

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
DATE	21 st May 2013
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Strategic and Local Transportation Projects Update Report
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/13/074

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the progress to date of various strategic and local transportation projects within Aberdeen City and the wider area. These projects flow from the development of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) produced by Nestrans and the Council's own Local Transport Strategy (LTS).

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Members:

- a) Note the contents of this report;
- b) Endorse development through Nestrans including Board decisions and the 2013/14 programme of works;
- c) Agree that the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development, in consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener of this Committee, submit a response to the draft Regional Transport Strategy and supporting documents to Nestrans during the formal consultation period on behalf of Aberdeen City Council, for ratification by this Committee in September; and
- d) Agree to make electric vehicle charging free to the public, initially until the end of 2014, and to review this position in March 2014, when usage and costs to date will be reported back to the Committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The projects described in this report are being funded through various budgets including Nestrans, the Regional Transport Partnership. Details are included in the relevant sections. There are no implications for approved PBB options.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

A) Issues Requiring a Committee Decision

1 Nestrans Projects and Programmes

1.1 The Nestrans Board met on the 20th February 2013 and a copy of the minute of this meeting is included as Appendix A to this report. The Board also met on the 17th April 2013 and the minute of this meeting will be included within a future report to this Committee.

1.2 Nestrans Capital Programme 2013/14

The capital programme expenditure for 2013/14 was agreed at the Nestrans Board meeting on 20th February 2013. A description of each of the projects taking place in Aberdeen City follows.

1.2.1 Active Travel

Core Paths

Masonry repairs are to be undertaken, jointly funded with Aberdeenshire Council, to prevent further structural decay to the Don Bridge at Parkhill which forms part of the Formartine and Buchan Way. Surveys were carried out in April and work is due to take place between June and September.

Resurfacing and maintenance work on further Core Paths will also take place between June and November, accompanied by the installation of signage and the publication of trail leaflets.

Greenbrae Cycle Project

Phase 2 of the works was completed in spring 2013. The 2012/13 Annual Progress Report has been prepared and is available to view at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/communitycycling.

The next phase of work will involve implementing a cycle route from the study area to the community facilities on Jesmond Drive, with a particular emphasis on a safe route to Oldmachar Academy. Approval to launch the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process to implement a shared use route from Dubford Road to Middleton Park, along Scotstown Road and Jesmond Drive, was granted by this Committee in March 2013 and it is anticipated that the outcomes of this process will be reported back to the Committee in September, with implementation proposed for the autumn. This will involve converting two pedestrian crossings, on Scotstown Road and Jesmond Drive, to toucan crossings, installing shared use and directional signage and refreshing some dropped kerbs along the route.

A second TRO, to allow cyclists to use an existing path between Cypress Grove and Dubford Gardens, is also being progressed, and will contribute to the development of an east-west route in the north of the area.

Ellon Road Strategic Cycle Links

Preliminary design of a continuous cycle route from the Bridge of Don to the B999 / A90 roundabout will be completed by September.

Anderson Drive Strategic Cycle Links

Design will be carried out between May and July. Small scale improvements will be identified during the design phase and completed in October.

Dyce Drive Strategic Cycle Links

Design work and implementation of small-scale improvements will be completed in January 2014.

A96 Aberdeen to Blackburn Cycle Route

Design work in relation to localised widening, consideration of crossings and review of existing facilities will take place in July.

The Parkway Strategic Cycle Links

Design of a pedestrian and cycle route along the whole length of the Parkway will be completed by December 2013.

Aberdeen Beach Recreational Cycle Route

Surveys were carried out in April, with on-site works due to take place between June and September.

Westhill to Aberdeen Cycle Route Improvements

Minor improvements to the route will be undertaken in July.

1.2.2 Public Transport

Aberdeen City and Shire Joint Bus Stop Information Initiatives

A programme of replacement and/or provision of bus timetable display cases at bus stops within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire is ongoing.

