

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Strategic Planning and Infrastructure
DATE	13 March 2014
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Strategic and Local Transportation Projects Update Report
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/14/009

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, completion of the 2013/14 programme of works and proposals for the 2014/15 programme of works;
- c) Consider the findings and outcomes of the draft Bridge of Dee Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) Part 1 Appraisal and approve the publication of a final version on the Council website;
- d) Agree that, as resolved by the Nestrans Board at its meeting on 12th February 2014, Concepts 6, 6B and 7 for the Bridge of Dee be progressed to STAG Part 2 Appraisal;
- e) Subject to the agreement of recommendation d), approve the immediate commissioning of the Bridge of Dee STAG Part 2 Appraisal;
- f) Instruct officers to progress the necessary Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) for the closure of Schoolhill (between Blackfriars Street and Back Wynd) and Belmont Street (between Schoolhill and Little Belmont Street) on Sunday 21st September 2014 between the hours of 0800 and 1700 for an event to mark In Town Without My Car Day 2014;
- g) Note the costs to the Council associated with the publicly-available electric vehicle (EV) charging points; and

- h) Continue to offer the EV charging service for free until the end of 2014 and instruct officers to review this position in January 2015.

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 30th October and 16th December 2013 and on 12th February 2014. Minutes of the October and December meetings are included as Appendix A to this report. A draft minute of the February meeting is also included in Appendix A – this is due to be agreed at the next meeting of the Board on 2nd April and an approved minute will be included in the next report to this Committee.
- 1.2 Key points to be noted from the reports considered by the Nestrans Board between October 2013 and February 2014 are:
- The Regional Transport Strategy refresh has been approved by the Minister for Transport and Veterans and is now available on the Nestrans website;
 - Scottish Ministers have approved the appointment of Gerry Donald and Duncan Cameron (with immediate effect) and Sandra Macdonald (from April 2014) as non-Councillor members of the Nestrans Board;
 - On 20th March, a new multi-operator bus ticket, the 'Grasshopper', will be launched, with day (£10.50) and weekly (£34.00) tickets available, allowing unlimited travel on all First Aberdeen and Stagecoach Bluebird services, as well as on the services of six smaller operators, within Zones 1-3 (Aberdeen – Stonehaven - Banchory – Echt – Inverurie – Oldmeldrum – Ellon);
 - Trend analysis on the results of the annual Bus Passenger Satisfaction Survey show a gradual improvement in satisfaction levels in Aberdeen, equal to or above benchmark figures;
 - Transport Scotland has announced its Invitation to tender for the ScotRail franchise, with five companies shortlisted. Final bids are required in April 2014, with the contract expected to be

awarded at the end of October and the new franchise coming into operation in April 2015;

- Final invitations to tender for the Caledonian Sleeper franchise have been received. An announcement is expected soon, with a ten year franchise due to commence in April 2015;
- The Department for Transport (DfT) has announced the shortlisted bidders for the InterCity East Coast Passenger franchise. Invitations to tender have now been issued, with bidders given at least three months to develop proposals. The new operator will take over services from February 2015;
- A new overbridge and lifts (fully Disability Discrimination Act compliant) are under construction at Dyce Station and should be fully operational by the end of March 2014;
- A study commissioned by Nestrans to look at crowding in peak time trains in the North East indicates that peak time overcrowding is significant and has increased since 2011;
- A new Health and Transport Plan Programme Support Officer is in post and a consultant has been appointed to review and update the Plan;
- Nestrans has agreed to appoint a local Cycling Development Officer for the North East, jointly funded with Sustrans Scotland. The post holder will support the development of a regional Active Travel Strategy and will assist the Councils and Nestrans in the development and delivery of active travel projects (particularly cross-boundary strategic routes), promotion and marketing of walking and cycling, submission of applications for external funding, monitoring of cycle usage and liaising with organisations such as Sustrans and Cycling Scotland to ensure that the North East is contributing towards the national vision for cycling and that the area is getting its fair share of funding; and
- Nestrans has initiated discussions on an 'Energetica All-Modes Study' with Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council and Transport Scotland, to look beyond the planned transport interventions of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR), Balmedie-Tipperty, 3rd Don Crossing and other schemes, to the future transport needs of the corridor from Aberdeen northwards to Peterhead and Fraserburgh. The study will include the route of the former railway line and the A90. The first steps of this project will be to agree the scope of this study and to develop a brief, as well as to establish a Client Group to oversee the project. It is expected that this study will be conducted in 2014/15.

1.3 Nestrans Capital Programme 2013/14

The Nestrans capital programme expenditure for 2013/14 was agreed at the Nestrans Board meeting on 20th February 2013. A summary of the full programme within Aberdeen City, which is now largely complete, is provided below.

1.3.1 Active Travel

Core Paths

Masonry repairs were undertaken, jointly funded with Aberdeenshire Council, to prevent structural decay to the Don Bridge at Parkhill which forms part of the Formartine and Buchan Way. Coastal path upgrades have been completed, while work on the Woodside House to Persley Castle path to remove a narrow bridge and replace it with a culvert will be complete by the end of March 2014. A number of feasibility studies are being undertaken and will be complete by the end of March. A trail leaflet for the Bridge of Don area is also due for publication in March.

Greenbrae Cycle Project

Continuing the work that has been undertaken within the community since 2011, two new off-road cycle routes have been installed, one from Dubford Road to Middleton Park, the other from Dubford Gardens to Cypress Walk. Infrastructure improvements have continued to be supported by a programme of 'soft measures' interventions including public and school engagement exercises, events and educational initiatives.

Ellon Road Strategic Cycle Links

Following completion of the feasibility study, a detailed design has been prepared for a continuous cycle route north of the Bridge of Don to the B999/A90 roundabout. Funding for implementation of this scheme is now being sought for 2014/15.

Anderson Drive Strategic Cycle Links

Some small-scale improvements have been implemented along the route for the benefit of pedestrians and cyclists. Officers are currently seeking funding for implementation of further improvements during 2014/15.

Dyce Drive Strategic Cycle Links

The design and installation of a missing cycle link from Dyce Avenue to Argyll Road along the north side of Dyce Drive is now being undertaken using Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) funding and will be complete by the end of March 2014.

A96 Aberdeen to Blackburn Cycle Route

A review of the existing facilities has been undertaken, with some recommendations for localised widening and consideration of crossing points along the route. Issues exist with regards to the immediate implementation of these improvements, however officers will continue to seek opportunities for improvements and take advantage of these when they arise. In the meantime, resurfacing work will take place on a section of the shared use route along Auchmill Road to provide a safer surface for users and will be complete by the end of March 2014.

The Parkway Strategic Cycle Links

A feasibility study into, and preliminary design of, a pedestrian and cycle route along the whole length of the Parkway has been completed. Funding is now being sought for detailed design of the preferred route during 2014/15.

Aberdeen Beach Recreational Cycle Route

A recreational route linking School Drive/Golf Road with the Beach Esplanade, jointly funded by the Council's CWSS allocation, is due for completion by the end of March 2014.

Westhill to Aberdeen Cycle Route Improvements

An examination of the Westhill to Aberdeen cycle route was undertaken to identify solutions for drainage problems along the route. No satisfactory solution was found, however, therefore the project was removed from the Nestrans programme. The Council has agreed to add the route to its winter maintenance programme which should ensure problem areas are given attention in the cold weather and icing will be prevented. A grit bin was also added to the area in January to allow cyclists to grit the route when required.

1.3.2 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. The programme for 2013/14 will be complete by the end of March 2014.

Airport Bus Turning Circle

Preliminary work on implementing a bus turning circle at Dyce Station took place during 2013/14. The tender is due to go out in March, with construction expected to be complete during 2014/15.

A96 Park and Choose

Design and contract documentation is underway in anticipation of the facility opening in autumn 2015.

