

REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 3 OCTOBER 2019

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

1 Reason for Report/Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with updates on transportation projects across Aberdeenshire for the period between June and August 2019.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the progress made with projects, activities and developments taken forward by Nestrans, external agencies and stakeholders as outlined in the report;**
- 2.2 Agree to accept further updates on the progress of both the implementation and delivery of the Aberdeenshire Local Transport Strategy (LTS) as appropriate; and**
- 2.3 Note that an Officer will attend the National Transport Awards in London following our nomination under the category “Excellence in Cycling and Walking”.**

3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 Attached to this report as **Appendix 1** is the Local Transport Strategy Action Update covering the period from June 2019 to August 2019. This shows progress made against identified categories, i.e. Travel Actively and Travel Effectively.
- 3.2 This report is brought to the Infrastructure Services Committee at every second meeting in order to provide timely updates on progress and allow appropriate decisions to be taken.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 Since the last report to Infrastructure Services Committee on 20 June 2019, the Nestrans Board met on 19 June and 18 September 2019. The approved minutes of the meeting can be accessed at:

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/about-nestrans/board-meetings/>

- 4.2 The Council has had multiple successes in the Scottish Transport Awards over the years. This year’s awards were held on 13 June in Glasgow and was attended by a representative from the Council. Aberdeenshire Council were awarded ‘Excellence in Walking, Public Realm and Cycling’ for the submission on ITT (Integrated Travel Town) Masterplans. The project has now been

shortlisted for the National Transport Awards, due to be held in London on 31 October 2019.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 The report helps deliver the following Council Priority 1 - Support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy;

The report helps deliver Council Priority 2 – Having the best possible transport and digital links across our communities;

The report helps deliver Council Priority 5 – Encouraging active lifestyles and promoting wellbeing with a focus on obesity and mental health; and

The report helps deliver Council Priority 11 – Protecting our special environment, including tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- 5.2 This report shows how we are delivering on the commitments in the Local Transport Strategy.

- 5.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

| Subject | Yes | No | N/A |
|--|-----|----|-----|
| Financial | | | X |
| Staffing | | | X |
| Equalities | | | X |
| Fairer Scotland Duty | | | X |
| Town Centre First | | | X |
| Sustainability | | | X |
| Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing | | | X |

- 5.4 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed for Equalities or Fairer Scotland Duty as the interventions, strategies, projects and policies referred to in this report will be separately assessed.

- 5.5 There are no staffing or financial implications.

- 5.6 As this report details events which have already occurred, there is no risk identified in terms of the Corporate or Directorate Risk Registers.

6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make

and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section F.1.1.f of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the monitoring of the activities of the Transportation Strategy Unit.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Claire Maycock, Strategy Development Officer
18 September 2019

Appendix 1 – Transport Strategy Update, June to August 2019

Appendix 1 – Transport Strategy Update – June to August 2019

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|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | E-Bike Lockers | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS A17 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Smarter Choices Smarter Places | Progress | 80% |
| <p>A single, enclosed bike locker has been installed at Buchan House, Gordon House, Woodhill House and Banchory Social Work Office.</p> <p>These lockers will store our in-house electric bikes and are due to be available to book out by Council staff for free on an ad hoc basis for work related and/or personal use. The new system is anticipated to be launched in October 2019 and other office locations are also being looked at.</p> | | | |

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|--|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | Formartine and Buchan Way E-Bike Project | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS 2.1 A17 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | LEADER | Progress | 60% |
| <p>This ongoing project is subject to a successful tender exercise and approval from the LEADER Local Action Group. The outcome of this should now be known by the end of Autumn 2019.</p> | | | |

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | Cycle Parking (Schools) | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS 2.1 A17 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Infrastructure, Sustrans | Progress | 60% |
| <p>The cycle parking program this year includes 14 schools. The procurement exercise for this is still ongoing and due for completion in Autumn 2019. Sustrans have confirmed 50% funding towards this project.</p> | | | |

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|--|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | Walk Once a Week (WOW) (Schools) | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS A4, A7 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Smarter Choices, Smarter Places | Progress | 80% |
| <p>The Living Streets WOW project has been commissioned for another year to be taken forward in approximately 20 primary schools, which gives capacity to add new schools to the program. There is also funding to roll out the 'Little Feet' program which is an active travel resource pack for pre-school settings.</p> | | | |

Appendix 1 – Transport Strategy Update – June to August 2019

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|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | I-Bike (Schools) | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS A9, L4 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Smarter Choices, Smarter Places | Progress | 100% |
| <p>The I-Bike project has been commissioned for another year allowing the project an opportunity to be taken to new schools. For academic year 2019/2020 the I-Bike project will run in schools in Ellon and Mintlaw.</p> | | | |