Airport Bus Turning Circle

The detailed design of a bus turning circle accessed from Foinavon Close has concluded and the planning application is under consideration. Subject to a successful planning outcome, construction will take place later this year.

A96 Park and Choose

This will be delivered by Aberdeen City Council as part of the recently approved five year programme. See section 10 for further information.

1.2.3 Strategic Road Safety Improvements

Accident Reduction on Strategic Routes

Retexturing of sections of the B999 (Murcar Roundabout to Potterton), B979 (Malcolm Road to Westhill) and the road from Kingswells Roundabout to Kirk Brae, Cults will commence during the summer and be completed by November 2013.

1.2.4 Freight

A947 Oldmeldrum Road / Dyce Drive Junction Improvement

Increased radii to improve turning manoeuvres for HGVs and to ease congestion will be implemented in August.

Howe Moss Drive / Dyce Drive Junction Improvement

Increased radii to improve turning manoeuvres for HGVs, ease congestion and improve pedestrian safety will be implemented in September.

1.3 Nestrans Revenue Programme 2013/14

The revenue programme expenditure for 2013/14 was agreed at the same meeting and details of the programme within Aberdeen City are provided below.

1.3.1 Bus Action Plan

Bus Link Improvements to Anderson Drive

A study is ongoing to identify improvements for public transport along and across Anderson Drive following implementation of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR).

1.3.2 Project Feasibility and Monitoring

Bridge of Dee Project Feasibility and Development

Work this year will focus on completing the formal Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) and Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Stage 1 assessments.

The STAG process has been ongoing throughout 2012/13 with a programme developed to enable completion of the STAG Part 1 element during 2013/14:

- Environmental Performance (April 2013) - Data Gathering for Baseline Condition and completion of Environmental Assessment including Initial Part 1 Appraisal Summary Tables (AST) Compilation;
- Safety Performance (May 2013) - Evaluate Safety Performance including Initial Part 1 AST Compilation (Safety Assessment);
- Economic Performance (July 2013) - Data Gathering and completion of Economic Assessment including Initial Part 1 AST Compilation;

- Accessibility & Social Inclusion Performance (July 2013) - Evaluate Performance (Community Access & Comparative Access) including Initial Part 1 AST Compilation (Accessibility & Social Inclusion Assessment);
- Integration Performance (August 2013) - Carry out Integration Assessment including Initial Part 1 AST Compilation;
- Public Acceptability Performance (November 2013) - Continuing consultation throughout the process including preparation of Public Acceptability Assessment; and
- Reporting (January 2014) - Preparation of Final Part 1 ASTs and Preparation of Volume 2 of 4 of STAG Report.

Information relating to the study including the pre-appraisal report has been published on the Aberdeen City Council website:

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/transport_streets/roads_pavements/transport_projects/roa_access_from_south_home.asp.

The website now also includes draft plans of the various options being considered.

Members have been kept up to date on progress of this study with a briefing session held on 11th March 2013.

There will be continued opportunities for stakeholder and public engagement throughout the appraisal process and Members will be kept up to date on progress through future reports to this Committee.

Feasibility and Design Aspects of Locking in the Benefits

A programme of work and key milestones will be developed for 2013/14 and reported to Members at the next Committee meeting.

Economic and Environmental Assessment for City Centre Pedestrianisation

Key milestones will be included in the next report to this Committee.

1.4 Nestrans's total expenditure within Aberdeen City for 2013/14 is anticipated to be £914,000 capital and £295,000 revenue.

1.5 It is therefore recommended that Members endorse development through Nestrans as outlined above, including Board decisions and the 2013/14 programme of work.

1.6 Regional Transport Strategy

1.6.1 In February 2013 the Nestrans Board agreed to undertake formal consultation on the refreshed Regional Transport Strategy (RTS). A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) have been undertaken and were presented to the Board on 17th April 2013. Nestrans has now launched a six-week consultation period on the RTS and supporting documents.

