

**REPORT TO:** PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - 13 NOVEMBER 2006

**REPORT ON:** TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP - PROGRESS UPDATE

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

**REPORT NO:** 667-2006

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report updates the Committee on developments with the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership (TACTRAN) and on progress on development of the Regional Transport Strategy for the TACTRAN area.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee
- i note developments in relation to the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership, as outlined in the report and agree to receive further progress reports at appropriate intervals;
  - ii note progress on the development of a Regional Transport Strategy for the TACTRAN area, as outlined in the report and Appendix; and
  - iii note that public consultation on the Draft Regional Transport Strategy will be the subject of a further detailed report to Committee

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 TACTRAN's core running costs are funded 50% by grant from the Scottish Executive and 50% by requisition from each of the constituent Councils. A provisional budget of £400,000 was identified to cover core costs associated with staffing, premises and other operational costs in 2006/07.
- 3.2 Council contributions during the current year totalling £200,000 are broken down as follows, based on a population and dispersal formula use by the Executive to allocate other RTP funding:-
- |                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Angus Council           | £45,800 |
| Dundee City Council     | £56,800 |
| Perth & Kinross Council | £60,600 |
| Stirling Council        | £36,800 |
- 3.3 The Council's contribution is provided for within the Planning & Transportation Department's Revenue Budget for 2006/07. As a result of delays in making staff appointments and establishing the Partnership Headquarters, the costs to the Council in the current year will be less than originally budgeted for. TACTRAN is currently developing its core operational budget requirements for 2007/08, in consultation with Councils, and this will be the subject of a future report.
- 3.4 A specific grant of £240,500 is being provided by the Scottish Executive to fund development of the RTS and appointment of associated consultancy support. In addition each Council is contributing a significant amount of staff time through the provision of two officer representatives on the Regional Transport Strategy Steering Group.

#### **4 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Regional Transportation Strategy will contribute towards the Council's sustainability objectives by seeking to reduce the need to travel and by promoting alternative more sustainable modes of transport than the private car.

#### **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no equal opportunities implications relevant to this report.

#### **6 INTRODUCTION**

- 6.1 As Members are aware, the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership (TACTRAN) is one of 7 Regional Transport Partnerships (RTP's) created under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 6.2 This report updates the Committee on developments over recent months, in relation to the TACTRAN organisation and the emerging Regional Transport Strategy.

#### **7 DISCUSSION**

##### **TACTRAN Board and Organisation**

- 7.1 The make up of the TACTRAN Board is prescribed by legislation, which stipulates that the Board will consist of 10 Councillor members (2 from Angus, 3 from Dundee City, 3 from Perth & Kinross and 2 from Stirling) and 4 or 5 non-Councillor members who will be initially appointed by the Transport Minister. This Council's representatives on the Board are Councillors Grant, Keenan and Wallace.
- 7.2 The Scottish Executive invited applications for non-Councillor membership of all 7 RTP's earlier in the year. Candidates were interviewed by the TACTRAN Board's Executive Committee and a short list of potential candidates was forwarded to the Transport Minister, for consideration. In May 2006 the Transport Minister announced the appointment of Robert Andrew, Managing Director of Stagecoach Scotland, Professor Malcolm Horner of Dundee University and Scottish Enterprise Tayside, and Bill Wright a Director of Cycling Scotland. One of the original appointees has recently resigned and the Board has agreed to advertise for a replacement.
- 7.3 The Minister retained a vacancy on all 7 RTP Boards for a Health Board representative, reflecting the close relationship between transport and health. Following consultation between TACTRAN and NHS Tayside and NHS Forth Valley, the TACTRAN Board agreed to submit Margaret Duffy, Chief Operating Officer of Forth Valley Health Board as a Health nominee. The Transport Minister confirmed this appointment to the Board on 11 September.
- 7.4 In addition to the elected Councillor Members on the Board, the Council inputs to the work of the RTP through the attendance of the Director of Planning & Transportation at Board meetings and on the TACTRAN Management Team, which provides a strategic officer liaison forum between TACTRAN and the Councils. Further professional and technical input is provided through officer input to the Regional Transport Strategy Group.
- 7.5 In addition, Perth & Kinross Council provides Secretariat, Legal, Personnel and Financial support to the RTP.
- 7.6 Eric Guthrie took up the position of Director of TACTRAN on 17 July 2006 and is currently based in Pullar House, Perth, pending establishment of the Partnership Headquarters (see para 3.8 below). A post of Office Manager/PA has recently been advertised, to assist the Director in taking forward the organisational development of the Partnership and its

operational support functions. The Director is currently consulting with Councils on the Partnership's other initial core staffing requirements.

- 7.7 The Scottish Executive has provided two-year funding to all RTP's to enable the appointment of a Travel Plan Officer. The main purpose of these posts is to promote the development of a Travel Plan for each constituent Council and main health establishments in the region. Applications have been invited for this post, who will liaise with Council staff in taking forward the development of Council Travel Plans.
- 7.8 Work is ongoing on creating the TACTRAN Partnership Headquarters, which is to be based in Bordeaux House, 31 Kinnoull Street, Perth. This is a leased property, which requires some internal refurbishment. It is anticipated that the Partnership Headquarters will be operational by mid-January 2007.
- 7.9 A TACTRAN website [www.tactran.gov.uk](http://www.tactran.gov.uk) has recently been launched, where more information on the RTP can be obtained. The website will be developed and enhanced over the coming weeks.

