



Report to Partnership Meeting of 3 August 2007

Report on Meeting of Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships 28th June

AGENDA ITEM: 5

Summary

The report provides a summary of issues discussed by the Chairs at their Meeting on 28th June and resultant actions.

Detail

The Meeting was held in Glasgow and Chaired by Alistair Watson, the SPT Chair.

As this was the first meeting of the Chairs following the election two Partnerships one Partnership, Sestrans had not elected a Chair, but the other partnerships were represented by either their Chair or Vice Chair.

The items raised, which are of particular interest to this Partnership, are as follows,

Role of RTPs in Public Transport Funding: The Chairs were informed that it continued to be Government's intention to ask Regional Transport Partnerships to assume responsibility for distribution of an enhanced DRT budget from April 2008. The Chairs endorsed the principle of taking over management of these funds from the Executive and remitted to officers to consider alternatives for the allocation of funding with the Scottish Executive and report back to the next Chairs Meeting.

Joint RPT Position Papers: The Chairs agreed to proceed to develop Position Papers on a number of transportation areas. HITRANS have offered to draft the Papers on Ferry Services and Coastal Shipping in reflection of the critical significance of these activities to our regional partnership area. The Papers once approved will be supported by all the Chairs and are required to be prepared by September 2007. To ensure compliance with this timescale, the Partnership Director has arranged in partnership with HIE for Reference Consulting to prepare the Papers. Reference Consulting have been widely involved in study work in both areas for HIE and HITRANS and are in the best position to provide this service. The cost to the Partnership is estimated at £6000, which will be met from the Studies Budget.

Regional Transport Strategies Progress: The Chairs were informed that some issues had arisen regarding the need for Appropriate Assessments of the environmental impacts of potential interventions within the Strategies and that discussions had taken place between SNH, the Executive and individual Partnerships as to how best to proceed.

Review of SPP17: The Scottish Planning Policy 17, Planning for Transport is currently under review and the Chairs noted that the consultants undertaking the review had offered to meet with the lead partnership officers to discuss their proposals. The Chairs wished to raise their concern with the Minister that RTPs were not statutory consultees in the structure, development, and local planning processes as Transportation and land use planning were very closely related fields.

Report by: Dave Duthie
Designation: Partnership Director
Date: 19 July 2007