

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Strategic Planning and Infrastructure
DATE	12 November 2013
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Strategic and Local Transportation Projects Update Report
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/13/193

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### 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 progress on the 2013/14 programme of works;
- c) Agree that the policy for Complementary Uses of Park and Ride Sites which was approved by this Committee on 15th March 2011 be modified to include consultation as set out in Section 2;
- d) Approve officers' proposed response to Nestrans on the draft Freight Action Plan refresh; and
- e) Endorse officers' response to Aberdeen International Airport's draft Noise Action Plan 2013-2018 consultation.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> June, 28<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The minute of the June meeting is included as Appendix A to this report; the minutes of the August and October meetings will be included in 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 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013. An update on each of the projects taking place in Aberdeen City follows.

#### 1.2.1 Active Travel

##### Core Paths

Improvements to the Coastal Path are now complete. Additional structural works are being carried out on the third arch of the Don Bridge at Parkhill, which forms part of the Formartine and Buchan Way, and should be complete by the end of November 2013.

##### Greenbrae Cycle Project

Following completion of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process, work is ongoing to implement two new shared use pedestrian and cycle routes, one from Dubford Road to Middleton Park, the other from Dubford Gardens to Cypress Grove. The former necessitates the replacement of two pedestrian crossings (on Scotstown Road and Jesmond Drive) with toucan crossings. Resurfacing work, signing and lining will be implemented by the end of 2013 with the toucan crossings anticipated to follow early in the New Year.

Results of the 2013 Hands Up school travel survey show that Greenbrae School has maintained a healthy active travel rate with 48% of pupils regularly walking to school, 5% cycling and 8% scooting or skating. A more in-depth survey, conducted with Primary 4 to 7 pupils, revealed that, while only 3.6% cited cycling as their 'usual' method of travel to school, a further 27% stated that they 'sometimes' cycled to school. 71% of pupils questioned stated that the improvements that had taken place in their neighbourhood since the project began had encouraged them to travel by foot, bike or scooter more often. A separate survey is being conducted with adult members of the community and the results of this will be available in early 2014. The information captured from these surveys will be used to inform the direction of the project next year as it nears the end of its anticipated lifespan.

##### Ellon Road Strategic Cycle Links

Following completion of a feasibility study, a detailed design works report is being prepared. It is hoped that funding can be secured to commence implementation of this route next financial year.

##### Anderson Drive Strategic Cycle Links

Design of Phase 1 (Bridge of Dee to Cromwell Road), Phase 2 (Midsocket Road to Ashgrove Road West), Phase 3 (King's Gate to Earls Court Gardens)

and Phase 4 (Haudagain Roundabout to Kingshill Road) is now complete. Consultation on the proposals has taken place and officers are currently analysing the feedback received. A Statutory Regulation Order (SRO) is being prepared with a view to implementing some small-scale improvements this financial year.

#### Dyce Drive Strategic Cycle Links

The design and potential installation of a missing cycle link from Dyce Avenue to Argyll Road along the north side of Dyce Drive is ongoing.

#### A96 Aberdeen to Blackburn Cycle Route

Options to increase the width of the path have been identified however issues exist with regards to the immediate implementation of such improvements. Opportunities to implement these will be reviewed annually by officers to determine an appropriate timescale.

#### The Parkway Strategic Cycle Links

Following on from the feasibility study for a shared use cycle route on the south side of the Parkway, a further report was requested from the consultants on options for a path on the north side. This has now been received and is being reviewed by officers. Consultation will be undertaken to determine the most appropriate solution to be taken forward for detailed design and ultimately implementation in future years.

#### Aberdeen Beach Recreational Cycle Route

Work on a recreational route linking School Drive/Golf Road with the Beach Esplanade is due for completion by the end of December 2013, jointly funded by the Council's CWSS (Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets) allocation.

#### Westhill to Aberdeen Cycle Route Improvements

Discussions are ongoing as to the optimum solution for drainage problems on this route.

### 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 stops within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire is ongoing.

#### Airport Bus Turning Circle

Conditional planning permission has been granted and a contract for tender is currently being prepared.

#### A96 Park and Choose

Preparatory work is underway in anticipation of the facility being open in autumn 2015.

### 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 is now complete.

#### 1.2.4 Freight

##### A947 Oldmeldrum Road/Dyce Drive Junction Improvement

Relining has now taken place. Junction widening will be complete by the end of the year.

##### Howe Moss Drive/Dyce Drive Junction Improvement

Land issues have been identified at this location and officers are reviewing how best to resolve these. Implementation will be delayed subject to successful conclusion of the land issues.

### 1.3 Nestrans Revenue Programme 2013/14

The revenue programme expenditure for 2013/14 was agreed at the same meeting and updates on each of the projects taking place 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 is ongoing to complete 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 (**completed**) - Data Gathering for Baseline Condition and completion of Environmental Assessment including Initial Part 1 Appraisal Summary Tables (AST) Compilation;
- Safety Performance (**completed**) - Evaluate Safety Performance including Initial Part 1 AST Compilation (Safety Assessment);
- Economic Performance (**completed**) - Data Gathering and completion of Economic Assessment including Initial Part 1 AST Compilation;
- Integration, Accessibility & Social Inclusion Performance (**completed**) - Evaluate Performance including Initial Part 1 AST Compilation;
- Public Acceptability Performance (**November 2013**) – Public consultation held in September 2013 followed by 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 Council website:

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/transport\\_streets/roads\\_pavements/transport\\_projects/roa\\_access\\_from\\_south\\_home.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/transport_streets/roads_pavements/transport_projects/roa_access_from_south_home.asp). The website also includes draft plans of the various options being considered.

