

## **Interim Director's Report**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1** This report informs the Board of progress on the review of the National Transport Strategy and the second Strategic Transport Projects review. It also covers the business of the most recent meeting of the Regional Transport Partnership Chairs and appraises the Board on Transport Scotland's desire to establish Regional Transport Working Groups.

### **2. National Transport Strategy Review (2)**

- 2.1** While the work on policy development has been progressing at pace, the Review Board which met on 7 November agreed that the current timescales for consultation in early 2019 is too tight and does not allow for further dialogue with the stakeholders in advance of the wider consultation. It was, therefore, agreed that the wider consultation will now be delayed until mid 2019, with a period of further stakeholder engagement in spring 2019. It is anticipated that the final document will be produced in November / December 2019.
- 2.2** This extension to the timescale will allow for the regional testing of NTS policy proposals, to link into the proposed regional and national approach to the Strategic Transport Project Review and ensure that it is aligned with the National Planning Framework.

### **3. Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR 2)**

- 3.1** A contract to support the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) has been awarded to a combined team of Jacobs and Aecom.
- 3.2** This is the second strategic review – the first was published in 2008. The new review will consider future investment in all transport modes including the strategic road and rail networks as well as active travel, island connectivity, ferries and buses.
- 3.3** As described above, work is underway on the review of the National Transport Strategy which will set out a shared vision for a future of Scotland's transport system and the second Strategic Transport Projects Review will build on that by identifying the infrastructure required to make it a reality.
- 3.4** The government has committed to a collaborative review that will consider the views of bodies such as transport authorities and stakeholders, businesses, community groups and special interest groups.

#### **4. RTP Chairs Forum**

**4.1** The RTP Joint Chairs last met on 6 March 2019 in Edinburgh.

#### **5. Regional Transport Working Groups**

**5.1** On 8 January 2019, Transport Scotland's Director for Transport Strategy & Analysis sent a letter to all local authorities and RTPs proposing that groups under the above heading be set up to provide input to Transport Scotland's work to progress "... transport policy and strategic transport interventions for a 20 year horizon..." and further recommended that the South East Scotland region's group be based on the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal (E&SESCD) configuration.

In respect of the above, it is worth pointing out that an integral part of the NTS 2 process was the establishment of a "Roles and Responsibilities Working Group" with a remit to review and make recommendations for future options in respect of regional transport governance. These recommendations are currently being assessed by Transport Scotland and the outcome of that assessment is awaited.

In the meantime, it is assumed that the aforementioned "Regional Transport Working Group", will focus on input to STPR 2.

**5.2** In respect of further "city deals" being established nationally, Clackmannanshire and Stirling have joined together. Falkirk Council, SEStran's remaining Partner authority is not yet associated with a city deal.

Subsequently a Stirling-Clackmannanshire City Region Transport Working Group has been formed with Falkirk, Tactran, SEStran and Transport Scotland included.

The Group will look at the potential benefits, affordability and deliverability of strategic transport schemes as well as more local interventions.

Transport Scotland will work as part of the group to enable the regional engagement to inform national transport appraisal considerations including the on-going Strategic Transport Projects Review.

##### **5.2.1 In more detail, the group will consider:**

###### City Deal Priorities

Take forward work for which finances have been identified in the Stirling-Clackmannanshire City Region Deal Heads of Terms

###### Other Strategic Transport Priorities

Take forward work to identify the transport issues which affect the City Region Deal aspirations

Take forward any work packages to investigate and identify solutions to address the transport issues affecting the City Region Deal aspirations. This will include considering potential benefits, affordability and deliverability of the strategic transport schemes as well as the more local interventions that support the Stirling-Clackmannanshire City Region

Provide interface with Transport Scotland's Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2)

Provide transport input to Stirling and Clacks City Region Deal governance structure

Additionally, subject to the items being covered on any one agenda, invitations may be extended to relevant organisations (such as Network Rail, Local Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority, Scotrail, Stirling University & Forth Valley College, NHS Forth Valley and SNH). It is proposed that the group meets on a two-monthly basis.

## 6. Recommendations

### 6.1 The Board notes the contents of the report.

Jim Grieve  
**Interim Partnership Director**  
14<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Policy Implications	There may be policy implications for the longer term but and it is anticipated that they will start to emerge later this year
Financial Implications	Depending, particularly, on decisions being taken on the output of the Roles & Responsibilities Working Group referred to in 5.1 there may be financial implications for future years.
Equalities Implications	None
Climate Change Implications	None