

REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE 20 JUNE 2019

KINTORE RAILWAY STATION DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Acknowledge the progress and development of the delivery of Kintore Railway through partnership working with Nestrans, Transport Scotland, Network Rail and ScotRail; and**
- 1.2 Agree to accept further updates on the progress of the implementation and delivery arrangements for the new Station.**

2 Background/Discussion

Introduction

- 2.1** The delivery of a new railway station at Kintore has been a longstanding ambition of Aberdeenshire Council, Nestrans, and their predecessor authorities, with project appraisal work stretching back to the early 1990's. Moreover, community-led campaigning for a rail station dates back to the mid 1980's. With construction of the station now underway, as part of the wider Aberdeen to Inverness rail improvement project, it is appropriate to report on the delivery arrangements for the station, and also the funding arrangements for the station.
- 2.2** Submission of the Scottish Stations Fund bid for Kintore Railway Station was reported to Infrastructure Services Committee in June 2016, whilst the funding arrangements were reported to the Policy and Resources Committee in November 2016. Progress updates have been regularly provided to the Committee through the Strategic Transport Update Report, provided every second cycle to this Committee. The Nestrans Board have also been updated via formal reports whilst members of Garioch Area Committee have benefitted from regular progress updates from Network Rail and Council officers, as part of progress updates linked to the Aberdeen to Inverness rail project.
- 2.3** Members will be aware that the Council's Compulsory Purchase Order powers were required to secure the land necessary for the construction of the rail station, and that the process of land transfer to the Council was successfully completed in Autumn 2018. Planning permission for the scheme was also successfully secured during Summer 2018.

Delivery Arrangements

- 2.4** Discussions between officers of the Council, the Rail Industry and Transport Scotland agreed in Autumn 2018 that the most effective means of

constructing the station would be as single contract, integrated as far as possible with the adjacent rail line upgrade. It was agreed that Transport Scotland would act as Principal Sponsor, with the Railway Station being delivered by Network Rail and their framework contractors BAM. Accordingly, Aberdeenshire Council and partners Nestrans are acting as Grant Funders to Transport Scotland.

- 2.5 It was agreed that all operational aspects of the railway station including platforms, the car park and access road would be managed by the railway industry. Land currently in the control of the Council would be transferred to the Rail Industry, forming part of the Council's financial contribution to the project.
- 2.6 Network Rail announced contract award to BAM on 30 May 2019, and work on site is now fully underway, with the current phase focussing on groundworks.

Railway Station Facilities

- 2.7 The railway station will comprise of two platforms, waiting shelters, lifts and overbridge, around 170 car parking spaces (inclusive of disabled and electric charge points), access road, turning circle, and drop-off/pick up zones. The station will link to an extended footpath cycle way, linking Kintore and Thainstone/Inverurie. The car parking areas will be covered by CCTV, managed by ScotRail's control centre.
- 2.8 The entire station facility, including car park and access roads will be operated by ScotRail as part of Transport Scotland's rail franchise arrangements. The station will be an un-manned facility.

Programme

- 2.9 The intended construction programme for the station has been established by BAM. This sees work on the platforms, and foundations etc for the lifts/overbridge being undertaken during the current closure of the rail line between Dyce and Inverurie. Thereafter, works to complete platforms, install lifts/bridge, car park, access road, will be undertaken over the last quarter of 2019 into the first quarter of 2020. The station will then be handed over to ScotRail for commissioning and testing. It is the current intention that the station opens at the May 2020 timetable change (17 May 2020), although this will be kept under review.

Art Project and Historic Station Benches

- 2.10 Discussions are ongoing with ScotRail and Transport Scotland regarding the installation of two rail station benches that were once installed on the original Kintore Station.
- 2.11 At the request of Members of Garioch Area Committee, officers have explored an opportunity to include a public art feature as part of the station build.

Artists Studio Niro were commissioned to develop proposals alongside the community and the rail industry. The proposal to deliver a multi-coloured threshold strip on the station concourse has been agreed and officers continue to work station designers and contractor in relation to its implementation. Opportunities for future interventions may be possible, albeit subject to separate and additional funding allocations.

Costs

- 2.12 Transport Scotland and Network Rail have developed budgetary costs for the station at £14.5m, inclusive of a probability based contingency allowance. This compares to the 2016 Quarter 1 base budget cost developed for the Scottish Stations fund bid of £12.218m, inclusive of 40% optimism bias adjustment.
- 2.13 Aberdeenshire Council, Nestrans and Transport Scotland are now finalising the terms of the Grant Funding arrangements, building on the principles of the outline arrangements set out at the time of the 2016 Scottish Stations Fund award, which would have seen Transport Scotland fund 60% of capital costs (£7,330.68k), Aberdeenshire Council 15.6% (£1,905.56k), and Nestrans 24.4% (£2,981.56k). These amounts have been reserved in the capital budgets of both Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans. It is noted that additionally, developer contributions of £61.13k have been secured for the project.
- 2.14 Discussions with Transport Scotland will require to take account that no additional capital funding is currently identified in either of the capital budgets of Aberdeenshire Council or Nestrans, which could amount to a proportionate additional contribution of £852k split between Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans. It will also be relevant to consider funding arrangements for other rail stations being developed in Scotland at this time.
- 2.15 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated into the report and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section F.1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as the Committee shall have full powers to decide on all policy issues and resource matters (within agreed budgets) relating to all functions related with the Transportation Service.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because there will be no differential impact, as a result of this report, on people with protected

characteristics, as this report relates to the delivery arrangements for Kintore Station.

- 4.2 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.
- 4.3 The financial implications are set out in paragraph 2.13. The capital plan monitoring group have been informed of the potential issues arising from this report, as have Nestrans.
- 4.4 The following risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level.
 - ACORP001 – Budget pressures – Potential requirement for increased capital budget allocation. One mitigation is the negotiation with Transport Scotland, as well as review and re-profiling of existing commitments within Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans’s capital budgets.
 - ACORP005 – Working with other organisations – The Council and Nestrans have maintained a strong and active partnership with Transport Scotland, Network Rail, and ScotRail since 2015 on Kintore Station, and continued commitment to open and pro-active communication and engagement by all parties should mitigate any potential issues.
 - ACORP006 – Reputation management – There is a risk that decisions and actions taken by other parties including on-site contractors impact adversely on Aberdeenshire Council who are one of the partners supporting the construction of the station. By maintaining oversight of operations, and close contact with other partners (including participation in monthly programme meetings), early intervention can be achieved.

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