1.3.3 Strategic Road Safety Improvements

Accident Reduction on Strategic Routes

Retexturing took place on sections of the B999 (Murcar Roundabout to Potterton), B979 (Malcolm Road to Westhill) and the road from Kingswells Roundabout to Kirk Brae, Cults.

1.3.4 Freight

A947 Oldmeldrum Road/Dyce Drive Junction Improvement

Relining and junction widening was undertaken to improve turning manoeuvres for HGVs and to ease congestion.

Howe Moss Drive/Dyce Drive Junction Improvement

Design work was undertaken to look at increasing the radii of this junction to improve turning manoeuvres for HGVs, ease congestion and improve pedestrian safety. The project was unable to conclude this year as a result of land ownership issues but is being taken forward as part of the 2014/15 programme.

1.4 Nestrans Revenue Programme 2013/14

The Nestrans revenue programme expenditure for 2013/14 was also agreed at the Nestrans Board meeting on 20th February 2013 and a summary of the projects that took place in Aberdeen City is provided below.

1.4.1 Bus Action Plan

Bus Link Improvements to Anderson Drive

The study to identify improvements for public transport along and across Anderson Drive following implementation of the AWPR continued during 2013/14.

1.4.2 Rail Action Plan

Contribution to Dyce Shuttle Bus

Nestrans made a final financial contribution to the Dyce Shuttle Bus (Service 80) which links Dyce Railway Station to Kirkhill Industrial Estate and Aberdeen International Airport. The service is now operated by Stagecoach Bluebird on a fully commercial basis.

1.4.3 Project Feasibility and Monitoring

Bridge of Dee Project Feasibility and Development

The study into possible transport improvements on and around the Bridge of Dee continued during 2013/14, with the STAG Part 1 Appraisal now largely complete. Further information can be found in section 2 of the main body of this report.

Feasibility and Design Aspects of Locking in the Benefits

The investigation of schemes prioritising sustainable transport movements in the City to take advantage of the benefits offered by the AWPR continued during 2013/14.

Economic and Environmental Assessment for City Centre Pedestrianisation

The Aberdeen City Centre Traffic Model upgrade is complete and has been used to test traffic options for Broad Street in relation to the Marischal Square development.

1.5 Nestrans's total expenditure within Aberdeen City for 2013/14 is anticipated to be £892,000 capital and £270,000 revenue.

1.6 Nestrans Capital Programme 2014/15

The Nestrans capital programme for 2014/15 was agreed at the Nestrans Board Meeting on 12th February 2014, subject to the approval of Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council. A summary of the proposed programme within Aberdeen City is provided below.

1.6.1 Active Travel

Core Paths (£179,750)

Complete the hard surfacing of the Deeside Way from Peterculter to the City boundary and install hard surfacing and drainage along the Formartine and Buchan Way between Dyce Station and the Parkhill Bridge. Match-funding from Sustrans Scotland is being sought for these projects. Continue the promotion of the Core Path network through the provision of signage and publish a leaflet on the Deeside Way with route details and information on the history and wildlife of the corridor.

Ellon Road Cycle Route Implementation (£110,000)

Implementation of a section of cycle route along Ellon Road between the Bridge of Don and the Parkway, as identified by the feasibility study undertaken in 2013/14. The Council is seeking match-funding from Sustrans Scotland for this project.

Ellon Road Cycle Path Feasibility (£25,000)

Feasibility study into a cycle route on Ellon Road between the Murcar Roundabout and the City boundary, thus extending the feasibility study carried out on the southern section of the route in 2013/14. If budget permits a study will also be undertaken on improving conditions for cyclists south of the Bridge of Don, along King Street towards the City Centre.

The Parkway Cycle Path Detailed Design (£12,500)

Detailed design of a cycle route along the Parkway, following the feasibility study and preliminary design undertaken in 2013/14. The Council is seeking match-funding from Sustrans Scotland for this project.

Riverside Drive Cycle Path (£190,000)

Cycle path improvements and upgrades between King George VI Bridge and the Bridge of Dee to complete a cycle route between Wellington Road suspension bridge and the Bridge of Dee. The Council is seeking match-funding from Sustrans Scotland for this project.

1.6.2 Public Transport

Airport Bus Turning Circle (£394,000)

Completion of work funded in previous years to implement a bus turning circle at Dyce Station. On-site works are anticipated to start in May 2014.

Kingswells Park and Ride Through Access (£37,500)

Contribution to Bus Investment Fund project to improve access to and through Kingswells Park and Ride for bus services.

1.6.3 Strategic Road Safety Improvements

Variable Message Signs (£100,000)

Installation of variable message signs (VMS) to expand coverage. The signs can be used to display road safety and road closure messages, along with journey time information in the future.

1.6.4 Freight

Howe Moss Drive / Dyce Drive Junction Improvement (£40,000)

Increase radii to improve turning manoeuvres for HGVs, ease congestion and improve pedestrian safety.

1.6.5 Strategic Road Prioritised Maintenance

Rob Roy Bridge Reconstruction (£161,250)

Strengthening works on reinforced concrete arch, to be match-funded with Aberdeen City Council.

1.6.6 Various

Aberdeen Cross City Transport Connections (£20,000)

Feasibility study to investigate ways to maximise connectivity between new developments identified in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan.

Energetica Corridor Multimodal Study (£50,000)

All modes study for the Aberdeen to Buchan corridor to consider the feasibility, costs and benefits of options, including new rail lines.

1.7 Nestrans Revenue Programme 2014/15

The Nestrans revenue programme expenditure for 2014/15 was also agreed at the Nestrans Board meeting on 12th February 2014, subject to approval from the Councils. A summary of the proposed programme within Aberdeen City is provided below.

1.7.1 Active Travel

Greenbrae Cycle Project (£5,000)

Soft measures programme, including publicity and promotions, in support of physical measures installed in previous years.

Assessment for City Centre Pedestrianisation (£40,000)

Economic and environmental assessments for Aberdeen City Centre pedestrianisation options.

1.7.2 Bus Action Plan

Repair and Maintenance of Bus Publicity in Aberdeen City and Shire (£10,000)

A programme of repair and maintenance of at-stop publicity throughout the North East during 2014/15.

1.7.3 Rail Action Plan

Aberdeen to Inverness Timetabling Study (£12,000)

Feasibility study into possible timetable changes on the Aberdeen to Inverness railway line.

1.7.4 Project Feasibility and Monitoring

Bridge of Dee Study (£160,000)

Continuation of the study into improving conditions for transport on and around the Bridge of Dee, including STAG Part 2 Appraisal, as described in the next section of this report.

Feasibility and Design Aspects of Locking in the Benefits (£20,000)

Identify, investigate and design improvements to the transport network to 'lock in' the benefits of the AWPR.

Wellington Road Multimodal Corridor Study (£20,000)

Study to look at ways of improving conditions for all transport users, but particularly buses and cyclists, along Wellington Road.

1.8 Nestrans's total expenditure within Aberdeen City for 2014/15 is anticipated to be £1,320,000 capital and £267,000 revenue.

1.9 It is therefore recommended that Members endorse development through Nestrans as outlined above, including Board decisions, completion of the 2013/14 programme of work and proposals for the 2014/15 programme of work.

2 Bridge of Dee Capacity Study

2.1 A study commenced in 2010/11 to investigate capacity issues and potential opportunities relating to the existing transport network in the Bridge of Dee area of Aberdeen using the methodologies set out in Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) and Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB). This update on the latest progress of the study gives a summary of the STAG Part 1 process and seeks approval to commence the formal STAG Part 2 and DMRB Stage 2 assessments.

2.2 Information and documentation on this project are available on the Aberdeen City Council website at the following link:
http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/transport_streets/roads_pavements/transport_projects/roa_access_from_south_home.asp

A draft report on the STAG Part 1 process, including traffic modelling outcomes and overall conclusion of the study, is now available to view on the website.