1.6.2 Officers are currently reviewing the documents. The deadline for submitting a formal response is prior to the next meeting of this Committee therefore it is recommended that the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development, in consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener of this Committee, submits a response to Nestrans on behalf of Aberdeen City Council during the formal consultation period, for ratification by this Committee in September.

2 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Procurement Support Scheme

2.1 In previous reports to this Committee, Members were informed that £120,000 had been made available to install Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in the City. Seven provisional sites were identified and Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) has confirmed that these locations have sufficient power to support the units. Assistance in completing these works is being provided by the Council's Lighting and Structures teams. In addition, it is hoped that the units in Marischal College car park and West North Street car park can be made available for members of the public to use.

2.2 Officers within Planning and Sustainable Development are also working with colleagues in the Road Safety and Traffic Management team to progress TROs to allow 'electric vehicle only' parking spaces to be created. The Statutory Consultation process is now underway.

2.3 As part of the grant funding agreements all units must be able to communicate with a back office facility set up by Transport Scotland. This will not only capture data on usage of the units but will also run the operation of the units, including the user interface part that allows people to connect their vehicles and charge them. This set-up is included in the commissioning cost of the units.

2.4 Transport Scotland is also encouraging Councils to offer vehicle charging services for free. Glasgow City Council has agreed and is now offering both free parking and charging to EVs, while Dundee Council and Aberdeenshire Council have indicated they will make vehicle charging free until the end of 2014.

2.5 At present there are twelve registered EVs in the North East of Scotland which are likely to use publicly available infrastructure. Figures suggest that the majority of charging will take place at owners' homes overnight so, in the short term, the public charging network is most likely to be used by visitors to the city or people "topping up" as part of a journey. Transport Scotland's figures suggest that if a car turns up with 20% charge left in its batteries, to achieve 100% charge will cost £2.50 worth of electricity. It is expected that in the next year, from June 2013 to June 2014, no more than two vehicles a week would use the facilities on any charger. Based on these figures and based on twenty publicly accessible charging outlets, this should cost

the Council around £200 per month which, assuming the units go live for the end of June, is estimated to cost the Council £1800 to the end of March 2014.

- 2.6 It is therefore recommended that Aberdeen City Council adopt a similar model to Dundee and Aberdeenshire and make vehicle charging free until the end of 2014. It is also recommended however that this position is reviewed at the end of March 2014 and usage and costs are reported back to this Committee. In the interim if EV take up accelerates faster than expected officers will report back sooner.

B) Issues for Information

Active Travel and Air Quality

3 School Cycling Initiatives

- 3.1 On 17th April 2013, an officer from Cycling Scotland visited Muirfield School to present them with the Cycle Friendly School award in recognition of their achievements in encouraging and facilitating cycling to school. This brings the number of Cycle Friendly Schools in Aberdeen to 10. The Getabout Bike Roadshow will be visiting Muirfield School on 17th June as part of the 2013 Bike Week celebrations.
- 3.2 A covered cycle and scooter parking facility, capable of accommodating 10 bicycles and 18 scooters, will be installed at Ashley Road School during May.

4 Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP)

- 4.1 As Members will be aware from previous reports to this Committee, officers in Planning and Sustainable Development are preparing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), a transport masterplan which will look at the City Centre as a whole to achieve a range of urban transport solutions. The SUMP will enhance and further develop the transport themes contained within the adopted City Centre Development Framework and will seek to provide a comprehensive and detailed guide to how transport connections will develop over the next 25 years and how these connections will help to achieve regeneration of the City Centre.
- 4.2 In March 2013 the Aberdeen SUMP was recognised as an example of best practice, winning the European Commission's 2012 Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan Award for stakeholder and citizen participation. With the Award came a prize of 10,000 Euros to be spent on promoting sustainable transport initiatives. Officers indicated in the original submission that the prize money would be used for a City Centre event and a transport model of the City Centre, as well as on promoting the final SUMP document.