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|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | Active Ellon Day | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS A1, A8, A16, E6 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Smarter Choices, Smarter Places | Progress | 100% |
| <p>An event was held in Ellon to promote active travel on the 16 June 2019. The event was successful with a range of stall holders attending including Ellon Men's Shed, Getabout, Waste and recycling, HSBC Led Cycle Rides and I-Bike. A questionnaire was conducted on the day with 80% of attendees stating they would be more inclined to walk or cycle following the event.</p> | | | |

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|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | Schools - Park Smart | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS A4, A7 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Smarter Choices, Smarter Places | Progress | 90% |
| <p>After the success of the pilot, 12 Kincardine and Mearns schools have committed to delivering Park Smart to their pupils during academic year 2019/20 to help relieve issues around school parking. To support this, the Strategy team are funding banners for each school to put up.</p> | | | |

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|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Charge Place Scotland Grant Offer 18/19 | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E8, LEV Delivery Plan | Delivery | FY 2018/19 |
| Budget | Charge Place Scotland Grant | Progress | 100% |
| <p>Electric Charge Points have been installed and commissioned in Banff and Fyvie. commissioning is scheduled for the remaining sites in Newmachar, Turriff and Oldmeldrum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newmachar - Axis Centre, AB21 0WD • Oldmeldrum - Baker Street, AB51 0AZ • Turriff - The Wynd, AB53 4AY • Fyvie – Main Street, AB53 8JP • Banff – Greenbank, AB45 1HE | | | |

Appendix 1 – Transport Strategy Update – June to August 2019

The electric vehicle charge point replacement scheme has concluded with new chargers at the following sites;

- Ellon - Station Road, AB41 9HE (1 x 22kw)
- Huntly - Market Muir, AB54 8JY (1 x 22kw)
- Inverurie - Burn Lane, AB51 4UZ (1 x 7kw)
- Inverurie - Gordon House, AB51 3WA (1 x 7kw)
- Peterhead - Buchan House, AB42 1QA (1 x 7kw)
- Stonehaven - Market Square, AB39 2AY (1 x 7kw)
- Turriff - High Street, AB53 4DS (1 x 7kw)

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|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Charge Place Scotland Grant 19/20 | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E8, LEV Delivery Plan | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Charge Place Scotland Grant | Progress | 10% |

The 2019/20 Charge Place Scotland grant has been received, and sites are being assessed for suitability to locate further charge points in Aberdeenshire.

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|----------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Health and Transport Action Plan (HTAP) | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS A12 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | HTAP | Progress | Ongoing |

General

The Grampian wide Health and Transport Action Plan continues to attain wider awareness and engagement reflecting the work done to promote its purpose, aims and benefits.

The HTAP Steering Group Chair, Gerry Donald and the HTAP Programme Manager and Public Representative met with NHSG Chief Executive Professor Amanda Croft to discuss how she can help support senior management engagement across Health and Social Care Partnerships, promote awareness of THInC (Travel to Healthcare Information Centre) and raise awareness of the HTAP aims.

A funding bid was made to Sustrans for NHS Workplace Engagement Officer funding. The bid to Sustrans was well received but unsuccessful. Sustrans advised that they will seek similar funding from the Scottish Government for such posts, recognising the specific needs of NHS Boards.

The HTAP Programme Manager has been networking nationally with organisations who are interested in the framework for adding value to partnership working across health and transport sectors.

Appendix 1 – Transport Strategy Update – June to August 2019

The Programme Manager is pleased with increasing awareness and understanding of the “challenge” set by the Health and Transport Action Plan and welcomes the engagement with new colleagues, including, NHSG Head of Equalities, NHSG Community Pharmacy and the support from Sustrans, the Community Transport Association and others.

The HTAP Programme Manager is assisting with a refresh of the NHSG Travel Plan.

The Annual Report for 2018/19 is currently being drafted.

Steering Group and Sub Groups

Both the Steering Group and the two Sub Groups continue to meet quarterly.

Consultations

The Regional Transport Strategy and the NHSG Tobacco and Healthier Future Strategy have both been circulated widely across health and transport contacts. The NHSG Public Health Directorate included a mention of the HTAP in their consultation demonstrating progress on cross sector working.

The HTAP Programme Manager met with the Director of the Community Transport Association and attended the Aberdeenshire Community Transport Forum to discuss how community transport and the links with health outcomes can be communicated within current and future consultations.

Conferences

On 12 June 2019 the HTAP Programme Manager attended the Walking, Cycling and Connected Communities conference in Edinburgh. Keynote speaker Professor Adrian Davies highlighted the need to promote walking more if we are to achieve the aims of an active nation.