An informal public consultation was held during September at various venues and online. Officers are currently analysing the feedback received.

#### Feasibility and Design Aspects of Locking in the Benefits

Discussion is being undertaken on the focus of this piece of work and details will be provided to this Committee in due course.

#### Economic and Environmental Assessment for City Centre Pedestrianisation

Due to the revised priorities of the Council, the Union Street Pedestrianisation study is now expected to commence in February 2014. As the Nestrans contribution would require to be completed by the end of March 2014 it was agreed with Nestrans that the funding be reallocated to the Aberdeen City Centre Traffic Model upgrade which is due for completion in November 2013. The model will be used to test traffic options for Broad Street in relation to the Marischal Square development and for the City Centre as a result of Union Street Pedestrianisation.

- 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 progress on the 2013/14 programme of work.

## **2 Complementary Uses of Park and Ride Sites**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012 this Committee requested that officers report back to the appropriate Committee on how future events of the type described for Parks and Open Spaces are to be managed in Park and Ride sites.
- 2.2 Previously a report was agreed by this Committee on 15th March 2011 setting out a procedure for the potential use of Park and Ride sites for events. The procedure followed the Council's letting system for schools and educational establishments which considers a range of uses by others, both internal Council and external partner services, which comply with the agreed terms of use. Priority is given to the primary purpose with other requests accommodated where possible. Various charges are applied. This system of letting was therefore considered suitable as a means of managing usage of Park and Ride sites. A charging regime was subsequently agreed by the Finance and Resources Committee on 21st April 2011 with users invoiced dependant on the type and length of usage and on whether the application

was internal or external to the Council. At present only the Kingswells site falls under the policy but the inclusion of any future Park and Ride sites would be considered on a case by case basis.

- 2.3 Events at the Kingswells Park and Ride site tend to be small in nature and take place over short periods, such as cycle training. There has been one instance where what the Council was led to believe was a small event resulted in some issues but in general the events that have been approved have taken place without incident. The original report of 15th March 2011 considered that wider consultation was unnecessary and would be disproportionate given the likely size of events. However, discussions with a local Member have identified a desire for wider consultation with the adjacent Kingswells community to make them aware of events that are being considered for approval at the site. In light of these discussions it has been agreed that, in order to promote greater openness, a designated member of the Kingswells Community Council will be informed of any event which the City Council is minded to approve. The designated member will then be given five working days to respond and, if they disagree with the proposed use, it will be referred to the three local Members who will be given a further five working days to respond. The above timescales would be the minimum required for a response and the timings of proposed events may allow for some flexibility in the response times.
- 2.4 It is considered that the procedures developed for the approval of complementary uses of Park and Ride sites will be enhanced by this adjustment to the policy. The input from a local community representative will allow greater openness and will assist in improving the process for identifying and approving suitable uses. It is therefore recommended that the policy for Complementary Uses of Park and Ride Sites which was approved by this Committee on 15th March 2011 be modified to include consultation as set out above.

### **3 Freight Action Plan Refresh**

- 3.1 The Freight Action Plan (FAP) was developed in 2008 in consultation with the freight industry and was approved by the Nestrans Board in 2009 as a daughter document to the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS). The FAP sets out how Nestrans and its partners can assist in the delivery of more efficient and effective freight operations for the benefit of the North East of Scotland.
- 3.2 In the years since the Plan was adopted, many of the previously agreed actions have been completed, while some are no longer considered to be priorities. With the RTS having recently been refreshed, steps have been taken to ensure that the FAP also remains relevant.
- 3.3 Nestrans appointed a consultant to review the FAP in consultation with the Freight Forum, a group of hauliers, businesses and various public sector organisations with an interest in freight in the north east. The group meets on a regular basis and acts as a consultative forum for policy developments. Aberdeen City Council has an active role in the Freight Forum and has

contributed to the development of the draft FAP refresh (FAP2). The Nestrans Board, at its meeting on 28th August 2013, approved the draft FAP2 for formal consultation with the partner Local Authorities.

- 3.4 Aberdeen City Council has now been asked to submit formal views on the draft FAP2, in particular on the proposed actions articulated within the Plan, and to identify those actions that should be prioritised over the first twelve months of the Plan.
- 3.5 The proposed response to this request is provided in Appendix B to this report. In summary, it describes positive support for the content of the plan which could be strengthened further by the inclusion of information on the status of the actions from the first Plan to highlight the progress made to date. Officers would also propose the prioritisation of continued interaction with local hauliers with regard to City Centre activities and a clarification is suggested regarding the monitoring of incidents involving HGVs. ACC currently monitor such incidents yearly, taking action as necessary.
- 3.6 It is therefore recommended that this Committee approve the proposed response to Nestrans on the draft Freight Action Plan refresh, as set out in Appendix B.

