



Report to Partnership Meeting 6th June 2008

ENGAGEMENT

Regional Bus Forum

Purpose of Report

To outline to members the detailed proposals of how HITRANS will meet our business plan commitment to engage with stakeholders involved in the delivery and use of bus services at a regional level.

Recommendation

- a) The Board is asked to agree the proposals in the Report for engagement with stakeholders on matters pertaining to bus services.
- b) The Board is asked to nominate a Board Member to Chair the Regional Bus Forum.

Detail

As part of the Partnership's commitment to positive involvement of stakeholders the following regular engagement structure is proposed in matters relating to bus transport in the Highlands and Islands. This will seek to develop on the work of the Councils, the Highlands and Islands Public Transport Forum and the Project Steering Group established to support the delivery of HITRANS capital programme in the past.

1. **The Regional Bus Forum** will be established allowing stakeholders to feed back to the Partnership on regionally significant bus developments and related matters. It will meet 4 times per year to:
 - Develop proposals for inclusion and subsequent delivery through the Regional Transport Strategy
 - Work with partners on cross-boundary National Transport Strategy bus and modal integration objectives
 - Support the development of a common approach to bus information and publicity, and integrated ticketing across all Council areas and with operators.
 - Develop proposals to support delivery of modal shift to bus to be taken forward along with key partners including the local authorities, potentially looking towards the development of Statutory Quality Partnerships.
 - Build on the good practice and experience developed by Highlands and Islands Public Transport Forum.
2. Attendance at the group will be on an invitation basis and be developed by HITRANS officers and the local authority Partnership Advisors (or appropriate local authority

officers as delegated by the Advisor). The following are some suggest representatives that will be considered for involvement:

Representatives from each of the 5 Local Authorities, both at Officer and Member level
Highland and Islands Enterprise
Public Transport Users Committee Representative
Bus Users UK representative
D and E Coaches
Tim Dearman Coaches
Scotbus
Shiel Buses
Scottish Citylink
Stagecoach Bluebird
Stagecoach Inverness / Highland Country
Orkney Coaches
West Coast Motors
Western Isles Bus Operator representative (preferably one for Lewis and Harris and one for Uist and Barra)
A representative from Caledonian MacBrayne
A representative from Northlink Ferries
A representative from First ScotRail

3. To give the Forum a clear and direct engagement link to the HITRANS Board, it is recommended that the Forum is Chaired by a Board Member to be agreed at the Partnership meeting on 6th June 2008.
5. The first meeting of the Advisory Group will be held on Thursday 19th June either in Aviemore or Inverness. It is intended to include presentations from Halcrow (on the Park and Ride Study) and MVA (on the Road Based Passenger Transport Study) if these studies are suitably advanced by that date.

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