### **Regional Transport Strategy**

- 7.10 The current priority for TACTRAN is the creation of a Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), which sets out a Vision and Objectives for transport across the region over a 10 – 15 year time horizon, to be developed in consultation with local stakeholders and the wider community. The Transport Minister has requested that each RTP submits a finalised RTS by 31 March 2007, having regard to Guidance issued by the Scottish Executive.
- 7.11 The Scottish Executive has provided grant funding to all RTP's to support the development of strategies, including appointment of consultancy support. Following a competitive tendering process, the MVA Consultancy, in partnership with Natural Capita and Carl Bro, were appointed in early June, to support development of the TACTRAN RTS.
- 7.12 The TACTRAN Board has agreed a Vision for the RTS , which is :-
- "a transport system , shaped by engagement with its citizens, which helps deliver prosperity and connects communities across the region and beyond, which is socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable and which promotes the health and well-being of all"*
- 7.13 The Board has also approved over-arching Objectives and a set of 18 sub-Objectives to guide detailed development of the RTS. These are set out in the Appendix to this report. The RTS is expected to contribute to the overall vision, aims and objectives set out in the Scottish Executive's White Paper "Scotland's Transport Future" (June 2004) and the National Transport Strategy, expected to be published in final form in early November 2006.
- 7.14 The initial stage of the RTS process involves creating an Issues & Objectives Report, which identifies the main issues which need to be addressed, the problems which need to be solved, and the main opportunities which exist to support meeting the RTS objectives. This work was supported and informed by a Key Stakeholders Workshop held in Dundee on 3 August 2006, to which a wide range of transport, economic, environmental and community interest groups were invited. The Issues & Objectives Report and related background papers are available for inspection on the TACTRAN website at [www.tactran.gov.uk](http://www.tactran.gov.uk).
- 7.15 Work is currently ongoing on the Options Generation, Sifting and Appraisal stage of the RTS process. This involves identifying and evaluating options for schemes/interventions and alternative strategy packages for achieving the RTS objectives. To help inform development of strategy options for further appraisal, another key stakeholders consultation event is to be held in Dundee on 3 November 2006.

- 7.16 The outcome of this phase of the work, in the shape of an Options Report and recommended strategy, will be reported for consideration by the TACTRAN Board on 21 November. Work will then continue during late November/early December on the production of a Draft RTS for public consultation. The Draft RTS is scheduled to be approved by the Board on 19 December, immediately following which there will be an 8-week period of public consultation. During this period the Draft RTS will also be the subject of reports to Council Committees.
- 7.17 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the RTS is also required. This work is being taken forward by Natural Capital, who are consulting with environmental interests. The SEA Environmental Report will be issued for public consultation alongside the Draft RTS in late December.
- 7.18 The outcome of public consultation will be reported back to the TACTRAN Board in late February/early March, with a view to submitting the finalised RTS to the Transport Minister by 31 March 2007.

## **8 CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 This report is being submitted to the relevant Committees of Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Stirling Councils.
- 8.2 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.

## **9 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 None

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Head of

MPG/MS

6 November 2006

Dundee City Council  
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## **APPENDIX**

### **TACTRAN REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY OBJECTIVES**

#### **Economy:**

**Overarching Objective – to ensure transport helps to deliver regional prosperity**

- To ensure that transport infrastructure and services in the region help deliver economic growth, particularly in key business and employment sectors
- To improve the efficiency, reliability and integration of the movement of goods and people
- To address issues of peripherality associated with the TACTRAN area

#### **Accessibility, Equity and Social Inclusion :**

**Overarching Objective – to improve accessibility for all, particularly for those suffering from social exclusion**

- To improve access to employment
- To improve access to public services, including health and education
- To improve access to retail, recreation and leisure facilities
- To reduce severance and social and economic isolation caused by transport, or by a lack of it
- To improve the accessibility and inclusivity of the transport system

#### **Environment :**

**Overarching Objective – to ensure that the transport system contributes to safeguarding the environment and promotes opportunities for improvement**

- To contribute to the achievement of the Scottish national targets and obligations on greenhouse gas emissions
- To promote a transport system that respects both the natural and the built environment
- To promote a shift towards more sustainable modes

#### **Health & Well-being :**

**Overarching Objective – to promote the health and well-being of communities**

- To help meet or better all statutory air quality requirements in the TACTRAN area
- To promote a culture of active and healthy travel

**Safety & Security :**

**Overarching Objective – to improve the real and perceived safety and security of the transport network**

- To improve transport-related safety
- To improve real or perceived levels of personal security on the transport network

**Integration :**

**Overarching Objective – to improve integration, both within transport and between transport and other policy areas**

- To improve integration of the transport modes
- To ensure integration with land-use planning
- To ensure a fit with other relevant national, regional and local strategies and policies