

REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 14 MAY 2020

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 January 2020 and April 2020.

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; and**
- 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.**

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 Attached to this report as **Appendix 1** is the LTS Action Update covering the period from January 2020 to April 2020. 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 23 January 2020 (Item 9), the Nestrans Board met on 12 February. The meeting scheduled for 15 April was cancelled due to the coronavirus. The approved minutes of the meeting can be accessed at:

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

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 The report helps deliver 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.1.1f 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 Helena Leite, Strategy Development Officer
29 April 2020

Appendix 1 – Transport Strategy Update, January 2020 to April 2020

Appendix 1 – Transport Strategy Update – January 2020 to April 2020

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | Staff Pool E-Bike Scheme | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS A17 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Smarter Choices Smarter Places | Progress | 100% |
| <p>In addition to the 4 e-bikes stationed at Woodhill House, Buchan House, Gordon House and Banchory Social Work Office, another 3 e-bikes will be available for staff use in the near future. A second e-bike will be placed at both Woodhill House and Gordon House, with the third being located in Ellon. These bikes are free for all Council staff to make use of for either work or personal journeys.</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 | 70% |
| <p>Bike lockers have been installed at all locations (Ellon Academy, Fraserburgh Community and Leisure Centre, Peterhead Community and Leisure Centre, Aden Park and Macbi Mintlaw) and the new website is currently under development. Once it is safe to do so, the e-bikes will be delivered, and the scheme will be launched.</p> | | | |

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|---|------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | Liftshare | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS 2.1 E6 | Delivery | FY 2018/19 |
| Budget | SCSP | Progress | 50% |
| <p>Liftshare events that were planned for spring have been postponed due to Covid 19.</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 | 100% |
| <p>All work on school cycle parking has been completed.</p> <p>Portlethen Academy saw the installation of 14 extra hoops during February. This was funded by Nestrans.</p> <p>Applications were sent out to schools to apply for cycle parking for 2020/2021 funding. The deadline for schools to submit was end of March, but this is now on hold until schools return.</p> | | | |

Appendix 1 – Transport Strategy Update – January 2020 to April 2020

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|----------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | Walk Once a Week (WOW)/I-Bike (Schools) | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS A4, A7, A9, L4 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Smarter Choices, Smarter Places | Progress | 100% |

Hill of Banchory Primary, Banchory, have launched the WOW scheme to encourage more active travel to school.

From November to February, there was 136,341 active travel journeys to school logged in the system which is an average of 77% of journeys to school made actively by participating schools.

Two Aberdeenshire schools featured on the Top 10 Leader Board in the December Walk of Fame, St Fergus and Elrick Primary. Elrick Primary had a visit from the Living Streets Mascot, Strider, on World Book day (5 March) to encourage and support active travel.

No more tracking data is available from February onwards due to school closures. Living Streets are looking to start up a home online travel tracker to encourage pupils to get their daily steps in.

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|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | Schools - Roadshows | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS A1, A8, A16, E6 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Smarter Choices, Smarter Places | Progress | 100% |

Get Cycling were commissioned to take forward school and public road shows during March 2020. These were to take place in selected schools and ITT towns. The road shows had planned to have a range of activities and work with local partners to deliver key travel behavioural change messages. Local garages were approached to provide electric cars for discussion, Energy Saving Trust were to come along to provide information on grants and interest free loans for electric vehicles. Get Cycling have a large range of bikes and electric bikes, some unusual and interest bikes for trials. Information on public transport, walking and cycling routes were also to be available.

Unfortunately due to Covid 19, most of these events had to be cancelled and the 2 public road shows that did take place had lower attendance than hoped. It is hoped to reschedule the cancelled events for later in the year.

Timetable:

School Events

Monday 9 - Friday 13 March – Inverurie Schools and Portlethen Schools – **Took Place**

Monday 23 – Friday 27 March – Fraserburgh schools and Ellon schools - **Cancelled**

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Public Road Shows

Saturday 14 March – The Gordon Schools, Huntly - Took Place
 Sunday 15 March – The Garioch Centre, Inverurie - Took Place
 Saturday 21 March – Portlethen Academy, Portlethen - Cancelled
 Saturday 28 March – The Sports Centre, Fraserburgh - Cancelled
 Sunday 29 March – Ellon Academy, Ellon - Cancelled

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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% |

Park Smart is a safety campaign to encourage parents to consider road safety around the school and park responsibly. Activities including a pupil and parent pledge are sent home to be signed to encourage safe parking around the school. There are also leaflets and homework activities, as well as a workshop the schools can take forward with pupils. Finally, a banner is presented to the school to remind parents of the pledge they made. Park Smart has been successfully delivered in Hillside School, Kellands School and Port Elphinstone School.

St Andrews School, Fraserburgh and Westhill Primary School also launched this campaign during the month of February. Both schools had support from the local police officer who were involved in launching the campaign and educating parents.

Alford Primary, Elrick Primary and Monquhitter had expressed an interest in the campaign but this has been put on hold until schools return.