2.3 STAG Pre-Appraisal Work

2.3.1 The Bridge of Dee Study STAG Report Volume 1 of 4: Pre-Appraisal was published in April 2012 and outlined the activities comprising the STAG Pre-Appraisal stage. These are:

- Analysis of Problems and Opportunities;
- Objective Setting; and
- Option Generation, Sifting and Development

2.3.2 The STAG Pre-Appraisal concluded with three concepts (plus variants) being taken forward to Part 1 Appraisal, namely:

- Concept 5 – Downstream Crossing;
- Concept 6 – Upstream Crossing of which there are two additional variants:
 - Concept 6A – Upstream Crossing (including link road north of the River Dee between Garthdee Road and South Anderson Drive);
 - Concept 6B – Upstream Crossing (including link road north of the River Dee between Garthdee Road/Inchgarth Road and North Deeside Road); and
- Concept 7 – Adjacent Crossing.

2.3.3 A further two concepts were retained but not assessed in the Part 1 Appraisal:

- Concept 8 – Widening of the existing Bridge of Dee; and
- Concept 9 – Replacement of the existing Bridge of Dee.

These are retained as alternative options should the above concepts not be considered viable during more detailed appraisal.

2.4 STAG Part 1 Appraisal

2.4.1 The STAG Part 1 Appraisal report has assessed the concepts taken forward for further investigation using a 7 point scale against the Transport Planning Objectives (TPOs) of the project and the STAG criteria of environment, safety, economy, integration and accessibility and social inclusion. Performance against established policy directives, feasibility, affordability and public acceptability are also considered using a red, amber and green scale. Each concept has been assessed separately and the results of the assessment are given in separate Assessment Summary Tables. A summary of the findings against each criteria is provided in Appendix B.

2.4.2 The STAG Part 1 Appraisal provides the information necessary for decision makers to understand the implications of each concept in more detail. The report does not provide recommendations on any

preferred concepts as it is for the decision makers to utilise the information provided to draw the comparative conclusions and decide which of the concepts should be progressed for further more detailed Part 2 Appraisal.

2.4.3 The STAG Part 1 Appraisal report forms Volume 2 of 4, with later volumes to be prepared in relation to subsequent activities required to complete the STAG assessment process, namely:

- Volume 3 of 4: STAG Part 2 Detailed Appraisal; and
- Volume 4 of 4: Post-Appraisal

2.4.4 Concepts 5, 6, 6A, 6B and 7 were assessed during Part 1 Appraisal. During the review of concept 6B it was identified that there were significant engineering difficulties at the preferred location of the link road between Garthdee Road/Inchgarth Road and A93 North Deeside Road due to the vertical alignment of the link road being considerably steeper than permitted by current design standards. In addition, operational testing demonstrated that Concept 6 would operate effectively without the additional link. Concept 6B therefore did not progress to full STAG Part 1 Appraisal on the basis that it had been demonstrated not to be necessary as part of the wider solution combined with the proposals for the Bridge of Dee.

2.4.5 A schematic plan showing the proposed location of the remaining concepts taken forward for appraisal is given in Appendix C.

2.5 Discussion on Appraisal Findings

2.5.1 Officers from Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council and the consultants have discussed the findings reported in the study and the conclusions from comparative assessment are as follows:

- Concept 5 be rejected for further consideration on the basis that it performs least favourably in terms of the stated TPOs, it generally does not perform most favourably in terms of the STAG criteria, including failing to provide value for money in terms of its transport economic assessment, and in terms of public acceptability it attracted more negative preferences than positive preferences.
- Concept 6 be selected for further consideration on the basis that it performs favourably in terms of the TPOs and STAG criteria.
- Concept 6A be rejected for further consideration on the basis that it entails a greater extent of works than necessitated by Concept 6, thus resulting in increased impacts, without providing appreciable additional benefits compared to Concept 6 and, in terms of public acceptability, additional concerns were noted in respect of the implications of this Concept.

- Concept 7 be selected for further consideration on the basis that it performs favourably in terms of the TPOs and STAG criteria and, in terms of public acceptability, it attracted more positive than negative preferences

2.5.2 The appraisal concluded that Concept 6B be rejected for further consideration on the basis that the link has been demonstrated not to be necessary as part of the wider solution combined with the proposals for the Bridge of Dee. However, the A93/Inchgarth Road link has not been considered to the same level of details as other concepts and therefore, to enable a consistent comparison between all concepts to be fully explored, it is considered appropriate to take this concept forward for further consideration to enable it to be progressed to a comparable level of detail.

2.6 Next Stage

2.6.1 At its meeting on 12th February 2014, the Nestrans Board considered the outcomes of the study and agreed, subject to Aberdeen City Council approval, that Concepts 6, 6B and 7 be progressed to Stag Part 2 Appraisal. An allowance to continue the study next financial year is included within the 2014/15 Nestrans budget approved by the Nestrans Board.

2.6.2 This process will include further consultation with stakeholders and members of the public and the findings of the study will be reported to Nestrans and Aberdeen City Council for consideration and decision making. The outcome of this process is anticipated to be selection of the option to be progressed for statutory authorisation and implementation.

2.6.3 It is therefore recommended that Members consider the findings and outcomes of the draft Bridge of Dee STAG Part 1 Appraisal and approve the publication of a final version on the Council website. Also, that Members agree that Concepts 6, 6B and 7 be progressed to Part 2 Appraisal and instruct officers to continue to work with partners to undertake the Part 2 Appraisal.

3 European Mobility Week 2014

3.1 European Mobility Week (EMW) is an annual campaign promoting sustainable urban mobility, organised with the political and financial support of the Directorates-General for the Environment and Transport of the European Commission. The aim of the campaign, which runs from 16th to 22nd September each year, is to encourage local authorities to introduce and promote sustainable transport measures and to invite citizens to try out alternatives to car use. The week culminates in 'In Town Without My Car Day' (ITWMCD) when participating towns and cities initiate one or several permanent or temporary road closures within their area, restricting the movement of

cars and reserving the area instead for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. In this way, citizens can experience the enjoyment of being out in the streets without worrying about the discomfort and dangers usually presented by motor traffic.

- 3.2 Since its inception in 2002, the impact of EMW has been steadily growing both across Europe and around the world. In 2013, 1,931 local authorities from 47 countries officially registered for the campaign. Aberdeen was one of 6 local authorities in the UK to do so and one of only 2 in Scotland.
- 3.3 Aberdeen City Council, working with partners in the Getabout group, has participated in EMW since 2009. The programme usually consists of a series of sustainable transport themed events running throughout the week (in public areas, schools, universities, with local businesses and also internal Council events), culminating in ITWMCD when the Council has, since 2010, formally closed a road to motor traffic for the day and filled it instead with information stalls, events and activities for members of the public to visit and participate in on the themes of sustainable transport, air quality and road safety.
- 3.4 ITWMCD events in Aberdeen have been growing in scale and prominence since 2010:
 - 2010 – Greenbrae Crescent: activities for schoolchildren on a closed section of road outside Greenbrae School;
 - 2011 – Belmont Street: sizeable public event on an already predominantly pedestrianised street;
 - 2012 – Beach Esplanade: larger public event involving the closure of a sizeable section of the public highway;
 - 2013 – Schoolhill and Belmont Street: large public event involving the closure of a section of the public highway in a prominent City Centre location.
- 3.5 The 2013 event on Schoolhill and Belmont Street was the most ambitious and successful to date in terms of scale, visitor numbers and positive feedback. The temporarily pedestrianised space was devoted to a family event focusing on 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. A number of external 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. It is estimated that more than 2000 members of the public engaged with some element of the event. Feedback from local businesses was also positive, with one requesting that the 2014 event take 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. There was no negative feedback, as far as officers are aware, on the road closure itself, with traffic flows not unduly inconvenienced by the event and only one low-frequency bus service having to change route for the duration of the event.

