

REPORT TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - 12 FEBRUARY 2006

REPORT ON: CONSULTATION ON NESTRANS AND SESTRAN REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGIES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 96-2007

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines the purpose, content and proposals contained within the North East Scotland (NESTRANS), and South East Scotland (SEStran) Draft Regional Transport Strategies and Dundee City Council's response.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the purpose, content and proposals contained within the consultation and endorse Dundee City Council's response contained in Appendix 1.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

4 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is recognised that Regional Transport Strategies (RTS) will have a significant influence on the sustainable policy and Dundee City Council's response aims to ensure the RTS promotes measures in line with the Council's sustainability principles for Transport and Travel.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The responses to the Draft Regional Transport Strategies contained in this report are aimed at improving opportunities and connectivity between Dundee and other important areas in Scotland. The responses thus address the travel needs for all and, in particular, those who do not have access to a car.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 required councils to work together through Regional Transport Partnerships (RTP) to ensure transport provision is planned in a more strategic manner. Dundee City Council is a member of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership (TACTRAN) RTP along with Angus, Perth & Kinross and Stirling Councils. TACTRAN and all other RTPs are required to produce Regional Transport Strategies that are to be submitted to the Transport Minister by the 31st of March 2007. The Scottish Executive guidance on developing a RTS requires all RTPs to consult on their draft RTS.

- 6.2 Towards the end of 2006 both North East of Scotland RTP (NESTRANS) and South East of Scotland RTP (SEStran) have launched consultations on their Draft Regional Transport Strategies with the following deadlines:

- NESTRANS (North East of Scotland RTP) – 7 February 2007
www.nestrans.org.uk/rts
- SEStran (South East of Scotland RTP) – 28 January 2007 www.sestran.gov.uk

6.3 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the Council's response to the Draft Strategies produced by NESTRANS and SESTRAN.

7 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

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1 February 2007

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APPENDIX 1

Consultation Responses to Draft North East Scotland (NESTRANS) Regional Transport Strategy

NESTRANS Comment/Proposal - Strategic Roads Improvements

NESTRANS will press for measures to address constraints between the north east and central Scotland which can directly affect north east businesses, for example around Dundee and at the River Forth crossing points.

Dundee City Council Response

Dundee City Council understands the importance of the strategic road network in Dundee to the NESTRANS area and welcomes their support in pressing for measures to address the congestion bottlenecks that occur on and around the Trunk Road network within the City. Dundee City Council through its membership of TACTRAN supports the investigation for an A90 Dundee Outer Bypass and/or other options for reducing congestion and improving safety on the Kingsway.

Dundee City Council also supports measures to ensure an appropriate Forth Crossing is maintained as it is essential to maintaining the economic viability of all regions north of the Central Belt.

NESTRANS Comment/Proposal - Rail Links and Services

NESTRANS will work with the rail industry, Transport Scotland and others to promote and support measures to cut journey times, including addressing pinch points in Angus and Fife and Edinburgh Waverly and Queen Street stations. NESTRANS will also support measures to reduce overcrowding and improve the reliability of services to central Scotland and beyond.

Dundee City Council Response

Dundee City Council supports the NESTRANS intention to promote and support measures to cut rail journey times and pinch points on sections of the rail network north of both Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Consultation Responses to Draft South East Scotland (SEStran) Regional Transport Strategy

SEStran Comment/Proposal - Network Based Initiatives

Forth Crossing

SEStran supports a sustainable solution to the problem of the deteriorating condition of the present Bridge. SEStran considers that any new crossing should be constructed to allow for future tram and, if possible, heavy rail use. In the Situation that an additional (rather than replacement) crossing is provided, SEStran considers that:

- the combination of old and new crossings should provide no more than two lanes in each direction available to single-occupancy cars;
- all new traffic lanes across the Forth need to be dedicated to buses and High Occupancy Vehicles (HOVs). Consideration will be given to the possibilities of allowing HGVs to access these lanes;
- separate running lanes for the mixed use of buses, HOVs and possibly HGVs should be considered, but as far as possible flexibility should be maintained to enable full vehicle carrying capacity for traffic capacity during periods of bridge maintenance: and
- the promoter should be required to put in place a demand management and investment package that will seek to ensure that traffic in Edinburgh will remain at or below levels that would have been forecast without an additional crossing.

An additional crossing a Queensferry creates significant opportunities for the development of public transport in the area, both cross Forth and on the bridge head areas. SEStran will seek to use these opportunities to maximise public transport use in the corridor, in terms of bus, HOVs, guided bus and light rail networks.

Dundee City Council Response

Dundee City Council considers that the Forth Crossing is of strategic economic importance to Dundee and is a key link that connects Dundee to Edinburgh and the rest of the UK beyond. Dundee City Council supports measures to ensure an appropriate Forth Crossing is maintained and that Public Transport and sustainable options should also be considered as part of any new Forth Crossing.

SEStran Comment/Proposal - Network Based Initiatives

Rail

In the SEStran area, there is an aim to increase capacity and improve utilisation of the network as a general principle. Where the corridors have existing rail services, increased capacity/better utilisation of the rail network can be assumed to be promoted. A key to providing new capacity/better utilisation on the rail network is improved facilities at, and around Edinburgh Waverly station.

SEStran supports the Network Rail Utilisation Strategy that proposes to re-structure the Fife line and Aberdeen Services.

Dundee City Council Response.

Dundee City Council welcomes the increases to capacity and improved facilities that are presently being constructed to meet future demand at Waverly station. Dundee City Council also supports the promotion of increased capacity and better utilisation of the rail network particularly on routes that improve connectivity and journey times between Dundee and Edinburgh.

Dundee City Council also supports the Network Rail Utilisation Strategy that proposes to re-structure the Fife line and Aberdeen services.

SEStran Comment/Proposal - Network Based Initiatives

Bus/Park and Ride

The level of bus services between Cupar/St Andrews and Dundee will be reviewed. A 'Park and Choose' site south of the Tay Bridge will be promoted.

Dundee City Council Response

The review of bus services and the promotion of Park and Choose between North Fife and Dundee should be undertaken through consultation and joint working with Dundee City Council, TACTRAN, Tay Bridge Joint Board and the Bus Operators.

Comment regarding tolling on the Tay Road Bridge has been deferred within the RTS document. Dundee City Council urges SEStran to include a statement within the RTS supporting the abolition of tolls on the Tay Road Bridge. However, in the event that tolls on the Tay Road Bridge are not abolished as a result of the Tolled Bridges Review, Dundee City Council urges SEStran to include a measure within their RTS to engage with Dundee City Council, TACTRAN, Tay Road Bridge Joint Board and the Bus Operators to investigate possible funding mechanisms for sustainable options to relocate the toll plaza to the Fife landfall.

SEStran Comment/Proposal - Network Based Initiatives

Access to Healthcare

SEStran will work with bus operators and health boards to explore the potential for new services and adjusting existing services to main hospitals in the SEStran area.

Dundee City Council Response

People in North East Fife look to Ninewells in Dundee which is outside the SEStran area for acute in-patient services and therefore any proposed new services and adjustments to existing services should be undertaken through consultation and joint working with NHS Tayside, Dundee City Council, TACTRAN and bus operators.