#### **4 Aberdeen International Airport – Noise Action Plan**

- 4.1 Aberdeen International Airport has issued a consultation document on the Noise Action Plan for 2013-2018. The draft Plan can be found at:

<http://www.aberdeenairport.com/about-us/community-matters/local-environment/noise>.

The Airport is required to develop a Noise Action Plan and update it every five years. This Plan therefore replaces the 2008-2013 Plan.

- 4.2 The Plan states that the objective for the management of aircraft noise is:

*To gain the trust of our stakeholders that we are using best practicable means to minimise existing aircraft noise impacts, and this approach will continue into the future, within the framework established by Government.*

The Plan has five key themes for a noise work programme:

- a) *Demonstrate our continuing commitment to managing aircraft noise impacts associated with Aberdeen International Airport's operations:*
  - (i) *Quietest fleet practicable.*
  - (ii) *Quietest practicable aircraft operations, balanced against NOx and CO2 emissions.*
  - (iii) *Effective and credible noise mitigation schemes.*
- b) *Allow us to engage with our communities affected by aircraft noise and better understand their concerns and priorities.*

- c) *Influencing planning policy to minimise the number of noise sensitive properties around our airports.*
- d) *Organising ourselves to continue to efficiently and effectively manage aircraft noise*
- e) *Building on our extensive understanding of aircraft noise to further inform our priorities, strategies and targets.*

4.3 The Plan describes the benefits that the airport supplies to the region. It notes that:

- The airport handled 1 million passengers a year in 1987 but now handles 3.3 million;
- The Airport Masterplan predicts this to rise by 40% by 2040;
- 525,710 of these passengers were on/offshore traffic;
- In 2012, 1,033,387 passengers used Aberdeen to access London Airports with the bulk of these being to Heathrow;
- Aberdeen International Airport has a high business/leisure split at 65/35; and
- The propensity to fly at Aberdeen (the number of times people in the north east fly per head of population) is 5.1 compared to a national average of 2.

4.4 The Plan recognises that these benefits need to be balanced against the disbenefits to local residents, in particular the noise impacts. It describes the regulatory framework for noise that the airport is required to operate in and describes some of the (noise producing) practices that are required to keep aircraft airworthy. It highlights how the Airport interacts with its neighbours and how complaints and comments can be made. It notes the progress that has been made with regards to issues at the east side of the airport and the continuing dialogue between the airport, its consultative committee and residents.

4.5 The Plan gives a detailed background to the technical nature of noise measurement and to the differences between actual noise and perceived noise. It describes how these perceptions are taken into account in the various noise measurements particularly in dealing with evening and night time noise. It notes that, although the airport has a 24 hour opening period, in 2011 there were 700 flights between 23:00 and 06:00 hours – 0.6% of the total movements with almost 1/3 of these flights being air ambulance flights. It gives details of the noise levels in the various methods of describing noise for the areas affected and the number of people and households in those areas. Baseline information for a set of performance indicators has been provided so that progress can be mapped to determine effectiveness of the Action Plan. These show that there has been, over the previous 10 years, an improvement in the indicators relating to noise generated by the airport.

4.6 Finally, the Plan sets out a series of actions intended to achieve the key themes set out above along with details of how and when these actions will be measured.



- 4.7 Aberdeen City Council's officer response to Aberdeen International Airport's draft Noise Action Plan 2013-2018 is attached as Appendix C to this report. Members are asked to endorse this response.

## **B) Issues for Information**

### **Active Travel and Air Quality**

#### **5 Wayfinding - Aberdeen City Centre**

- 5.1 A wayfinding strategy has been previously identified by Aberdeen City Council as important in improving the City Centre experience for visitors. The City Centre Development Framework and the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan have most recently raised the issue of a need for "better promotion of the city and wayfinding". The existing wayfinding infrastructure lacks coherence while maintenance and stock availability have led to lost or out of date resources in areas. The current provisions do not provide visitors with clear assistance when travelling around the City Centre, missing important and interesting details. Lack of available resource has held this work back from being investigated before now.
- 5.2 In February 2013 Aberdeen Inspired (AI), in recognition of the deficiencies in current City Centre Wayfinding, approached Council officers with a proposal to work in partnership to investigate a new wayfinding strategy. AI views this as a flagship project for their organisation and the City Centre and it is well supported by their members. AI took forward a tendering procedure to appoint a suitable design consultant to develop a scheme.
- 5.3 Phase 1 of the project encompassed a review of the existing provisions and a brief investigation of options for a revised scheme. This was fully funded by AI, with the Council contributing officer time assisting the consultant. The Council has committed to contributing 50% of the funding for Phase 2 of the study from existing revenue budgets plus officer hours in support of the consultant. Phase 2 covers the Strategic Planning, Concept, Design Development, Detail Design and Artwork (including Mapping). All rights to the sign designs will be held by the Council on completion of the project.
- 5.4 The study's key milestones are as follows:
- Strategic Plan **(completed)** – information gathering, audits and analysis;
  - Scheme Concept Design **(completed)** – wayfinding, product and information concepts;
  - Detailed Scheme **(November 2013)** – sign locations agreed;
  - Concept Design **(November 2013)** – illustrations, concepts and product types;
  - Pilot Scheme Design/Approvals **(December 2013)** – draft artwork for pilot and local consents/checks;
  - Detail Design **(December 2013)** – information and product design; and
  - Pilot Scheme Implementation **(May 2014)** – prototypes, procurement and installation of pilot scheme.