- 3.6 Given the success of the event in 2013, officers propose holding a similar event in the same location on Sunday 21st September 2014. Hosting a large scale City Centre event of this nature for the second consecutive year will demonstrate the Council's commitment to sustainable urban living, overcoming air quality problems in the City Centre and encouraging our citizens and visitors to think more sensibly about their transport options.
- 3.7 It is anticipated that the costs for the event will be met by Nestrans (via the Getabout partnership), CARE North and the Scottish Government.
- 3.8 It is therefore recommended that Members instruct officers to progress the necessary Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) for the closure of Schoolhill (between Blackfriars Street and Back Wynd) and Belmont Street (between Schoolhill and Little Belmont Street) on Sunday 21st September 2014 between the hours of 0800 and 1700 for an event to mark In Town Without My Car Day 2014.

4 Electric Vehicle Charging

- 4.1 At the meeting of this Committee in May 2013, Members agreed to offer the electric vehicle (EV) charging service for free to members of the public until the end of December 2014, with users still expected to pay for the cost of parking in car parks where charges applied. This was on the agreement that the decision would be reviewed in March 2014 with usage and costs reported back to this Committee.
- 4.2 A recent benchmarking exercise revealed that Edinburgh City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Dundee City Council and the Union Square Shopping Centre in Aberdeen all operate their EV charge points on the same basis as Aberdeen City Council and are planning to do so until at least the end of 2014. Moray Council charges for the use of its EV chargers but not for parking. Glasgow City Council is the only Scottish local authority that officers are aware of that allows EVs to park for free in Pay and Display car parks whilst charging their batteries.
- 4.3 Figures for usage of Aberdeen's publicly available EV charging points are now available and can be seen in the table below. Unfortunately costs are not available for units in Marischal College, Frederick Street or West North Street car parks as these are connected to the electrical supply for the whole car park.

Site	Time Period	Energy consumed	Average monthly cost	Total Cost (£)
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		(KWH)		
Sclattie Park	02/08/2013 – 23/01/2014	7591	£166.64	£956.51
Chapel Street	19/07/2013 – 18/12/2013	6338	£159.94	£799.69
Gallowgate (7kW)	11/07/2013 – 18/12/2013	2699	£68.24	£341.23
Gallowgate Rapid Charge	11/07/2013 – 12/12/2013	635	£19.65	£98.25
Polmuir Road	19/7/2013 – 25/11/2013	5638	£177.61	£710.43
Kingswells Park and Ride	19/7/2013 – 24/1/2014	127	£7.38	£44.30
Total cost since July 2013				£2950.41

Table 1: Usage of EV Charge Points in Aberdeen – Energy Consumed and Total Cost (£)

4.4 The costs shown are higher than the estimates supplied by Transport Scotland, included in the May 2013 report. This assumed that, based on every site being used around twice a week, and with the average EV charge costing around £2.50, free EV charging would cost the Council around £200 per month. The findings show that the real cost is around £650 per month and, at current levels, will cost the Council around £8,000 to the end of 2014. The extra costs can be attributed to the following factors

- On average, the units are being used 15% more than was predicted;
- The units operate 24 hours a day and, in addition to the electricity used to charge vehicles, use electricity to illuminate the units, to feed data back to Transport Scotland's back office system which monitors usage, and to power the information screens; and
- The Gallowgate (7kW) unit currently plays host to one of the Co-wheels electric Car Club cars and hosted a second car between September and January 2014. Both of these cars are frequently used by Council staff.

4.5 Although the cost to the Council is higher than anticipated, usage figures reveal that there is an appetite for EVs in Aberdeen and figures from the Electric Vehicle Association Scotland (EVAS) reveal that the number of EV owners in North East Scotland has increased since the units were installed. Furthermore, Scottish Government data for 2013 shows that three of Aberdeen's streets are exceeding agreed Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels – Wellington Road, Union Street and Market Street – while for Particulate Matter (PM₁₀), Market Street and Wellington Road have the highest levels in Scotland with Union Street and King Street also exceeding the Scottish Standard. Transport

emissions are contributing factors to all of these readings. Given that EVs are zero emission, they are clearly part of the solution to these air quality problems. It is therefore recommended that the Committee note the costs to the Council associated with the publicly-available electric vehicle charging points, continue to offer the EV charging service for free until the end of 2014 and instruct officers to review this position in January 2015.

- 4.6 Work is progressing to install three additional EV charge points in the City. Officers are working with Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and Siemens to ensure that the double fast chargers at Golden Square and Dunmail Avenue and the new rapid charger at Aberdeen Snowsports Centre, Garthdee, are operational by April 2014.
- 4.7 In January 2014, the Council was awarded £23,000 from Transport Scotland's "Grant funding for the Upgrade of Electric Vehicle (EV) Combi Rapid Charging units to Combo CCS Charging Infrastructure Across Scotland" scheme. This will allow the two rapid chargers at Sclattie Park and Gallowgate, installed with Transport Scotland funding in 2013, to be upgraded so that they are compatible with a greater range of electric vehicles, due to launch in 2014. The deadline for the completion of this work is June 2014.

B) Issues for Information

Active Travel and Air Quality

5 External Funding

- 5.1 The below table summarises the external funding that was attracted to the Council by officers during 2013/14 for various active travel and air quality projects.

Sustrans Community Links Fund 2013/14	£32,500
Sustrans School Cycle and Scooter Parking Fund 2013/14	£6,148
Cycling Scotland Bikeability Support Plus Fund 2013/14	£35,000
The Scottish Government, Smarter Choices Smarter Places	£5,808
The Scottish Government, Air Quality Action Plan	£50,000
CARE North Plus	£21,500
Transport Scotland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	£63,000
Officer for Low Emission Vehicles Public Sector Estates Chargepoints Scheme	£10,800
TOTAL	£224,756

Table 2: ACC External Funding for Active Travel and Air Quality Projects 2013/14

- 5.2 Officers have now prepared further applications to Sustrans Scotland's 2014/15 Community Links Fund for improvements to the following active travel infrastructure:
- Deeside Way (£92,523);
 - Formartine and Buchan Way (£92,000);
 - The Parkway pedestrian and cycle improvements (£12,500);

- Ellon Road cycle route (£110,000);
- River Dee Ppth (£190,000); and
- National Cycle Network Route 1 re-routing at Stoneywood (£15,000)

Successful projects will be match-funded by the Nestrans 2014/15 capital programme, the exception being the Stoneywood path for which 100% funding has been requested. Successful projects are due to be announced in April 2014.

Public Transport

6 Bus Lane Enforcement

6.1 Aberdeen City Council began the enforcement of bus lane violations in April 2013. The money accrued to date (in terms of fines from offenders) is shown in the graph below.