HTAP Events

Food For Thought working lunches were delivered in April and August engaging over 70 stakeholders from a wide variety of stakeholders, including Planners, Transport Strategy, European Projects, Road Safety, Stagecoach, Grampian Cycle Partnership, North East Sensory Services, Falls Prevention, Community Transport Association, Cycling UK, the Deputy Director of Public Health and Police Scotland, members of the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland and the Head of Behaviour Change from Sustrans.

Joint HTAP and Faculty of Public Health Learning and Networking Event - With financial contribution from Nestrans and CIVITAS PORTIS it was possible to bring Professor Gurch Randhawa Professor of Public Health and Diversity to Aberdeen for a very well received event held at Aberdeen Beach Ballroom.

Appendix 1 – Transport Strategy Update – June to August 2019

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|--|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Car Parking | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E18, E19 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Infrastructure | Progress | 40% |
| <p>The Council introduced the new parking tariffs for pay and display car parks which went live on the 1 September 2019, these new tariffs have reduced the cost for longer parking periods and have replaced the free parking period with a new £0.50 payment for 1 hour of parking. Contactless and chip and pin card payments are being rolled out to 14 of 41 of the Council's machines offering more ways to pay.</p> | | | |

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|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Strategic Transport Appraisal | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E24 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | City Region Deal | Progress | Ongoing |
| <p>The City Region Deal (CRD), Strategic Transport Appraisal Pre-Appraisal, Options and Sifting report has been completed and was considered by the Committee at its meeting on 22 August 2019.</p> <p>The report details a range of potential projects and policy interventions which emerged as part of the extensive consultation and tests these against the transport and economic objectives set out in the CRD.</p> <p>The report indicates where each option could be most usefully taken forward – locally, regionally or nationally – and will form a key aspect of the Councils' submissions as part of the Scottish Government strategic Transport Projects Review.</p> <p>The next stage of the work is to assess a smaller number of options which have been identified as best taken forward as part of the CRD at a strategic level and to scope out further detail of these to enable a more detailed appraisal to be undertaken.</p> | | | |

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|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Traffic and Transport Analysis and Modelling | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E24 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | City Region Deal | Progress | Ongoing |
| <p>Funded through the CRD, a post AWPR update of ASAM (the Aberdeen Sub Area Model – the traffic model used to assess the current behaviour patterns and future impact of land use development and transport projects) has been commissioned from SYSTRA following a competitive tendering process. The data from ASAM19, and the subsequent model built, will enable the assessment of many of the options set out in the Strategic Transport Assessment as well as informing future local and regional development planning. It will feed into the national transport projects review.</p> | | | |

Appendix 1 – Transport Strategy Update – June to August 2019

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|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | External Links to South Aberdeen Harbour | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E24 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | City Region Deal | Progress | Ongoing |
| <p>The CRD funded construction of the new Aberdeen South Harbour is now significantly advanced and the CRD funded detailed options appraisal (in line with the national Scottish Transport Assessment Guidance) on improving external transport links to the new harbour is progressing with data collection underway and a recent stakeholder meeting with partner agencies held.</p> <p>Officers are ensuring the work ties into the separate corridor study of Wellington Road as the Harbour will form a major trip generator for that corridor.</p> | | | |

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|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Project Title | Regional Transport Strategy | Action Area | All (Policy) |
| Action | N/A | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Nestrans | Progress | Ongoing |
| <p>The development of the next Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy (www.nestrans2040.org.uk) is continuing. The Regional Transport Strategy takes a 20 year horizon and will set the vision and direction for transport provision in the North East, building on the significant improvements that have taken place in recent years.</p> <p>The Nestrans Board continues to monitor progress on the development of the strategy which will be published early next year for consultation following the expected publication of the finalised National Transport Strategy. The draft National Transport Strategy which was published for consultation on 31 July and is subject to a separate report on the agenda of today's meeting.</p> <p>A meeting of the North East Transport Consultative Forum was held in May and was well attended by representatives across industry, business, the cycling community, Council officers and elected members of both Councils.</p> | | | |

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|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Rail Projects | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E26 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Transport Scotland, Network Rail, Infrastructure | Progress | Ongoing |
| <p>Kintore Station Work is progressing on time on the project to deliver a new rail station at Kintore for May 2020. During the summer closure of the rail line between Dyce and Huntly the platforms for the now dualled section passing through Kintore have been completed and the foundations for the overbridge and lifts. Ground clearance site</p> | | | |

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works for the car park have been undertaken and overall the site is taking shape. Work on the new access road is due to commence shortly with Bam Nuttal constructing a site-border hoarding with images of the planned station layout and a viewing platform for the works.

Studio Niro, artists commissioned as part of the project, have completed the design part of their commission. Discussions with Network Rail are ongoing to build in the proposed artistic aspects to the station design along with the two heritage railway benches gifted to the project. An opportunity to further develop community art for the project is being discussed by Local Members and the Garioch Area Committee has committed a further £20k to the community art project which will be commissioned over the latter half of this year.

Insch Railway Station – Access and Local Rail Development Fund Study

Work is ongoing on the Nestrans commissioned study into accessibility at Insch station looking on deliverable options for improving access to the north bound platform. AECOM are undertaking the project with a stakeholder meeting arranged for September.

South of Aberdeen Rail Stations Study and Mearns Stations

Nestrans have been awarded funding from the Transport Scotland Local Rail Development Fund to take forward an assessment of potential new railway stations to the south of Aberdeen and conduct an appraisal into potential new station sites between Aberdeen Rail Station and Laurencekirk Rail Station which has been a long time aspiration for several communities on the main line south. Any proposals would be taken forward along with the conclusions of the stations to the north of Aberdeen study, in order to augment the newly created local cross rail service.

Nestrans and Aberdeenshire officers are continuing to explore options with Scotrail on potential improvements to stations in the Mearns area following the Nestrans study into travel and parking. The issue of facilities at Montrose station for connecting passengers was raised with Transport Scotland at a recent liaison meeting and is also being pursued by Tactran the Angus, Dundee and Tayside Regional Transport Partnership.

Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail Journey Time Improvements

Aberdeenshire and Nestrans officers recently met with representatives of Transport Scotland's rail delivery division, and Network Rail to discuss the need to progress detailed proposals for improving journey times from Aberdeen to the central Belt, a key commitment under the Memorandum of Understanding published alongside the CRD.

The Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail Reference Group of rail industry professionals, Transport Scotland, Nestrans and local authorities last met in September.

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|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Aberdeen City/Nestrans Cross Boundary Studies | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E24 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Aberdeen City Council, Nestrans, Infrastructure | Progress | Ongoing |
| A956 Wellington Road Study | | | |
| <p>A STAG 2 corridor study of this key arterial route from the AWPR into the city centre and soon to link to the new Aberdeen South Harbour this study is exploring options for multi-modal improvements including improvements at Harness and Souterhead junctions, road widening at Craiginches, cycling and pedestrian provision and the efficacy of junctions and traffic lights.</p> <p>Traffic surveys have been undertaken to enable the development of a local area microsimulation model, which will be used to help test shortlisted options. This work is being aligned closely with the separate Aberdeen South Harbour Links Study (See earlier update within this appendix).</p> <p>Aberdeen City Roads Hierarchy Study The City Council's Strategic Growth and Resources Committee has approved the proposed changes to the City's 'Roads Hierarchy' - the primary/secondary/tertiary (A/B/C/UC) classification of roads within the City boundary.</p> <p>The purpose of the review was to look at how the network might be reconfigured to take advantage of the AWPR and to allow for changes to be made within the City Centre to promote a more place-based approach as opposed to enabling and promoting vehicular movements. Allied to this is a major updating of the directional signage in the city to reflect the new movements for the AWPR. This work is currently out for tender.</p> <p>There are no changes to the classification of the main roads into the city from Aberdeenshire although there are some minor rerouting or classification changes on some of the main routes <i>within</i> the city, which link to routes going into Aberdeenshire. For example, the A947 in Dyce will be 'rerouted' to direct traffic down Riverview Drive rather than through Victoria Street in Dyce. In particular, the B9077 South Deeside Road, whose classification was queried by Members, is not proposed to be changed, nor was it recommended to be changed in the final consultant's report. South Deeside Road is a B-road and has a secondary route classification currently and this will continue. Notwithstanding the classification of the road, the importance of the route to communities outwith Aberdeen is recognised but that is true of other secondary routes between the region and the city and is not affected by the numbering or designation.</p> | | | |

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|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Trunk Road Projects | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E4 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Transport Scotland | Progress | Ongoing |

A96 Dualling – Aberdeen to East of Huntly

Transport Scotland is continuing to work towards publication of a preferred route towards by the end of this year. The design consultants AmeyArup held a further public exhibition in May with reduced number of route options and adjustments to the remaining options to reduce the impact on existing properties. Further detail outlining the reasons for ruling out an on-line dualling of the A96 were released and this policy position was recently reiterated by the Transport Minister in the local press.

Aberdeenshire Council officers continue to liaise with Transport Scotland and AmeyArup and to make technical representation on aspects of the proposed routes and high-level designs.

Laurencekirk A90/A937 Grade Separated Junction

The project to deliver a grade separated junction at Laurencekirk is progressing on schedule with the intention to publish the Draft Road Orders, the legal process for building the road, by the end of 2019, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of outstanding issues.

The ground investigations have concluded satisfactorily and final legal searches on adjacent land for side road construction are underway.