5 Car Club

- 5.1 The 2nd of April 2013 saw the first anniversary of the launch of the Co-wheels Car Club in Aberdeen. The Club now has 12 cars, 12 corporate members including Aberdeen City Council, over 400 individual members and is one of the fastest growing Car Clubs in the UK (Carplus, 2012). Three electric vehicles will also soon be joining the fleet, making the Aberdeen Co-wheels Club the first Car Club in Scotland to have electric vehicles. A new landing page specifically for Aberdeen has been created on the Co-wheels website: www.co-wheels.org.uk/Aberdeen.
- 5.2 Following a successful trial, City Council staff Car Club members will soon be able to use their ID badge rather than a separate Car Club smartcard to access vehicles. As well as being more convenient, this will allow any staff member to book a car 24 hours after signing up to join the Car Club.

6 Air Quality Action Plan

- 6.1 The Council has been awarded £50,000 from the Scottish Government to spend on Air Quality Action Plan measures during 2013/14. As 90% of the air quality problems in Aberdeen are caused by traffic, this is outlined for transport and air quality promotional campaigns, journey time expansion, freight distribution activities, an air quality/active travel event in the city centre and development of the SUMP.

Public Transport

7 Bus Lane Enforcement

- 7.1 The bus lane enforcement camera system became operational on 25th March 2013. A four week grace period ensued where drivers caught using the bus lanes illegally were sent a Warning Notice informing them that they had been observed breaking the law. This grace period came to an end on 22nd April 2013 and formal Charge Notices are now being issued to offenders driving non-authorised vehicles in bus lanes during their hours of operation.

8 Bus Stop Smart Phone Technology

- 8.1 A new method of accessing bus timetable information using a mobile phone has been introduced at bus stops across the region as part of the ongoing Quality Partnership for Public Transport in the North-East of Scotland between Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Nestrans, Stagecoach Bluebird and First Aberdeen.
- 8.2 Through the use of Quick Recognition (QR) codes and Near Field Communications (NFC) tags, customers with smart phones can now

interact with their bus stop to receive more detailed information than that displayed on the printed roadside timetable.

- 8.3 The smart phone displays a departure board with information about the next buses departing from the stop they are interacting with. The information displayed is the scheduled departures in chronological order and also real time information where this is available. There are also codes which link directly to the websites of First Aberdeen and Stagecoach Bluebird which allow passengers to gain further information on fares, service changes and so on.
- 8.4 The use of QR and NFC together for this purpose and on this scale is a first for the public transport industry in Scotland.

9 Night Bus Signs

- 9.1 Signs have now been installed on all bus stops in the City Centre that have designated night bus services departing from them. These signs are lit during the hours of darkness and are now operational. This project forms another element in the creation of a safe and secure Night Time Transport Zone in Aberdeen City Centre.

10 East Coast Main Line

- 10.1 An initiative by York Council has seen initial steps to create an East Coast Mainline Association (ECMA), intending to increase local input into the East Coast rail franchising process. Edinburgh City Council has taken a lead in trying to co-ordinate a Scottish participation in the ECMA. Initial meetings have identified some concerns across Scotland, including a lack of clarity whether the franchise is to be kept with a focus on long distance services under the Department for Transport and Transport Scotland or if the franchise is to include more local services and the responsibilities are subsequently devolved on a regional level, the latter being supported by Edinburgh City Council. The North East Rail Action Plan, endorsed by both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils, recognises the East Coast Main Line as a long distance route and as such, should continue to focus on such services and operations. This view is also shared by HITRANS and TACTRAN.
- 10.2 A request was made to the other partners on ECMA to extend the Scottish representations to two members rather than one and that this be the HITRANS rail advisor, who represents the views of the North and North East. This has been accepted by the ECMA secretariat (York Council).
- 10.3 This Committee will be kept apprised of the outcomes of future discussions and any further developments that affect the East Coast Main Line.