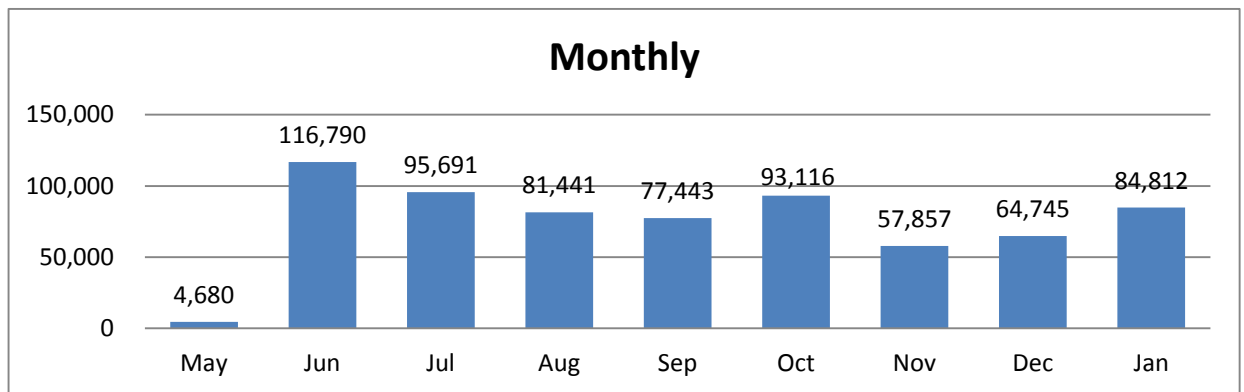


Figure 1: ACC Monthly Income from Bus Lane Violations (£)

6.2 By the end of January 2014, the scheme had generated £750,000. Of this, £146,000 has contributed towards the operational requirements of the system, including staff time and the purchase and installation of additional cameras. As per the legislative requirements of the Scottish Statutory Instrument, any remaining income must be allocated towards achieving, either directly or indirectly, Aberdeen City Council policies relating to the Local Transport Strategy.

6.3 It is intended that, in March each year, a list of proposals for expenditure of that year's bus lane income will be shortlisted and agreed upon for implementation during the next financial year. The list of schemes and their priority may vary from year to year and will be subject to the funds available. Proposals for 2014/15 are described in a separate report to this Committee.

Major Projects

7 Non-Housing Capital Projects

- 7.1 The following are the key milestones for a number of projects funded by the Non-Housing Capital programme:
- 7.2 Projects within the Energetica corridor:
- **Third Don Crossing:** design and contract documentation underway; site preparation works including tree felling underway; main contract underway - spring 2014; start construction – summer 2014; opening - autumn 2015;
 - **A96 Park and Choose:** design and contract documentation currently underway; start construction - summer 2014; opening - autumn 2015;
 - **Dyce Drive Link Road:** design and contract documentation currently underway; start construction - summer 2014; opening - spring 2015 (connection to A96 subject to AWPR contract programme); and
 - **Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie - Tipperty:** procurement underway; start construction - autumn 2014; opening - spring 2018.

Others:

- **South College Street Corridor Improvements:** start construction - early 2015; opening - early 2016;
- **Berryden Corridor:** budget for Phases 1-3 (Denburn to St. Machar Drive) approved in February 2014; timescales are being reviewed to reflect the budget decision;
- **Marischal Square - Option Appraisal:** the outcomes of the Transport Assessment on options for Broad Street are being reported to this Committee in a separate report; and
- **Union Street Pedestrianisation:** key milestones to be revisited following Marischal Square option appraisal.

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

Other

8 Scottish Transport Awards 2014

- 8.1 The 2014 Scottish Transport Awards will take place on 19th June 2014 in Glasgow. Aberdeen City Council will be submitting entries in the following categories - Contribution to Sustainable Transport (The Aberdeen Car Club) and Transport Team or Partnership of the Year (European Mobility Week 2013). Shortlisted entries are due to be announced in March.

9 STAR Conference

- 9.1 The 2014 Scottish Transport Applications and Research (STAR) conference takes place in Glasgow on 21st May with the aim of encouraging researchers and practitioners with an interest in Scottish transport to present and debate recent research and applications.

Interested parties were invited to submit an outline for a paper in December 2013 and officers in the Transport Strategy and Programmes Team prepared a submission to showcase the work undertaken to establish the Aberdeen Co-wheels Car Club. The paper, titled “How can a local authority facilitate the successful implementation of a car club, both for the benefit of residents and the future prosperity of the city?” has successfully been included in the Conference with an officer of the team set to present it.

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 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 listed projects will also assist delivery of the 5 year Corporate Business Plan, in particular the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Directorate’s aims to *Protect and enhance our high-quality, natural and built environment and Support the delivery of a fully integrated transport network.*

An Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) has not been undertaken on this report as it merely provides an update on various projects and schemes, many of which will be subject to their own individual EHRIAs. The LTS and RTS from which the transportation schemes within this report are an integral part have been subject to the appropriate assessments.

This report may be of interest to members of the public as it concerns various transport schemes taking place throughout the region which have the potential to affect all members of the travelling public.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Footway and cycleway improvements described in this report have no identified maintenance budget of their own and could impact on the Council’s maintenance budgets in the future. This represents a potential Hazard and Financial Risk to the Council. This has been minimised, however, by the use of high-quality design and installation materials which should ensure longevity of new infrastructure. The risks of inaction (not improving pedestrian and cycle

infrastructure) are also significant in terms of a poor quality environment, poor reputation for the City of Aberdeen and a decline in active travel which would have significant implications for the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Aberdeen (Opportunity, Environmental and Customer/Citizen Risks).

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix A

NORTH EAST TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Transport Partnership

Aberdeen, 30 October 2013

Present: Councillor Argyle (Chairperson); and Councillors Crockett, Finlayson and McCaig (Aberdeen City Council), Councillors Buchan, Clark, and Latham (Aberdeenshire Council).

Councillor Taylor (Aberdeen City Council) was in attendance as an observer.

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

Apologies: Councillor Milne (Aberdeen City Council), Dr Bochel and Stephen Archer (Advisers to the Board), Eddie Anderson and David Sullivan (External members).

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

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/58/board-meetings.html>

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 28 August 2013.

The Board resolved:

to approve the minute as a correct record.

LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS, THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

2. With reference to article 5 of the minute of its previous meeting of 28 August 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 regarding aviation in Edinburgh on 29 August 2013
- Transport Scotland regarding rail issues by video conferencing on 30 August 2013
- Regional Transport Partnership Chairs meeting in Campbeltown on 4 September 2013

- Health and Transport Action Plan steering group in Aberdeen on 13 September 2013
- Sustrans in Aberdeen on 14 September 2013
- Transport Scotland regarding Energetica corridor study in Glasgow on 17 October 2013
- Transport Scotland regarding a new Liaison Officer in Aberdeen on 18 October 2013
- Transport Scotland regarding A9 and A96 in Perth on 23 October 2013
- East Coast Main Line Group in Perth on 23 October 2013
- Local Authorities/Bus Operators Forum steering group in Aberdeen on 25 October 2013

A discussion took place regarding the information screens at Guild Street, and officers advised that the upkeep of the area was a split responsibility between the shopping centre and stage coach, and two of the screens were the responsibility of Aberdeen City Council, with the responsibility for the remainder of the screens being with Stagecoach.

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:

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to request that the trend analysis which had been undertaken further to the bus survey be presented to a future meeting.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND – UPDATE

3 With reference to article 5 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 June 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:

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to request that officers include more detail on the agreed schemes in the report to the next meeting of the Board.

ACCESS TO LAURENCEKIRK

4. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 28 August 2013 the Board had before it a report by the Director advising of progress to date in taking forward proposals for improved access from the A90 into Laurencekirk.

The report recommended –

that the Board –

- (a) notes the process being undertaken to appoint a consultant; and
- (b) notes the action being taken to discuss the need for the consultancy study with the local community and to brief local elected representatives on the process going forward.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

PROGRESS REPORT

5. With reference to article 15 of the minute of its previous meeting of 28 August 2013, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 23 October 2013.

A discussion took place regarding the overcrowding and lack of catering on carriages between Aberdeen and Inverness. Officers advised that a survey had been undertaken on this issue and had indicated that there was significant overcrowding on some lines.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the content of the progress chart; and
- (ii) to request that officers write on behalf of the Board to raise concerns at the overcrowding on carriages between Aberdeen and Inverness.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

6. With reference to article 16 of the minute of its previous meeting of 28 August 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 –

- Scotland's Marine Plan
- European Guidelines on state aid to airports and airlines
- Revised statutory guidance on Local Bus Services
- Visioning Aberdeenshire 2013 – 2050
- Aberdeenshire Council draft Passenger Transport Strategy and Public Transport policy statement
- Civil Aviation Authority consultation on airspace reclassification

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.