- 5.5 Following implementation of a pilot scheme, monitoring will be undertaken to measure the viability of the proposals prior to implementation on a larger scale.
- 5.6 Members will be kept up to date on the progress of this scheme through future reports to this Committee.

## **6 Sustrans School Cycle Parking Fund 2013/14**

- 6.1 In August 2013, officers were successful in attracting £6,147.50 in match-funding from Sustrans Scotland's 2013/14 School Cycle Parking Fund, to be spent on the following improvements:
- New cycle parking, shelters and a scooter rack for St. Joseph's RC School (£3542.50);
  - A new covered cycle parking facility at Forehill School (£1302.50); and
  - A new covered cycle parking facility at Cults Primary School (£1302.50).

The remainder of the funds will be supplied from CWSS. The facilities are expected to be installed before the end of 2013.

## **7 Bikeability Support Plus Fund 2013/14**

- 7.1 An application for £35,000 from Cycling Scotland's Bikeability Support Plus Fund 2013/14 has been successful. The fund is intended to assist local authorities in increasing the number of schools delivering cycle training to pupils. The application was centred around Adventure Aberdeen assuming the management and administration of Bikeability during the 2013/14 academic year, including recruiting schools to take part and recruiting and training volunteer instructors.
- 7.2 Adventure Aberdeen will offer intensive mentor support to 24 schools, training and supporting volunteers at these schools. These volunteers will then be responsible for leading Bikeability sessions in their schools (supported by Adventure Aberdeen as required) and will be expected to assume responsibility for Bikeability at their schools in future years, when the level of support offered by Adventure Aberdeen may not be available. Participating schools will be asked to sign up to a Sustainability Plan to be devised by the Council, outlining the steps they will take to ensure Bikeability becomes embedded and mainstreamed into their school's activities and is identified as a priority for them in the future.
- 7.3 Schools will be granted support on a priority basis, starting with those who have expressed a willingness to take part in Bikeability in previous years but who have been unable to do so. Schools capable of continuing with Bikeability independently are unlikely to receive support and it is accepted that some schools will be less easy to engage with this session but could be targeted in future years should this approach prove successful.

- 7.4 Class teachers will be expected to assist with sessions, thus allowing Bikeability to contribute to the mandatory 2 hours of physical education required in all schools which should make participation easier and more enticing for schools.
- 7.5 Adventure Aberdeen can, where necessary, supply helmets and bicycles to participants during training, thus ensuring that access to a bike and safety equipment is not a barrier to taking part in Bikeability.
- 7.6 This proposal was developed by a cross-service partnership comprising staff representing Education, Sport, Active Schools and Transportation.

## **8 Cycling Scotland Pedal for Scotland Event**

- 8.1 On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013 Cycling Scotland held an inaugural Pedal for Scotland cycling event on the Aberdeen beachfront. This was a free event, open to all, where participants could complete circuits of the Beach Esplanade in a traffic-free environment. Despite the poor weather 297 participants took part on the day.
- 8.2 The event was supported by Aberdeen City Council via the Getabout partnership, which arranged a series of complementary attractions to be present during the event, including the Getabout Bicycle Roadshow.
- 8.3 A debrief will be held with Cycling Scotland to discuss the suitability of the location and how to improve promotion of the event next year to encourage greater participation.

## **9 European Mobility Week**

- 9.1 European Mobility Week (EMW) 2013 took place between 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September with the theme 'Clean Air – It's Your Move'. Aberdeen City Council, in partnership with Getabout, organised a series of events throughout the week to promote sustainable transport and to raise awareness of air quality problems in the City.
- 9.2 The Getabout Bicycle Roadshow visited Forehill School and Hanover Street School during the week to promote and encourage cycling to school amongst pupils. The roadshow also visited Kingswells School earlier in September.
- 9.3 On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September a section of path at Duthie Park near the Mound was closed off for children and adults alike to try out the various bikes comprising the bicycle roadshow. Over 200 people took part.
- 9.4 Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September saw the Council celebrate In Town Without My Car Day for the fourth consecutive year by closing an area of Schoolhill and Belmont Street in the City Centre to motor traffic. The freed up space was then devoted to a family event focusing on the themes of air quality and sustainable transport. A number of attractions were available to members of

the public free of charge, including the Getabout Bicycle Roadshow, a bike doctor, rickshaw rides and electric vehicle demonstrations.

- 9.5 With the number of cycle accidents increasing in Aberdeen in recent years cycling safety was another key theme of this year's event. A HGV was supplied by ARR Craib and parked on-street surrounded by bicycles. Members of the public were then invited into the cab to experience a HGV driver's visibility, particularly blind spots, thus encouraging cyclists to take special care when travelling on the road alongside such vehicles.
- 9.6 A number of other organisations with a stake in clean and healthy forms of transport were also present to promote the work they do and the services they offer, including Co-Wheels, First Aberdeen, Stagecoach Bluebird, Aberdeen Cycle Forum, Alpine Bikes, Home Energy Scotland, Adventure Aberdeen, the Council's City Wardens team and the MUSIC Project's 'Take Back the Streets' group.
- 9.7 The event was considered a great success with 2000 bike bells handed out to members of the public along with hi-vis vests, slapbands and other safety equipment. One local business that was involved has requested that next year's In Town Without My Car Day takes place in the same location, saying *It was a magical atmosphere outside our shop and we saw a footfall into our shop of 4 times what we normally see on a Sunday*. Photographs of the event are available on the Getabout Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/Getabout.transport>.

## **10 Access from the North Delivery Plan**

- 10.1 On 26th November 2009 a report, Access from the North - An Integrated Transport Solution, was presented to this Committee, describing proposed *sustainable transport solutions to improve access to and from the north of the City, supporting national, regional and local policy objectives for modal shift and reduced levels of car use*. A subsequent Delivery Plan was reported to Committee on 18th January 2011 detailing a programme for implementation of these proposals. Here follows an update on the Delivery Plan's progress.
- 10.2 The Delivery Plan takes into account the impacts of all major infrastructure changes to the north of the City including the Third Don Crossing and Berryden Corridor in order to lock in the benefits to the surrounding networks and communities and to provide best value for the Council.
- 10.3 Delivery to date

Delivery of elements of the plan has been ongoing and it is anticipated that the pace of implementation will increase as the new River Don crossing progresses.

### **Denmore Road to Scotstown Road pedestrian improvements**

All dropped kerb improvements have been completed along this route.

### **Cycle provisions on Ellon Road**

Consultants were appointed to review the corridor and identify suitable improvements to support the implementation of a cycleway along Ellon Road. A route has now been identified along the western side including junction improvement options. It is proposed to implement minor infrastructure improvements along the route this financial year with further upgrades to follow in future years once funding has been secured. Work to date has been jointly funded by Nestrans and Sustrans.

### **Cycle improvements to Core Paths 13 and 6**

No further action taken this year.

### **Cycle provisions on King Street**

No action taken this year.

### **Pedestrian improvements - King Street and Old Aberdeen**

No further action taken this year.

### **Beach Esplanade cycle facilities**

No action taken this year.

### **West North Street cycle and pedestrian facilities**

No action taken to date.

### **Sustainable Transport Hubs**

No action taken to date.

### **Pedestrian and cycle connections in the vicinity of the Parkway**

Consultants were appointed to review options for a new path along the south of the Parkway with an alternative option on the north now being investigated. Opportunities along this route will be greatly influenced by the construction of the new River Don crossing and the 7500 new homes at Grandholm.

Implementation of a new shared use path on the north side of the Parkway between Whitestripes Road and Whitestripes Avenue is being considered by the Traffic Management Team using CWSS funding this financial year. This would require to be followed up with the necessary SRO for the remaining path and will provide a high-quality connection to the new River Don crossing.

### **Pedestrian and cycle improvements in Grandholm**

Upgrade and extension of the existing path network.

### **Pedestrian and cycle improvements on Great Northern Road**

A shared use route was implemented along Great Northern Road between the Haudagain Roundabout and Bank Road using CWSS funding in 2012/13, complementing the new shared route from the Haudagain Roundabout to Sclattie Park Roundabout implemented between 2011 and 2013 with Nestrans funding.

## **Pedestrian and cycle improvements on Hilton Drive/Westburn Drive and Craigie Loanings**

No further action has been undertaken this year.

## **Public transport improvements**

The Great Northern Road/Auchmill Road (A96) corridor is now subject to a Bus Punctuality Improvement Partnership (BPIP) between Nestrans, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils and bus operators.

## **Cycle Facilities linking to the Berryden Corridor**

No action taken to date.

- 10.4 Implementation is reliant on various sources of funding. The current Council Non-Housing Capital spend profile for the Third Don Crossing includes around £1 million towards the cost of the 'Access from the North' integrated transport proposals. The spend profile for the Berryden Corridor Improvements is also included within the Non- Housing Capital Programme. Other sources of funding are being investigated as the programme develops including but not restricted to:
- Nestrans for strategic pedestrian, cycle, public transport and road infrastructure opportunities (no allocation made this financial year);
  - CWSS for improved pedestrian and cycle provisions;
  - Scottish Government/Transport Scotland for trunk road improvements;
  - Sustrans for pedestrian and cycle opportunities; and
  - Various sources of funding for core path opportunities.

## **11 Electric Vehicles**

- 11.1 The 3rd September 2013 saw a joint launch of the publicly-available electric vehicle charging points in Aberdeen and the new electric vehicles which have joined the Co-wheels Car Club fleet in the City. The ribbon cutting was performed by Councillor Young while representatives from Nestrans, Co-wheels and Aberdeen City Council provided attendees with information about the project. Around forty stakeholders, including members of the business community and the press, were in attendance. The launch also provided the end point for the *Plugged in Adventure* which saw two local filmmakers and a cameraman embark on a journey of 1500 miles around the UK in four days to prove that electric vehicles can cope with long distance motoring. The project, supported by Aberdeen City Council, Co-wheels and Specialist Cars Nissan Aberdeen, was completed successfully and the video of the trip will be made available soon.
- 11.2 All nine of the publicly-available electric charge points are now operational. The next stage will see the units commissioned to run on the Charge Your Car (CYC) network, a condition of the grant funding from Transport Scotland and the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). The CYC network will provide a public interface for users, which will allow them to activate their charge by phone, text or using a swipecard, while it will also operate a back

office facility which will monitor usage of the units. Members of the public can use the units now if they have purchased a swipe card from CYC.

- 11.3 In the August report to this Committee, Members were informed that the Council had been successful in securing additional funding from OLEV as part of their Public Sector Estates Chargepoints Scheme to fund an additional two charging sites in the city. OLEV will provide 75% of the funding with the rest coming from the CARE North project. A City Centre site and one of the west side of the city are being investigated. Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and the Council's Lighting Team are providing assistance with the site investigations. It is envisaged that these new units will be operational by the end of January 2014.
- 11.4 £40,000 has also been awarded by the Scottish Government for the installation of a further rapid charge unit, capable of fully recharging a car in less than half an hour, in Aberdeen. This new unit will have three sockets, allowing them to be used by cars from elsewhere in Europe. Site investigations are currently underway to determine a suitable location for this unit. Funding will also be available from the Scottish Government for the upgrading of Aberdeen's two existing rapid charge units to three sockets.

## **Major Projects**

### **12 Non-Housing Capital Projects**

- 12.1 The following are the key milestones for a number of projects funded by the Non-Housing Capital programme:

Projects within the Energetica corridor:

- **Third Don Crossing:** design and contract documentation currently underway; start advance site preparation works including tree felling - late 2013, with main contract underway early 2014; opening - autumn 2015;
- **A96 Park and Choose:** design and contract documentation currently underway; start construction - early 2014; opening - autumn 2015;
- **Dyce Drive Link Road:** design and contract documentation currently underway; start construction - early 2014; opening - early 2015 (connection to A96 subject to AWPR contract programme); and
- **Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie - Tipperty:** procurement underway; contract award - autumn 2014; opening - spring 2018.

Others:

- **South College Street Corridor Improvements:** start construction - early 2015; opening - early 2016;
- **Berryden Corridor Phase 1:** design underway; start construction - autumn 2015; opening - autumn 2016;
- **Marischal Square - Option Appraisal:** City Centre Traffic Model now available and option testing underway; option appraisal completion - end January 2014; and

- **Union Street Pedestrianisation:** key milestones to be revisited following Marischal Square option appraisal.

The above will be updated and refined for future reports to this Committee.

## Other

### **13 Local Transport Strategy Refresh**

- 13.1 The Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy (LTS) outlines the strategy and policy approach to transport provision and development in Aberdeen City. As the current LTS has a 2008-2012 timescale and was predicated on the AWPR opening in 2012, officers are currently at work on refreshing the document to bring it up to date.
- 13.2 The first stage in this process is an online questionnaire which is now open to all stakeholders and members of the public:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACCLocalTransportStrategy>.  
 This questionnaire aims to establish the main issues that should be included within the refresh and asks for comments on whether or not the vision, aims, objectives and actions are still relevant. The closing date for responses is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013.
- 13.3 The responses will be used to inform a Main Issues Report on the LTS which will be published for consultation before the end of the year. Following this, a refreshed LTS will be drafted and presented to this Committee.

### **14 National Transport Awards 2013**

- 14.1 Aberdeen City Council was one of four cities shortlisted in the Transport City of the Year category at the National Transport Awards, held in London on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The award was ultimately won by Southampton City Council.

## **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) 2013, in particular the Thematic Priority of Safer Communities (Safer Roads) and the Multi-lateral Priority – Integrated Transport (Aberdeen is easy to access and move around in).



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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Planner (Transport Strategy and Programmes)  
[Whekelaar@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:Whekelaar@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
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## Appendix A

### **NORTH EAST TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**

Minute of Meeting of the North East Transport Partnership

Aberdeen, 12 June 2013

Present: Councillor Milne (Chairperson); Eddie Anderson (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Finlayson and Grant (Aberdeen City Council), Councillors Buchan, Clark, Latham and Mollison (as substitute for Councillor Argyle) (Aberdeenshire Council); David Sullivan (External member); Maggie Bochel and Stephen Archer (Advisers to the Board).

In attendance: Jenny Anderson (Nestrans), Tom Buchan (Aberdeenshire Council), Rebecka Coull (Aberdeen City Council), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Derick Murray (Nestrans).

Apologies: Councillor Argyle (Chairperson), Councillor McCaig (Aberdeen City Council), Jennifer Craw and Derek Provan (External members).

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

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/56/board-meetings.html>

### **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 17 April 2013.

#### **The Board resolved:**

- (i) to approve the minute as a correct record; and
- (ii) to request that officers write to the Transport Minister reiterating the concerns of the Board in relation to the proposed high speed rail link between Glasgow and Edinburgh.

### **LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS, THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS**

2. With reference to article 3 of the minute of its previous meeting of 17 April 2013, 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 –

- Transport Scotland in Aviemore on 17 April 2013
- Scottish Partnership Group on High Speed Rail in Glasgow on 22 April 2013
- Transport Scotland regarding Laurencekirk junctions in Perth on 30 April 2013
- Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group in Aberdeen on 10 May 2013
- Transport Scotland (rail branch) in Aberdeen on 13 May 2013
- Regional Transport Partnership lead officers in Perth on 15 May 2013
- Department for Transport in London on 30 May 2013
- Aviation (Davies) Commission and Transport Scotland in Edinburgh on 5 June 2013
- Regional Transport Partnership Chairs in Lerwick on 5 June 2013

**The report recommended –**

that the Board note progress on liaison arrangements with other Regional Transport Partnerships, the Scottish Government, and others, and arrangements for future meetings.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY REFRESH**

3. With reference to article 4 of the minute of its previous meeting of 17 April 2013, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided members with an update on the consultation on the Regional Transport Strategy refresh, and a summary of the responses which had been received.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board consider and note the comments received during consultation and note the next steps.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT**

4. The Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on progress in monitoring against the agreed targets and indicators contained in the Regional Transport Strategy monitoring report, which was appended to the report.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board –

- (a) consider and approve the amendments that have been made to the indicators and targets, and outlined in the report; and
- (b) note the positive trends emerging against many of the targets and those that are not performing as well.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND – UPDATE**

5. With reference to article 5 of the minute of its previous meeting of 17 April 2013, 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 report recommended –**

that the Board notes the update on payments into the Strategic Transport Fund.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**PROGRESS REPORT**

6. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its previous meeting of 17 April 2013, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 5 June 2013.

In relation to a discussion at a previous meeting (article 12 of the minute of meeting of 20 February refers), members enquired as to whether the taxi service for Aberdeen International Airport had been retendered, and if so, if the requirement to be able to call taxis and await their arrival inside the building had been included in the tendering documentation. Officers undertook to advise members in this regard.

**The Board resolved:**

to note the content of the progress chart.

**PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS**

7. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 17 April 2013, 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 and/ or final responses as appropriate –

- Inverurie – Network Rail proposal to dispose of former sidings to the west of Inverurie station by way of freehold sale and grant of a long lease to Aberdeenshire Council.
- Network Rail – Long term planning process – long distance market study draft
- Aberdeen Local Development Plan Review – pre main issues report
- Cairngorms National Park – proposed local development plan
- Bus Regulations (Scotland) Bill

**The report recommended –**

that the Board note the content of the report and the documents referred to therein.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**“GOING SMARTER”: MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE SMARTER CHOICES, SMARTER PLACES PROGRAMME**

8. The Board had before it a report by the Director which advised members of the publication of research into the effectiveness of the Scottish Government’s Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board note the content of the report and the documents referred to therein.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 3 AND SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY**

9. With reference to article 6 of the minute of its meeting of 12 December 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which advised that the main issues report for the third National Planning Framework had been published, and sought approval for officers to submit a formal response to the consultation.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board note the content of the report and consider proposed response to the consultation, as appended to the report.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the response for submission.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTRACT**

10. With reference to article 10 of the minute of its meeting of 20 June 2012 the Board had before it a report by the Director which advised members of the outcome of the tendering process for the joint ACSEF/ Nestrans public relations and events management contract.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board note the outcome of the tendering process for the joint ACSEF/ Nestrans public relation and events management contract.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**BUDGET MATTERS**

11. With reference to article 12 of the minute its previous meeting of 17 April 2013, 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 virement to the budget as follows:

- (1) Nestrans had agreed funding of £453,000 for planned walking and cycling projects. Aberdeen City Council has received match funding from Sustrans to assist with the delivery of their part of the programme and the funding necessary has reduced by £18,500. The adjusted programme cost going forward will be £434,500. It was proposed to vire this funding towards the programme for safety improvements, namely route action work including improved lining, signing and road stud replacement on strategic corridors. The funding for this programme would increase from £163,000 to £181,500.

The report further advised that no additional funds had been received from developers to date towards the Strategic Transport Fund (STF) and that contributions to date 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 was incurred.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board –

- (a) notes the monitoring position and forecast;
- (b) agrees the virements of £18,500 to strategic safety improvements as outlined above.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendations.

## **UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

12. The Board had before it a report a report by the treasurer which presented the unaudited statement of accounts for 2012/13.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board consider the unaudited financial statements for 2012/13 and approves their issue to the external auditor and the Controller of Audit.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

## **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT**

13. The Board had before it a report a report by the treasurer which presented the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2012/13.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board approve the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in appendices A and B of the report.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**14.** With reference to article 13 of the minute of its previous meeting of 17 April 2013, 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 –

- Rail franchises
- Rail patronage data
- Community rail partnerships
- Other rail matters
- National Tourism Framework
- Flybe sale of Gatwick slots
- Aberdeen cycle count
- Scottish Transport Awards

**The report recommended –**

that the Board note the content of the report.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

**15.** With reference to article 14 of the minute of its previous meeting of 17 April 2013, 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**

**16.** With reference to article 15 of the minute of its previous meeting of 17 April 2013, 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 report recommended –**

that the Board note the content of the report and agree the provisional scheduling of major reports to future meetings.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**JENNIFER CRAW**

17. The Chairperson advised that Jennifer Crow has tendered her resignation as an external member of the Board. Councillor Milne extended his thanks to Ms Crow for her valuable input over the past ten years, and requested that officers write to Ms Crow on behalf of the Board in this regard.

**- RAMSAY MILNE, Chairperson**



## Appendix B

### **Aberdeen City Council response to the Nestrans draft Freight Action Plan Refresh (FAP2)**

FAO Mr R Dickson  
Transport Strategy Manager  
Nestrans  
Archibald Simpson House  
27-29 King Street  
Aberdeen  
AB24 5AA

Dear Rab,

#### **Freight Action Plan 2**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the refreshed Freight Action Plan (FAP).

Officers from this service have been involved throughout the update of this plan and in the Freight Forum who have informed much of the content of this Plan. The original FAP has led to very positive activities to assist and support the local freight industry within the City and we look forward to continuing this joint working in line with the refreshed Plan.

Officers have taken the opportunity to consider the final draft and are broadly in agreement with the content. Our comments are as follows:

Action “3. Sustain a regular Freight Forum to enable communication between the north east industry, the freight industry and public sector partners.”

Aberdeen City Council will continue to be an active partner within the Freight Forum in order to maintain discussion with hauliers relating to their activities in the city centre. The Council considers Action 3 to be a priority.

Action “33. Nestrans and its partners will undertake a review of accident locations involving freight vehicles with a view to identifying the key locations where interventions could help improve problem junctions.”

Aberdeen City Council Traffic Safety Unit continues to monitor incidents involving HGV's on an annual basis. Actions will be taken where problems are identified.

The health and safety of those on the road network continues to be a priority for ACC both in terms of air quality and the interaction of HGV's and other vehicles or vulnerable modes. It is important to recognise the actions already taken by local freight industry, and to support and promote the improvements of these areas.

It is suggested that "new" Actions are highlighted within the FAP 2013 and that a list of those completed or not carried forward from the first Plan is provided in an appendix along with a brief summary of work undertaken or the circumstances that make them no longer appropriate. We feel that this will add value and completeness to the new FAP and its predecessor.

This response has been agreed by the Enterprise, Strategy and Planning Committee at its meeting of November 2013.

Please don't hesitate to contact Vycki Ritson – Senior Engineer - Transportation Strategy and Programmes, contact details as above, should you have any queries on the above and I look forward to receiving a copy of the finalised FAP Re-refresh in due course as this will inform the review of the City's Local Transport Strategy which is now underway.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Margaret Bochel**  
**Head of Planning and Sustainable Development**

## Appendix C

### **Aberdeen City Council response to the Aberdeen International Airport – Draft Noise Action Plan**

NAP Consultation  
Aberdeen International Airport Limited  
Dyce  
Aberdeen  
AB21 7DU

Dear Sirs

#### **Aberdeen International Airport - Noise Action Plan**

Aberdeen City Council (ACC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Airport's consultation on the draft Noise Action Plan.

ACC notes that the approach taken to the issue of noise was one of striking a balance between the economic benefits that the airport provides to the region and the need to manage the impact of noise on the local community. ACC commends the approach set out in the draft Noise Action Plan and the Airports commitment to reduce the noise impact on the local community. We note that improvements in noise reduction and in dialogue with residents have been made and support the actions set out within the plan to measure and report on achievements through the lifetime of the Plan.

Although not required by the Environmental Noise Directive, the proposal to include ground noise in the Action Plan is welcome. ACC do receive a significant number of complaints in regard to the noise associated with airport operations and the following comments highlights the main issues in relation to specific actions set out in the Plan.

- The continued development of a plan to mitigate noise on the east side of the airport.

The Council's Environmental Protection Team receives more complaints about ground noise around the east side of the airfield than any other noise matter within the city. Noise from helicopters waiting for air traffic control clearance is of particular concern, although other issues are raised including noise from private aircraft parked at the boundary fence close to Cordyce View and the aircraft maintenance areas. Council officers recorded noise levels at residential properties on the east side in February 2013. Existing levels are exceptionally high and well in excess of the WHO recommended daytime value LAeq16hr of 55dB for community noise and the commonly applied guideline value of 57dB LAeq 16hr for the assessment of fixed wing aircraft.

- The recording of the frequency and times of engines running.

A more detailed explanation of what this will include would be helpful. For example, is the intention to record the times when helicopters are loading passengers/awaiting air traffic control clearance and other helicopter movements or will the records only consider aircraft movement and checks for maintenance and repair?

- A review of a fixed wing general parking arrangements.

Officers have received several complaints regarding noise from aircraft parked on the east side of the airport adjacent to Cordyce View. There is a perception from the residents that the number of aircraft being parked at this location has increased in recent years.

- Consideration of arrival and departure policies,

The scheduling of helicopter movements in a similar manner to fixed wing aircraft may significantly reduce the requirement for helicopters waiting for air traffic control clearance at the east terminal and hence reduce noise levels.

In general ACC supports the themes set out to measure and report on achievements through the lifetime of the Plan and considers that the actions are a positive step in dealing with the issues highlighted.