11 Non-Housing Capital Projects

11.1 At the Full Council meeting on February 14th 2013, Councillors agreed the Non-Housing Capital Programme to 2017/18. This includes the following:

- Central Aberdeen Infrastructure:
 - Union Street Pedestrianisation
 - Berryden Corridor Improvements
 - South College Street Improvements;
- A96 Park and Choose Facility and Dyce Drive Link Road;
- Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route; and
- Third Don Crossing

11.2 Officers are currently preparing programmes for each of these projects and key milestones will be reported to the next meeting of this Committee.

Other

12 Scottish Transport Awards 2013

12.1 Aberdeen City Council and its partners have been shortlisted for a total of 11 Scottish Transport Awards. The awards ceremony takes place in Glasgow on 20th June 2013. The Council has been shortlisted for:

- Scottish Transport Local Authority of the Year – although nominations are based on self-submissions, the Transport Times judging panel were so impressed with the overall quality of Aberdeen's entries that they felt that Aberdeen City Council deserved to be considered in this category also, despite the Council not formally submitting an entry to this category.

Other shortlisted entries are:

- Most Effective Road Safety, Traffic Management and Enforcement Project – Improving Road Safety in Aberdeen
- Best Practice in Travel to School and Work Schemes – School Cycling Initiatives
- Achievements in Cycling – The Greenbrae Cycle Project
- Excellence in Walking and Public Realm – The Green Streetscape
- Contribution Towards Sustainable Transport – The Strategic Transport Fund (with Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority)
- Contribution Towards Sustainable Transport – Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan
- Contribution Towards Sustainable Transport – Aberdeen Car Club (with Co-wheels and Nestrans)
- Most Innovative Transport Project of the Year - The Strategic Transport Fund (with Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council and

Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority)

- Transport Team / Partnership of the Year - Aberdeen Royal Infirmary Bus Interchange (with Nestrans and NHS Grampian)
- Excellence in Travel Information and Marketing - Aberdeen Car Club (with Co-wheels and Nestrans).

6. IMPACT

The contents of this report link to the Community Plan vision of creating a 'sustainable City with an integrated transport system that is accessible to all'.

All of the projects and strategies referred to in this report will contribute to delivery of the Smarter Mobility aims of *Aberdeen – The Smarter City*: “We will develop, maintain and promote road, rail, ferry and air links from the city to the UK and the rest of the world. We will encourage cycling and walking”, and “We will provide and promote a sustainable transport system, including cycling, which reduces our carbon emissions.”

The projects identified in this report will also assist in the delivery of actions identified in the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA), in particular the delivery of both Local and Regional Transport Strategies which will contribute directly and indirectly to 14 out of the 15 National Outcomes described in Aberdeen City Council's 2009/10 SOA.

The LTS and RTS from which the transportation schemes within this report are an integral part have been subject to Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessments.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

All background papers are referenced within the main body of the report.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix A

NORTH EAST TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Transport Partnership

Aberdeen, 20 February 2012

- Present: Councillor Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor Milne (Deputy Chair); Eddie Anderson (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Finlayson, Grant, and McCaig (Aberdeen City Council), Councillors Buchan, Clark, and Latham (Aberdeenshire Council); Jennifer Crow (External member); Stephen Archer and Maggie Bochel (Advisers to the Board).
- In attendance: Martin Allan (Aberdeen City Council), Tom Buchan (Aberdeenshire Council), Rebecka Coull (Aberdeen City Council), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Kirsty Morrison (Nestrans), Derick Murray (Nestrans) and Ewan Wallace (Head of Transportation, Aberdeenshire Council).
- Apologies: Derek Provan (External Member), and David Sullivan (External Member).

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located at the following link:

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/48/board-meetings.html>

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to approve the minute as a correct record; and
- (ii) to agree that the final meeting of the Board in 2013 would be held on 16 December at 2pm.

PRESENTATION – AVIATION ISSUES

2. The Director advised that Laurie Price (Director of Aviation Strategy – Mott MacDonald) was unable to attend today's meeting, but had provided his presentation to Mr Murray, who spoke through the slides, which covered (a) airport charges – Civil Aviation Authority remit, (b) night movement policy, (c) the Davies Airports Commission, (d) the role of the EU and (e) Public Service Obligation agreements.