BUDGET MATTERS

7. With reference to article 3 of the minute its previous meeting of 28 August 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 one proposed virement to the budget.

The report recommended –

that the Board:

- (a) note the monitoring position and forecast; and
- (b) agree the virement of £40,000 to “waking and cycling” as detailed within the report.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

8. With reference to article 17 of the minute of its previous meeting of 28 August 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 –

- Airports Commission
- National Transport Awards
- Scottish cities alliance hydrogen bus projects
- Prestwick Airport
- Third Don Crossing and airport link road update
- South College Street and Berryden Road update
- Proposed feasibility study – Buchan corridor
- Dyce railway station and turning circle
- Letter from the Minister for Transport regarding rail issues
- Nestrans' press releases
- Getabout events.

A response received from the Minister for Transport and Veterans was circulated to members for information.

In relation to page 67 of the report, it was noted that Transport Scotland were supportive of the feasibility study being an all modes study, following STAG principles and under the banner of Energetica.

The report recommended –

that the Board note the content of the report.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

9. With reference to article 18 of the minute of its previous meeting of 28 August 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

10. With reference to article 19 of the minute of its previous meeting of 28 August 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:

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to request that in future a glossary of acronyms be provided as a matter of course in the agenda packs.

- PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson

NORTH EAST TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Transport Partnership

Aberdeen, 16 December 2013

Present: Councillor Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor Milne (Deputy Chairs); and Councillors Finlayson, McCaig and Taylor (Aberdeen City Council), Councillor Clark, (Aberdeenshire Council); and David Sullivan (External Member).

In attendance: Stephen Archer (Adviser to the Board), Tom Buchan (Aberdeenshire Council), Louise Calder (Marketing and Communications Officer), Kirsty Chalmers (Nestrans), Rebecka Coull (Clerk to the Board), Derick Murray (Nestrans), Ken Neil (Senior Engineer, Aberdeen City Council) and Andrew Stewart (Health and Transport Coordinator),

Apologies: Eddie Anderson (Deputy Chair), Dr Bochel (Adviser to the Board), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Councillor Latham (Aberdeenshire Council)

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

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/59/board-meetings.html>

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 2013.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to approve the minute as a correct record; and
- (ii) to thank officers for providing the very helpful glossary of acronyms.

LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS, THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

2. With reference to article 2 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 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 –

- Local Authorities Bus Operating Forum steering group in Aberdeen on 25 October 2013

- Seven Cities Alliance Forum in Edinburgh on 29 October 2013
- Transport Scotland in relation to the Haudagain roundabout via videoconference on 1 November 2013
- Regional Transport Partnership lead officers in Perth on 13 November 2013

A response from Baroness Kramer, Minister for State in relation to HS2 was circulated to members.

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 7 of the minute of its meeting of 28 August 2013, the Board had before it a report by the Director which advised member so on the comments received on the Regional Transport Strategy refresh from the Scottish Government, and minor amendments made to the document prior to submission to Scottish ministers for final approval.

The report recommended –

that the Board approve the minor wording amendments and the resubmission of the final Regional Transport Strategy back to Transport Scotland to put forward for Ministerial approval.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND – UPDATE

4. With reference to article 3 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October, 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:

- (a) note the update on payments into the Strategic Transport Fund; and
- (b) note the prioritised list of interventions and delivery timescales currently being consulted on.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and

- (ii) to request that officers include more detail on the agreed schemes in the report to the next meeting of the Board.

VERBAL UPDATE ON APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

5. With reference to the minute of meeting of the Appointment Committee of 13 December 2013, and article 8 of the minute of its meeting of 28 August 2013, the Board heard from the Director who advised that the aforementioned meeting of the Appointment Committee had met and conducted informal interview with six candidates, and had agreed (i) to offer the two current vacant positions of non councillor member to the Nestrans' Board to Gerry Donald and Duncan Cameron, subject to the consent of Scottish Ministers; (ii) to offer the third vacant position of non councillor member to the Nestrans' Board (as of April 2015) to Sandra Macdonald, subject to the consent of Scottish Ministers; and (iii) to instruct the Director to undertake the necessary arrangements to receive the consent from the Scottish Ministers.

The Board resolved:

to note the update provided.

FREIGHT ACTION PLAN REFRESH

6. The Board had before it a report by the Director which updated members on progress made towards a refreshed Freight Action Plan for the north east.

The report recommended – that the Board:

- (a) note the responses to consultation on the Freight Action Plan refresh;
- (b) instruct officers to redraft the Plan in conjunction with Council colleagues, taking account of the comments received; and
- (c) instruct officers to submit a finalised version to a future meeting of the Board.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

RAIL MATTERS

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information on (1) rail franchises; (2) overcrowding; (3) timetable changes (4) Dyce railway station and turning circle; and (5) East Coast mainline authorities. The Board was also circulated a response from the Minister for Transport and Veterans in relation to overcrowding.

The report recommended –

that the Board agrees the contribution of £1250 to the East Coast mainline authorities business case, and otherwise note the content of the report.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN: CYCLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

8. The Board had before it a report by the Director which advised member of progress in relation to developing an Active Travel Plan and recommended that the Board establish an agreement with Sustrans to enable the appointment of a Cycling Development Officer.

The report recommended –

that the Board –

- (a) note the content of the report;
- (b) agree in principle to appoint a Cycling Development Officer, subject to further discussions with Sustrans, and with officers in legal and personnel; and
- (c) agree to consider the financial implications outlined above in deliberations of the budget in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

PROGRESS REPORT

9. With reference to article 5 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 2013, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 6 December 2013.

The Board resolved:

to note the content of the progress chart.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

10. With reference to article 6 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 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 –

- Aberdeen City Council local transport strategy questionnaire
- Aberdeenshire Council local development plan main issues report
- Night flying restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted: stage 2 consultation

- A96 dualling Inverness to Aberdeen public exhibition feedback form
- Draft Scottish Planning Policy: Sustainability and Planning.

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.

BUDGET MATTERS

11. With reference to article 7 of the minute its previous meeting of 30 October 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 one proposed virement to the budget.

The report recommended –

that the Board:

- note the monitoring position and forecast as at 30 November 2013; and
- note the virement of £20,000 within the budget sub head of Bus Improvements.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

2014/15 FUNDING

12. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which outlined the revenue and capital requests for 2014/15 and asked that members agree the proposals for preparing draft capital and revenue budgets for future consideration.

The report recommended –

that the Board:

- instruct the Director to write to the local authorities outlining the Board's considerations and requesting that contributions be allowed for in the Councils' budgets; and
- instruct a further report detailing the proposed 2014/15 capital and revenue budget expenditure for consideration at the next meeting of the Board.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

13. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 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 –

- Prestwick Airport
- Access to Laurencekirk study
- Inveramsay bridge roads orders
- Bus passenger satisfaction survey trend analysis 2009 – 2013
- Social transport collaboration solutions project
- Nestrans' press releases
- Getabout events.

The report recommended –
that the Board note the content of the report.

The Board resolved:
to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

14. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 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

15. With reference to article 10 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 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.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

16. The Board has before it a list of proposed dates of future meetings.

The Board resolved:

to agree that future meetings would be held on the following dates at 2pm in Woodhill House:

- Wednesday 12 February 2014
- Wednesday 2 April 2014
- Wednesday 18 June 2014
- Thursday 21 August 2014
- Thursday 9 October 2014
- Tuesday 9 December 2014.

THANKS TO OFFICERS

17. The Chairperson thanked officers for their hard work over the past year. His comments were echoed by all members.

- **PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson**

NORTH EAST TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Transport Partnership

Aberdeen, 10 February 2014

Present: Councillor Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor Milne and Eddie Anderson (Deputy Chairs); and Councillors Finlayson and Taylor (Aberdeen City Council), Councillors Buchan and Clark (Aberdeenshire Council); Gerry Donald and Duncan Cameron (Non Councillor Members).

In attendance: Jenny Anderson (Nestrans), Dr Bochel (Adviser to the Board), Tom Buchan (Aberdeenshire Council), Louise Calder (Marketing and Communications Officer), Rebecka Coull (Clerk to the Board), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Derick Murray (Nestrans), and Andrew Stewart (Health and Transport Coordinator),

Apologies: Steven Archer (Adviser to the Board), Councillor Latham (Aberdeenshire Council), Councillor McCaig (Aberdeen City Council) and David Sullivan (Non Councillor Member).

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

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/60/board-meetings.html>

WELCOME

1. The Chairperson welcomed Gerry Donald and Duncan Cameron to their first meeting of the Board, and also noted that Sandra Macdonald, who would be joining the Board as a member in April 2014, was in attendance as an observer.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 16 December 2013.

The Board resolved:

to approve the minute as a correct record.

LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS, THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

3. With reference to article 2 of the minute of its previous meeting of 16 December 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 –

- Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group in Aberdeen on 6 December 2013
- High Speed Rail Scotland Benefits and Vision Sub Group on Glasgow on 7 January 2014
- RUNWAYS UK Conference in London on 16 January 2014
- High Speed Rail Scotland Group in Glasgow on 27 January 2014
- UK Government/ Scottish Government on cross border travel in Edinburgh on 29 January 2014
- Laurencekirk Station Research Advisory group in Glasgow on 29 January 2014.

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 – APPROVAL

4. With reference to article 3 of the minute of its meeting of 16 December 2013, the Board had before it a report by the Director which advised members that the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) refresh had now been approved by the Minister for Transport and Veterans.

Members intimated their thanks to all officers involved in this piece of work.

The report recommended –

that the Board note the approval of the RTS refresh 2013 – 2035.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND – UPDATE

5. With reference to article 4 of the minute of its previous meeting of 16 December 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:

- (a) note the update on payments into the Strategic Transport Fund; and
- (b) note the number of responses received to the consultation on the strategic transport fund prioritisation.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

NESTRANS' APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

6. With reference to article 5 of the minute of its previous meeting of 16 December 2013, the Board had before it a report by the clerk which advised as to the outcome of the Appointment Committee of 13 December 2013, and that Scottish Minister approval in respect of the appointments had been received on 8 January 2014.

The report recommended –

that the Board:

- (a) note that Scottish Ministers had approved the appointment of Gerry Donald and Duncan Cameron (with immediate effect) and Sandra Macdonald (as of April 2014) as non councillor members of the Nestrans' Board, as per the recommendation of the Appointment Committee of 13 December 2013; and
- (b) to approve the minute of the Appointment Committee of 13 December 2013 (as appended to the report) as a correct record.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

POSSIBLE JOINT MEETING OF ACSEF AND NESTRANS BOARD

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director which suggested that the Board have a joint meeting with the ACSEF Board to discuss the upcoming project constructions and the new regional transportation strategy.

Members suggested that it may be beneficial for officers to produce a communications strategy to clarify the respective roles of the difference Boards.

The report recommended –

that the Board agrees to hold a joint meeting with the ACSEF Board members.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendation with the addition of the invitation for this joint meeting being extended to all members of the Strategic Development Planning Authority.

BRIDGE OF DEE STAG PART 1 APPRAISAL

8. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 18 April 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which advised as to the content of the draft Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) Part 1 report that had been submitted by consultants.

The report recommended –

That the Board:

- (a) consider the draft STAG Part 1 Appraisal for the Bridge of Dee, and approve a final version for publication on the Bridge of Dee project pages that are held on the Aberdeen City Council website, with a link to be provided from the Nestrans' website;
- (b) refer the report to Aberdeen City Council for consideration, and Aberdeenshire Council for information, along with a recommendation that concepts 6 and 7 as detailed within the report be progressed to STAG Part 2; and
- (c) subject to the agreement of the recommendation of Aberdeen City Council, approve the immediate commissioning of the STAG Part 2 Appraisal.

At this juncture it was clarified that recommendation (c) above meant that no action would be taken on this matter until Aberdeen City Council had taken a decision in this regard.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendations subject to Concept 6B as detailed within the report also being progressed to STAG Part 2 Appraisal.

RAIL MATTERS

9. With reference to article 7 of the minute of its previous meeting, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information on (1) rail franchises; (2) Caledonian Sleeper; (3) Scotrail; (4) Aberdeen – central belt and Aberdeen – Inverness studies; (5) Dyce railway station; (6) East coast mainline authorities; and (7) overcrowding.

The report recommended –

that the Board note the content of the report.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN – UPDATE

10. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its previous meeting of 16 December 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director which advised members of progress in relation to developing an Active Travel Plan.

The report recommended –
that the Board:

- (a) note the content of the report;
- (b) agree the broad outline and focus of the strategy; and
- (c) agree to consider the financial implications outlined above in deliberations of the budget in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

PROGRESS REPORT

11. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 16 December 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 February 2013.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the content of the progress chart;
- (ii) to request that Aberdeen City Council's Air Quality Action Plan be reported to a future meeting; and
- (iii) to request that officers write to Aberdeen International Airport to raise concerns around the lack of shelter at the disabled drop off point.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

12. With reference to article 10 of the minute of its previous meeting of 16 December 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 –

- Aberdeen City Council local development plan main issues report
- National planning framework 3

The report recommended –

that the Board note the content of the report and the documents referred to therein and approve the suggested responses to the consultation.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

BUDGET MATTERS

13. With reference to article 11 of the minute its previous meeting of 16 December 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 one proposed virement to the budget.

The report recommended –

that the Board:

- (a) note the monitoring position and forecast as at 31 December 2013; and
- (b) approve the virements detailed below:

Project	Current Budget	Proposed Virement	Revised Budget
Kintore Railway Station	£300,000	(£300,000)	nil
Ellon Park & Ride	£65,000	(£30,000)	£35,000
A90 Schoolhill Park & Choose	£30,000	(£10,000)	£20,000
Fraserburgh Bus Station (increased contribution)	£76,000	£144,000	£220,000
A947 Towie Turner House	nil	£24,000	£24,000

Project	Current Budget	Proposed Virement	Revised Budget
A944/A97 Junction at Deskry	nil	£39,000	£39,000
A98 Longmanhill – Headition to Roadman's Cottage	nil	£103,000	£103,000
A920 Colpy to Potts Rayne	£195,000	£24,000	£219,000
A952 North of Shanna's Cottages to Wester Pettymarcus	£90,000	£5,000	£95,000
A944 Tillyfourie Westwards	£122,000	£1,000	£123,000
Airport Bus Turning Circle	£426,000	(£394,000)	£32,000
A96 Great Northern Rd approach to Haudagain resurfacing	nil	£63,000	£63,000
A96 Great Northern Rd from St Machar Dr to Printfield Walk resurfacing	nil	£116,000	£116,000
A944 Skene Rd westbound from Kingswells roundabout to Little Brodiach Cottage resurfacing	nil	£117,000	£117,000
A944 Lang Stracht bus gate to A944 Skene Road roundabout resurfacing	nil	£98,000	£98,000

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendations.

2014/15 BUDGET PROPOSALS

14. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which presented the capital and revenue budgets for 2014/15, subject to available funding being confirmed.

The report recommended –

that the Board approve the 2014/15 revenue and capital budgets of £1,026,350 and £2,467,000 with programmes as detailed in appendices 2 and 3, subject to anticipated funding levels being confirmed and making any appropriate adjustments following the Board's consideration.

The Board resolved:

to approve the 2014/15 revenue and capital budgets of £1, 026, 350 and £2,467,000 with programmes etc as detailed in appendices 2 and 3, subject to anticipated funding levels being confirmed.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

15. With reference to article 13 of the minute of its previous meeting of 16 December 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 –

- Access to Laurencekirk study
- Traveline Scotland talking phone app
- Edinburgh to Glasgow rail improvement programme
- Airports Commission interim report
- Guidance on the protection of regional air access to London
- Aberdeen Health Village
- Strategic Development Plan reporter's findings
- Scottish Transport Awards
- Nestrans' press releases
- Getabout events and communications.

The report recommended –

that the Board note the content of the report.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to request that officers write to the Scottish Government to express the Board's concern around the cost associated with the Glasgow to Edinburgh rail improvements.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

16. With reference to article 14 of the minute of its previous meeting of 16 December 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

17. With reference to article 15 of the minute of its previous meeting of 16 December 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.

- **PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson**

Appendix B

Bridge of Dee Study

Summary of findings against each of the STAG Part 1 Appraisal Criteria

Environment: The most significant differentiator in environmental effects is related to the nature of the bridge crossing structures considered, with those which require works within the river being considered less favourable than those which do not require such works. When comparing similar bridge types, all concepts score broadly similarly, with minor variations. Although some environmental benefits are anticipated, all concepts are anticipated to result in adverse environmental impacts. While the assessment of the scale of these impacts is similar between concepts, in terms of cumulative impacts, Concept 7 may be considered less unfavourable than Concepts 5, 6 and 6A, on the basis that its effects occur within a more localised area.

Safety: All concepts score broadly similarly in providing safety benefits, with Concepts 6 and 6A scoring marginally more favourably than Concepts 5 and 7.

Economy: Concepts 6, 6A and 7 score most favourably in providing economic benefits, with Concept 5 scoring least favourably and failing to provide value for money in terms of its transport economic assessment.

Integration: Concepts 6, 6A and 7 score most favourably in providing integration benefits, with Concept 5 scoring least favourably.

Accessibility and Social Inclusion: All concepts score similarly in providing accessibility and social inclusion benefits.

Established Policy Directives

Established policy directives are considered to be generally supportive of Concepts 6, 6A and 7, and generally opposed to Concept 5.

Feasibility

As with the Environmental criterion, the greatest differentiator in terms of feasibility is related to the nature of the bridge crossing structures and whether these entail works within the river. Where such works are required these are considered inherently more technically challenging and complex than if they are not required.

When comparing similar bridge types, Concept 5 is considered the least technically challenging and complex option, with Concepts 6, 6A and 7 each being considered to be somewhat technically challenging and complex.

Affordability

As with the Environmental and Feasibility criteria, the greatest differentiator in terms of cost is related to the nature of the bridge crossing structures and whether these entail works within the river. Where increased spans are

required to eliminate the need for works within the river, these result in increased scheme costs. In overall terms, when comparing similar bridge types, the concepts are considered to have broadly similar costs.

Public Acceptability

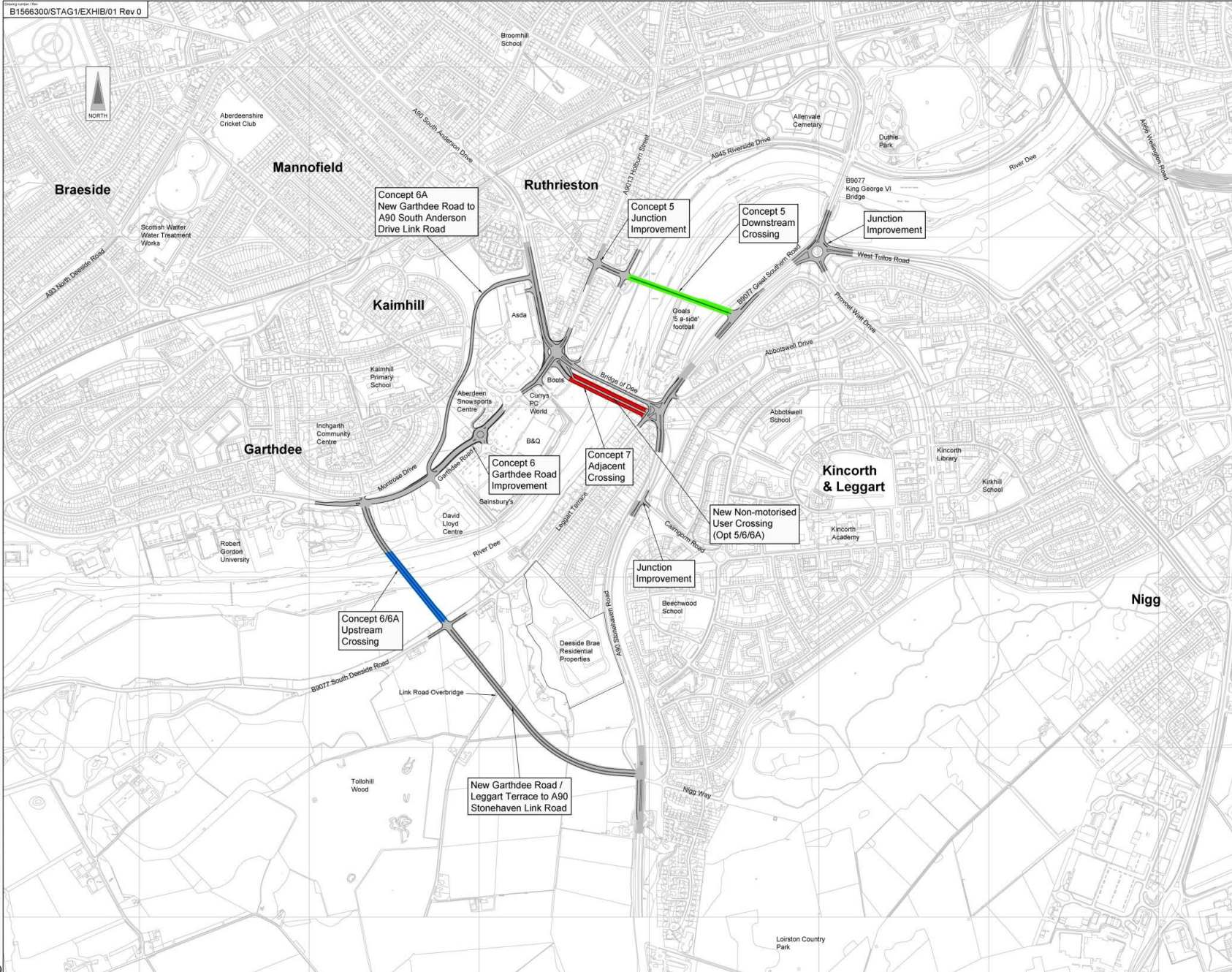
A public exhibition of project proposals was held in September 2013. Although most people did not express a preference between options, of those that did, Concept 7 received more positive than negative preferences, Concepts 6 and 6A received similar levels of positive and negative preferences, and Concept 5 received more negative than positive preferences.

Appendix C
Bridge of Dee Study – STAG Part 1 Concepts



Legend

- Concept 5
- Concept 6/6A
- Concept 7



<p>JACOBS <small>an Ashurst Taylor logo</small></p>	
Client	ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL
Project	BRIDGE OF DEE STUDY
Drawing title	EXHIBITION DRAWINGS INDICATIVE ROUTE OPTIONS COMPOSITE PLAN
Drawing status	FOR INFORMATION
Scale	1:1 (NOT SCALE)
Revision	0
Project No.	B1566300
Client No.	B1566300/STAG1/EXHIB/01
Rev.	0

This drawing is not to be used in whole or part other than for the intended purpose and project as defined on this drawing. Refer to the contract for full terms and conditions.

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