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|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Title | Kintore – Blackburn Link | Action Area | Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS 2.1 A17 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Infrastructure, SCSP | Progress | 50% |

A survey was out for public consultation during the month of March. This was an online survey with paper copies available at various local establishments. The survey aims to understand public preference over route alignment for a walking and cycling link between Kintore and Blackburn.

Meanwhile, a wayfinding exercise is currently being undertaken for the ‘Skair Road’ route, with signage due to be installed in the coming months.

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|----------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Project Title | Stonehaven Wayfinding | Action Area | Travel Effectively Travel Actively |
| Action | LTS E1, E5 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Station Travel Plan Delivery Fund Other | Progress | 50% |

The Council is working on a revision of the wayfinding proposals for Stonehaven in partnership with the Area Project Officer, in order to help visitors and tourists make the most of their visit.

A request has been received from Stonehaven Community and Business Groups for an improvement to street signage and map lecterns. As a result of this request officers are reviewing all town centre signage and notice boards. Whilst reviewing the aforementioned, officers are taking the opportunity to include additional cycle and walking routes in the maps.

Officers are also working with Nestrans on the Station Travel Plan, to promote collective passenger transport. This includes improving the connection between the train station and the town centre and upgrading the bus shelter in the station area.

Funding from ScotRail for the Station Travel Plan is on hold, as they advised that the most likely scenario given the current situation with Covid 19 that these projects may need to be deferred it into the next Financial Year (2021).

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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 2019/20 |
| Budget | Charge Place Scotland Grant | Progress | 90% |

The A947 programme of chargers are now available in Banff, Fyvie and Westhill. The metering has commenced and connections to the Council electric supply is being organised by the Senior Energy Manager. These final installations have been delayed due to Covid 19. Meters are to be installed in Newmachar, Turriff and Oldmeldrum and are expected to be operational late summer 2020.

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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% |

Sites have been selected for the financial year 2019/20 programme of charge points funded through the Charge Place Scotland grant. The sites were chosen

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based on gap analysis and demand as detailed in the ‘Low Emission Vehicle Delivery Plan’. This includes the following locations:

Phase One

Macduff Aquarium 1x 22kW
 Inverurie Community Campus 2x 22kW
 Alford Community Campus 1x 50kW 1x 22kW
 Fraserburgh Hanover Street 1x 50kW, 1x 22kW

Phase Two

Ellon Library 1x 50kW
 Ellon Community Campus 1x 22kW
 Aboyne Station Road 1x 50kW
 Hillside School, Portlethen 3x 22kW
 Peterhead, to be determined 1x 50kW, 1x 22kW
 Insch Martin Road 1x 22kW

Installations have been phased to allow quicker installation although there are delays due to Covid 19. Expected to be operational in late 2020.

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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 |

The dates of all HTAP Steering Group and Sub-Group meetings have been scheduled with partners. The fourth Grampian Volunteer Transport Awards is due to take place in November. In December a third annual review and networking event has been scheduled.

The HTAP Annual Report has been finalised. The report has been agreed by the HTAP Steering Group. The report will now be submitted to the appropriate channels for consideration by the Community Planning Partnerships, local authorities, NHS Grampian, Scottish Ambulance Service, Third Sector organisations and regional and national stakeholders, including the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS).

HTAP has been cited as best practice by both MACS and the Community Transport Association (Scotland) in newly published papers on health, social care and transport.

As part of the Covid 19 response the THInC (Travel to Health and Social Care Information Centre) has functioned as a one stop shop for NHSG staff requiring transport. Partner organisations are working together to address transportation challenges.

The adoption of Attend Anywhere has been rapid in response to the social distancing measures in place. Patients across health and social care are now offered the opportunity to have their appointment conducted via video or phone.

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|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Car Parking | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E18, E19 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Infrastructure | Progress | Ongoing |

Work on the machine upgrades to offer contactless payment facilities took place during February which saw Peterhead and Banff both being completed (7 machines). Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, this project had to be placed on hold, meaning 20 machines are still to be changed.

The emergence of the seriousness of Covid 19 saw off-street parking charges and associated enforcement suspended, on the 17 March 2020, for the foreseeable period. The decision was taken to alleviate any concerns that members of the public may have had with touching the machines and to reduce the need for our staff in attending them.

A report (Item 13, Page 149) was presented to Aberdeenshire Council on 18 March 2020, on the Covid 19 Pandemic – Scheme of Governance Amendments. This report listed meetings which were deemed to lack necessity in the current circumstances, and which should be delayed until a later date.

‘The Parking Management Member Officer Working Group’ was highlighted one of the working groups and joint meetings which are unlikely to involve urgent business and are proposed to be cancelled. The May and June meeting dates have therefore been removed from the calendar. Officers are still progressing with preparations in relation to the implementation of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in Aberdeenshire and will be shared with members when possible.

