilience, from Perth & Kinross Council. These services are provided to a high standard at rates which are considerably more competitive than could be achieved through external procurement of these statutorily necessary support services.

2.12 An earlier review of the division of administrative responsibilities undertaken by Tactran's own staff and support staff provided by Perth & Kinross Council resulted in a recurring 10% cost saving/annum. The service level agreements have been and will be kept under review.

Rent, Rates & Utilities

2.13 Through assiduous negotiation, the rent for the Tactran office located in central Perth has remained the same for the next occupation period within the terms of the lease. Following a change to the Non-Domestic Rates for the 2023/24 financial year, Tactran is now liable to pay rates on its premises. Additionally, there has been a significant increase in the energy costs for the Tactran premises. However, the price increases for gas and electricity are in line with those seen across the country.

2.14 The Tactran office lease term is to November 2025.

Procurement

2.15 Supplies, services and contracts to provide support for RTS project development and delivery and other Partnership activity are submitted to competitive tender in accordance with the Partnership's Financial Regulations and through Public Contracts Scotland. Tactran is a member of Scotland Excel and Public Contracts Scotland and utilises the SCAPE framework where appropriate.

2.16 In delivering specific project initiatives use is made of Transport Scotland and partner Councils' Term or Framework consultants in appropriate cases, resulting in work being undertaken at competitive rates secured through partner agencies' tendered framework agreements where these exist.

2.17 Tactran on occasion acts as an 'agent' for procurement on behalf of other RTPs on national projects, mainly through the support of external grant funding, and application of the Partnership's Financial Regulations and procurement protocols ensures good value for money.

External Grant Income

2.18 In recent years Tactran has been successful in securing external grant income to support the delivery of RTS projects and supplement the core grant and partner Council's financial contributions. For the financial year 2023/24 the external grant income included £206,909 to support the delivery of projects within the RTS programme and £699,250 for Active Travel Grant schemes, as follows:

- Travelknowhow Scotland website development and promotion – £72,139 grant funding received from Transport Scotland.
- Buses Strategy – review of the opportunity and benefits arising from the new powers contained within the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 - £73,350 received from Transport Scotland's Community Bus Fund.
- Local Rail Development Fund - £49,420 awarded by Transport Scotland for Tay Cities Park & Choose Strategy.
- Get on the Go social media campaign £12,000 received in total from Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross Councils.
- Active Travel Grant of £699,250 from Transport Scotland to deliver 20 active travel projects, in partnership with constituent Councils throughout the region.

Strategic Transportation Planning and Liaison

2.19 Tactran represents and liaises on behalf of its partner Councils with Transport Scotland, the Department for Transport, rail industry, Confederation of Passenger Transport, Road Haulage Association, Logistics UK, Sustrans, Cycling Scotland and various other relevant bodies on matters of national and regional policy and strategic transportation and connectivity interest.

2.20 The Regional Freight Quality Partnership provides a forum for engagement between the Partnership, its constituent Councils and the relevant freight sector provider and user interests.

2.21 Tactran provides input to the Tay Cities Deal through the Tactran Chair being a member of the Tay Cities Joint Committee; the Tactran Director being chair of the Tay Cities Transport Board that includes representation from Sustrans, Scottish Natural Heritage, ScotRail, Network Rail and Scottish Enterprise, as well as the 4 Tay Cities Local Authorities and the Senior Partnership Manager being a member of the Heads of Economic Development group.

2.22 The Regional Transport Liaison Group provides a forum for engagement with partner Councils, neighbouring RTPs and other relevant agencies on the development of regional and local transport strategies and initiatives, including joint and partner funding of schemes and other activity.

2.23 Towards the end of 2020, Tactran joined the Forth Valley Bus Alliance and established the Tayside Bus Alliance. Each of these alliances involve the relevant Local Authorities, Bus Operators and Bus Users organisation. Both

have undertaken Bus Priority STAG appraisals and continue to engage with Transport Scotland on taking these forwards.

2.24 The Tactran Regional Rail meeting provides a regular quarterly forum for key stakeholder engagement with ScotRail, Network Rail and Transport Scotland.

Mark Speed
Partnership Director
June 2024

Appendix A

Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010
Financial Information Statement
Period covering 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024

1 Public Relations Statement

Category	Supplier	External Costs - Invoiced	Total
Promotional - Get on the Go / Tactran	Flourish Marketing	13,871.44	13,871.44
Promotional - Social Listening	Flourish Marketing	4,166.60	4,166.60
		Total	18,038.04

2 Overseas Travel

Nil Return

3 Hospitality & Entertainment

Nil Return

4 External Consultancy

Supplier	Project/Service	Total	Supplier Total
Derek Halden Consultancy	Community Bus Fund - Pathfinder Project	73,350.00	73,350.00
Jacobs Ltd	RTS Development	19,878.67	19,878.67
Ove Arup & Partners Ltd	Regional Active Travel Network and Behaviour Change	148,799.36	148,799.36
Shona Drummond Marketing	Travelknowhow Scotland	70,959.00	70,959.00
Stantec UK Ltd	Local Rail Development Fund - Tay Cities	51,531.60	51,531.60
Taylor McKenzie Research & Marketing Ltd	Bus Market Reseach	16,050.00	16,050.00
			380,568.63

5 Payments over £25k

Payee	Reason	Total	Supplier Total
Derek Halden Consultancy	Community Bus Fund - Pathfinder Project	73,350.00	73,350.00
Ove Arup & Partners Ltd	Regional Active Travel Network and Behaviour Change	148,799.36	148,799.36
Shona Drummond Marketing	Travelknowhow Scotland	70,959.00	70,959.00
Stantec UK Ltd	Local Rail Development Fund - Tay Cities	51,531.60	51,531.60
Perth & Kinross Council	Support Services	33,250.00	33,250.00

6 Members or Employees who received remuneration in excess of £150,000

Nil Return