The Board resolved:

to note the information provided, and to request that the slides be made available for members to view on the Nestrans website.

LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS, THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

3. With reference to article 2 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on liaison with other Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs), the Scottish Government and others.

The meetings included –

- Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group in Aberdeen on 18 December 2012
- Aviation Summit in Aberdeen on 29 January 2013
- Regional Transport Partnership lead officers in Edinburgh on 1 February 2013 and in Perth on 13 February 2013
- Community Rail Partnership Conference in Edinburgh on 19 February 2013

The Board resolved:

to note progress on liaison arrangements with other Regional Transport Partnerships, the Scottish Government, and others.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY REFRESH

4. With reference to article 4 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which brought members up to date with the refresh of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) that was being undertaken, and presented the draft refresh document.

The report advised that the next steps were as follows –

- to complete the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) environmental report and equalities impact assessment
- to provide Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils with a formal opportunity to comment on the refresh of the strategy, environmental report and equalities impact assessment
- to provide further opportunity to North East Transport Consultative Forum members to comment on the draft refreshed document
- to submit the environmental report, proposed RTS to the SEA consultation authorities for comment, as well as making this available to stakeholders and the public
- to take on board the comments of SEA consultation authorities, partner councils and stakeholders
- to report the final refresh back to this Board for approval, and
- submit the RTS to Scottish Ministers for approval.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the content of the report; and
- (ii) to approve the proposed next steps as outlined above.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND – UPDATE

5. With reference to article 5 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which updated members on the payments received into the Strategic Transport Fund since the aforementioned meeting.

The Board resolved:

to note the update on payments into the Strategic Transport Fund.

COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

6. The Board had before it a report by the Director which updated the Board on proposed amendments to the arrangements and structures for community planning in Aberdeen city, and on progress made in updating the Single Outcome Agreements (SOA) for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. The Director noted that transport had been identified as a multi lateral priority within the SOA, and advised that as a statutory partner, Nestrans was currently represented on the Community Planning Aberdeen Board, but that he had also requested representation at a management team level.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the proposed changes in structure for Community Planning in Aberdeen;
- (ii) to note the work being undertaken to review and update the Single Outcome Agreements in Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire; and
- (iii) to request that the RTS refresh be placed on the agendas for the next Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Community Planning Boards.

CYCLING ACTION PLAN FOR SCOTLAND (CAPS) – REFRESH

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director which brought members up to date on the Scottish Government's Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS), and presented the response provided by officers on behalf of Nestrans on the consultation document.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the content of the report;
- (ii) to homologate the attached response to the consultation on the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland refresh as Nestrans' view.

PROGRESS REPORT

8. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 2 February 2013.

The Board resolved:

to note the content of the progress chart.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

9. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which summarised and advised on a number of different publications and consultations as follows and sought approval of draft responses as appropriate –

- Scottish Government: Ferries Plan
- Network Rail: Strategic Business Plan 2014 – 19
- Transport Scotland: Community Rail Partnerships
- Night Time Flying
- Ethical Standards in Public Life
- Davies Commission

The Board resolved:

to note the report and the documents referred to therein.

BUDGETS 2013 – 14

10. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which presented the capital and revenue budgets for 2013/14, and a breakdown of the budgets was appended to the report.

The Board noted that the 2011/12 capital programme, agreed by the Board on 16 February 2011 (article 7(B) refers) had included a provision of £356,000 to progress the land purchase and other works for the Inverurie Transport Interchange. £343,000 had been held on the balance sheet for this year but this work had not been able to progress. Given the level of challenges facing this project, officers were now of the opinion that it would be appropriate for the funds to be released in 2013/14 and principally used to fund the purchase of land at Kintore for the development of a rail station. Negotiations with the land owners were at an advanced stage and while it had been hoped to conclude the bargain this year, it was likely that the sale would be concluded in April 2013.