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|----------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Strategic Transport Appraisal – STAG1 Appraisal | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E24 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | City Region Deal | Progress | Ongoing |

The Strategic Transport Appraisal (STA) STAG 1 Initial Appraisal is continuing. This is a more detailed, assessment of the long list of options identified from the Pre-Appraisal work and includes an assessment of:

- The likely impacts of the options against the Transport Planning Objectives;
- The likely impacts of the options against Scottish Transport Assessment Guidance (STAG) criteria (i.e. Environment, Safety, Economy, Integration, and Accessibility and Social Inclusion);
- Options against established policy directives; and
- Feasibility, affordability and public acceptability of the options.

Work continues despite the shutdown and further consideration is being given on how to engage Members and stakeholders in the emerging conclusions given the

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current restrictions. The draft outcomes are directly informing the development of the draft Regional Transport Strategy, being developed by Nestrans.

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|----------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Strategic Transport Appraisal – Strategic Transport Model Update | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E24 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | City Region Deal | Progress | Ongoing |

The new Aberdeen Sub Area Transport Model – ASAM19 – which is used to model the impact of proposed transport interventions and land-use development continues to be developed and will be ready for use in the autumn.

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|----------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | External Links to South Aberdeen Harbour | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E24 | Delivery | FY 2020/21 |
| Budget | City Region Deal | Progress | Ongoing |

The External Links study assessing alternative options for improving the link between the South Harbour and the principal road network, continues with technical design work ongoing with a view to a stakeholder and public engagement on the options later in 2020.

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|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Wellington Road Multi-Modal Study | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E24 | Delivery | FY 2020/21 |
| Budget | Nestrans | Progress | Ongoing |

This project is looking at appraisal and development of improvements that can be made continues apace with recent project meeting pairing down the alternative options to be modelled in more detail.

Stakeholder and public consultation will be done in parallel with the consultation on the adjacent work considering access to Aberdeen South Harbour.

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|----------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Rail Projects – Aberdeen to Central Belt | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E26 | Delivery | By 2026 |
| Budget | Transport Scotland | Progress | Ongoing |

The Aberdeen to Central Belt Project Delivery Group has met twice and scoping work on the options for improving journey times is ongoing with Network Rail remitted to produce a series of options with costing which is likely to focus on improving signalling to allow for higher speeds and more trains between signalling blocks thus reducing overall journey times to Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

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| | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Rail Projects – Kintore Station | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E26 | Delivery | FY 2020/21 |
| Budget | Transport Scotland, Nestrans, Aberdeenshire Council | Progress | Ongoing |
| <p>The contractors were on the verge of handing over the completed station element of the project when the Covid 19 shutdown was ordered. As such the site has had to be demobilised and the ongoing junction works temporarily halted. It is likely to take some time to remobilise the site once restrictions are lifted and this will cause a delay to the planned opening of the station, which was scheduled to have been 17 May 2020. Officers continue close liaison with Network Rail, their contractors BAM, and Transport Scotland.</p> | | | |

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|---|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Project Title | Rail Projects – Inch | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E26 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Transport Scotland (LRDF fund), Nestrans | Progress | Ongoing |
| <p>Project to appraise alternative options for providing step-free access to the far platform at Inch Station, supported by Local Rail Development Fund. The initial “Case for Change” report has been accepted by Transport Scotland, and this will enable submission of the initial options appraisal, work on which is substantially complete.</p> | | | |

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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 |
| <p><u>Low Emission Zone</u></p> <p>Work by the City Council is ongoing to deliver the Scottish Government’s commitment to introduce Low Emission Zone’s (LEZs) into Scotland’s four largest cities. Aberdeen City Council are proposing to apply to the Traffic Commissioner for Traffic Regulation Condition that would require 20% of bus services operating in the City Centre to be served by buses that are at least Euro VI compliant.</p> <p><u>A944 / B9119 Corridor Study</u></p> <p>As part of the Nestrans and Bus Alliance Partnership, Aberdeen City has commissioned a corridor study of the A944/B9119, Stantec (formerly called Peter Brett Associates) have been appointed to undertake the work to look at ways of improving public transport and active travel along the corridor. This work extends from the City Centre out to Westhill, and is considering both step change public</p> | | | |

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transport interventions, alongside active travel opportunities. Planned consultation on problems and opportunities on the route has been delayed

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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 |

Laurencekirk Grade Separated Junction

The Statutory Consultation Period for the Draft Orders closed on 14 February 2020 with several objections received from various parties. The Council has placed a holding objection on the Stopping Up Order for the Oatyhill Junction, pending further discussion on ensuring access to properties accessed by the former Trunk Road and Oatyhill Railway bridge. Transport Scotland are considering the objections and will respond in due course.

A96 Dualling

Transport Scotland have confirmed that due to the need to consider in detail the large volume of consultation responses to the revised route options, a preferred final proposed route option will not be announced until later in 2020.

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| Project Title | Bridges | Action Area | Travel Effectively |
| Action | LTS E4 | Delivery | FY 2019/20 |
| Budget | Transport Scotland | Progress | Ongoing |

Banff Active Travel Bridge

The feasibility study to consider active travel bridge options at Banff Bridge is underway with stakeholder engagement being undertaken alongside technical studies and design options. A further progress update will be circulated to members in June.