



## **Report to Partnership Meeting of 4 April 2008**

### **PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS, OBSERVER AND PERMANENT ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS**

#### **SUMMARY**

The Report explains the basis of the case for HITRANS to seek approval from Government to extend the tenure of the current non Councillor Members of the Board, and to consider inviting greater input from the Health Sector in the development of the Partnership. The Report additionally proposes appointment of a revised Permanent Advisor from HIE and a new Permanent Advisor from the Health Sector.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board is asked to

1. Agree to recommend to Scottish Ministers that the current term of appointment of the other (non-councillor) members be extended to May 2009.
2. Agree to appoint an Observer to the Partnership representing Health interests following an advertising and selection process.
3. Agree to appoint Tony Jarvis of HIE as a Permanent Advisor and to seek the nomination of a Permanent Advisor from the Health Sector.

#### **DETAIL**

##### **Appointment of other (non-councillor) members**

Within the terms of the Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment, Constitution and Membership)(Scotland) Order 2005 each Partnership shall have a number of members as they consider appropriate within a specified range. For HITRANS this constitutes 1 member from each of the constituent Councils and 2-3 other members. Other members were initially appointed by Scottish Ministers prior to the elections of councillors in 2007. After this date each other member is to be appointed by the Partnership subject to the consent of Scottish Ministers. The appointment of other (non councillor) members to HITRANS Partnership was initially until April 2008 and it now falls on the Partnership to decide how to proceed with the subsequent appointment or re-appointment of other members. The relevant sections of the Regional Transport Partnerships, Guidance on Membership are as follows:

*64. Those other members appointed by the Scottish Ministers will remain members until the date indicated in their appointment letter - this will be around 6-12 months after May 2007 to support continuity and stability as there is likely to be quite a number of changes in the councillor membership following the May 2007 elections, conducted for the first time under a system of proportional representation.*

*65. The RTP will, when deciding on its own first appointments of other members after May 2007, be able to consider those already in post. It should carry out an appraisal of each other member's contribution before considering any re-appointment. There is no limit to the number of times an other member can be appointed, or the number of years he or she can serve. However, a balance between continuity and refreshment should be struck.*

#### *Subsequent Rounds of Appointments*

*66. After the local government elections in May 2007 the non-councillor members will be appointed by the RTP but subject to the consent of Scottish Ministers. The RTP should send to the Scottish Ministers the names of the other members it proposes to appoint along with a brief summary of the benefits they will bring to the partnership and of the process used to select them. Consent, or any other response, will be given within one calendar month.*

The Guidance correctly foresaw the significant change in membership of the Regional Partnerships following the May 2007 elections and the benefit of continuity that the continuing involvement of the original non councillor members beyond May 2007. Other Partnerships, in recognition of this position, have proposed to recommend to Scottish Ministers that the term of appointment of the non-councillor members be extended to the mid term between Council elections, and effectively until May 2009. Such an action would have equal merit for the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership.

### **Appointment of Observers**

In addition to the above Partnerships may appoint a number of observers as they consider appropriate to the Partnership. Observers may participate in proceedings of the Partnership in the same manner as councillor members or other members but may not hold office in or participate in its decisions.

Linkage between the Health and Transport sectors is increasingly important in developing complementary policies and strategies that support best use of public resources and integration of services. Most of the other Regional Transport Partnerships have parties reflecting health interests represented on their Partnership either as Other Members or Observers. It is recommended that the Partnership consider appointing an Observer from Health within the Region for the same period as applies to the appointment of other members. The process for appointment of an Observer should follow the same process as that for appointment of other members with the appointment being advertised and selection being made at interview.

### **Appointment of new Permanent Advisors**

The Partnership is supported by the work of its Permanent Advisors in advising on the development and delivery of its Strategy and associated research and promotional activities. Donald MacNeill as the HIE Permanent Advisor has indicated his intention to leave that organisation's employment at the end of March 2008, and HIE have recommended that Tony Jarvis take his place as a permanent advisor to the Partnership. Tony has a wide knowledge of transportation issues and the economic benefits of transport investment in particular and his appointment as a permanent advisor is therefore recommended to the Partnership.

The Health Sector is, as mentioned above, an important stakeholder in the work of the Partnership and it is therefore recommended that a suitably experienced Permanent Advisor be sought to represent this sector. The Partnership is asked to consider delegating the appointment of a suitable candidate to the Chair and Partnership Director.

**Report by:** Dave Duthie  
**Designation:** Partnership Director  
**Date:** 19 March 2008