The budget available for Capital projects in 2013/14 was therefore estimated to be £2,397,000 made up of £2,054,000 from partner Councils and £343,000 carried forward from previous years.

The Board was advised that the proposed budgets may still be subject to amendment following final confirmation of budget allocations by the Councils and formal confirmation of the Government grant.

The Board resolved:

to approve the 2013/14 revenue and capital budgets of £1,026,350 and £2,397,000 with programmes as detailed in appendices 2 and 3, subject to anticipated funding levels being confirmed.

BUDGET MATTERS

11. With reference to article 12 of the minute its previous meeting of 12 December 2012 the Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which provided an update on the Partnership's budget and forecast outturn in this regard, and outlined a number of virements for both the capital and revenue budgets as follows –

- (1) civils works on the A947 Route Action bend improvement strategy would not be completed by the end of the current financial year. Materials were being purchased, but it was proposed that the **Nestrans contribution be reduced by £65,000**. It was unlikely that the full budget allocated for the A90 (S) Park and Ride project would be required this year and a further **reduction in budget of £15,000** was suggested. The contract for the Fraserburgh bus station refurbishment had been awarded and would commence on 25 February, but the 12 week construction period would continue into next financial year. It was therefore proposed **to reduce the Nestrans contribution to this project by £22,000**.

- (2) the scheme costs for the Peterhead Cycle Demonstration project had increased as a result of a need to upgrade the lighting facilities and the costs associated with purchasing and installing new lighting columns. It was proposed that the **budget be increased by £25,000**. It was suggested that the remaining predicted underspends be used to **increase the contribution to Ellon Park and Ride by £77,000 to £152,000**.

The report further advised that £111,000 had been received from developers to date towards the Strategic Transport Fund (STF) and that this money would be retained in the fund in the balance sheet and would not be shown as income in the accounts until works associated with STF projects commenced. Members noted that the fund would release monies to match the level of expenditure as it is incurred.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the monitoring position and forecast; and
- (iii) to approve the proposed budget virements detailed above.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

12. With reference to article 13 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12

December 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring a decision as follows –

- May 2013 rail timetable
- Dyce station update
- Franchising
- A96 dualling and Laurencekirk junctions
- Concessionary fares
- Perth consolidation centre

In relation to the update provided in relation to the May 2013 rail timetable, members noted that ScotRail were developing proposals to increase the Sunday Aberdeen – Dyce – Inverurie service, and noted that the Board had previously agreed to fund any revenue shortfall, up to £25,000 (article 5(A) of the minute of meeting of 16 February 2011 refers).

Members intimated their disappointment at the response received from Transport Scotland in relation to the Laurencekirk junction.

Members raised concerns in relation to congestion in the Dyce area, and officers advised that traffic signals were being looked at in order to ensure they were set at the best fixed time cycle, but added that a link road to the airport was a priority.

In relation to the issues raised at the previous meeting in relation to taxi queues at the Aberdeen International Airport and Aberdeen Railway Station, officers advised that (1) the airport would be incorporating this into the tendering process for the next taxi contract; and (2) they had raised the issue with the railway station.

At this juncture, the Chair advised that Colin Parker (Chief Executive, Aberdeen Harbour Board), had hosted members on a tour of the harbour by boat, and intimated the Board's thanks to the Harbour Board for the helpful and informative tour.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the information as presented;
- (ii) to agree, in terms of the previous decision of the Board at its meeting of 16 February, 2011 to allocate £25,000 to enable the proposal to increase the Sunday Aberdeen – Dyce – Inverurie service to proceed on a one year pilot.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

13. With reference to article 14 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director summarising recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to the Partnership along with presentations by Nestrans and its partners.

The Board resolved:

to note the information as presented.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

14. With reference to article 15 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director detailing pending business and information on reports to be submitted to future Board meetings.

The Board resolved:

to note the information.

- PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson