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# **Dumfries & Galloway Transport Summit Update on Actions November 2017**

## **CONTENTS**

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Action Points – Update .....</b>	<b>4</b>

## Introduction

Following a commitment made in May 2016 by the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney MSP, to hold a 'Transport Summit' in the South West within the first 100 days of a new Scottish Government, the summit took place on 22 August in Dumfries.

The summit was held in Easterbrook Hall, Crichton Campus in Dumfries and attendees included local politicians and members of Dumfries & Galloway Council, along with transport and port operators, business groups, the Scottish Rural Parliament, the Third Sector and other local stakeholders. This ensured a focussed discussion took place about the role of transport and associated infrastructure to support the economy and communities in Dumfries & Galloway.

A report on the summit proceedings was published on 19 September 2016 and was followed by a 6 week public engagement exercise. A final report was produced that reflected the comments received from the 33 respondents who contributed to the public conversation, this was published on 22 December 2016. The report identified 14 emerging action points from the summit discussions and a commitment was given to provide an update on progress.

## Action Points – Update

The following table provides details of progress against each identified action.

### Summit report - action point updates

Identified Action	Update
<p>1. A summit report will be issued in draft in four weeks for public comment.</p>	<p>This action has been <b><u>completed</u></b>.</p>
<p>2. Final summit report to be published by the end of 2016</p>	<p>This action has been <b><u>completed</u></b>.</p>
<p>3. The summit recognised that organised pressure groups exist to further the cause of particular transport upgrades and engagement by the relevant organisations will continue to address their concerns.</p>	<p><b><u>On-going:</u></b> There are two currently open public petitions with the Scottish Parliament seeking support for further investment in the A75 and A77. Both petitions are backed by a local campaign group for the respective routes.</p> <p>The Scottish Government will shortly be taking forward the “Programme for Government” commitment to commence work for the second Strategic Transport Projects Review in the Dumfries and Galloway area including looking at the access to the ports at Cairnryan, the outcomes of which will inform the second Strategic Transport Projects Review.</p>
<p>4. Transport Scotland will prepare a Springholm and Crocketford village traffic management study.</p>	<p><b><u>Completed:</u></b> Following the Summit in August 2016 it was agreed to investigate further traffic management measures for Springholm and Crocketford, partly as campaigners continue to lobby for “safety improvements”.</p> <p>The options contained in the study and aimed at reducing traffic speeds were presented to the community in Springholm at a public meeting at the end of January 2017. The preferred options have been subject to detail design by Scotland TranServ as part of the Strategic Road Safety programme for 2017/18.</p> <p>In March 2017 the Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf MSP, met with residents from Springholm and Crocketford to hear their concerns about traffic speed and volumes through these villages. A commitment was made to introduce reverse discrimination traffic signals in Springholm as a pilot</p>

Identified Action	Update
	<p>scheme along with investigating other enhancements to the gateway features and upgrades to the vehicle activated signs. It was also agreed to undertake a study in Crocketford into pedestrian crossing provision in the centre of the village, other speed management measures and enhancements to the gateway features.</p> <p>A commitment was made to feed back to the community by the end of summer with design options for the speed management measures with a planned implementation in October/November. A public meeting was held on the 31 August in Springholm, where residents had the opportunity to provide comments on the proposals.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> Key partners will need to focus on what improvement can be made to improve the situation at Stranraer, looking closely at connectivity and access to road, rail and the ports at Cairnryan.</p>	<p><b>On-going:</b> The Scottish Government will shortly be taking forward the “Programme for Government” commitment to commence work for the second Strategic Transport Projects Review in the Dumfries and Galloway area including looking at the access to the ports at Cairnryan, the outcomes of which will inform the second Strategic Transport Projects Review. A key part of this work will be to consider the connectivity of the most westerly part of the region, including Stranraer and the ports at Cairnryan to the rest of Scotland &amp; UK. Potential outcomes from this work could include recommendations for new transport infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>In addition, as part of its Enterprise and Skills Review, the Scottish Government made a commitment to establish a new public body, the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency, to operate in the local authority areas of the Scottish Borders and Dumfries &amp; Galloway. The agency will focus on the needs of the area, driving inclusive growth, supporting communities and capitalising on people and resources.</p> <p>With a clear focus on place, the agency will take forward activities to drive economic growth, support resilient communities and capitalise on people and resources. It will offer business support, support business infrastructure, have an increased presence on the ground and support communities. The new agency will work closely with other national and local organisations</p>

Identified Action	Update
	<p>in the area to align activities behind an agreed strategic economic vision.</p> <p>Establishing a new public body requires legislation which will be introduced in 2018 to progress through Parliament. The body should be up and running by the beginning of financial year 2020/2021. We are working with partners to put in place interim arrangements later this year (2017) to ensure that the area benefits from a new approach as soon as possible.</p> <p>There has been a range of Scottish Government funding across Dumfries and Galloway, which has contributed to economic resilience across the area, such as £1.8m from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) for the Stranraer Town Centre Regeneration Initiative in 2016/17. More recently, Stranraer has been awarded a grant of £987k from the RCGF for the Stranraer Millennium Centre in 2017/18.</p>
<p><b>6.</b> Transport Scotland will work with stakeholders to discuss capacity and the condition of rail rolling stock on the Nith Valley line.</p>	<p><b><u>On-going:</u></b> The class 156 diesel fleet which operates on the <b>Glasgow Central-Kilmarnock/ Dumfries/ Carlisle</b> route is currently undergoing a significant upgrade programme. This will deliver the modern facilities which passengers expect, including power sockets, Wi-Fi, new lighting, seating and livery with around a quarter of the retained fleet of 38 trains already completed supporting the Franchise obligations to deliver enhanced rolling stock and will allow ScotRail’s “Scenic Rail Journey” commercial offering across Kilmarnock/Dumfries/Carlisle services from 2019 onwards. In addition two dedicated wheelchair spaces plus an accessible toilet will be installed to ensure that the retained fleet meets the Person of Reduced Mobility /Technical Specification for Interoperability requirements, ahead of the 2020 deadline.</p>
<p><b>7.</b> Transport Scotland will continue to monitor progress on the rail station appraisal work which is underway, offering advice where appropriate.</p>	<p><b><u>On-going:</u></b> Transport Scotland understand that multi modal appraisals for Beattock, Thornhill and Eastriggs are being taken forward using the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance process by SWestrans (Regional Transport Partnership). The second more detailed phase of work is still to be completed and Transport Scotland remains committed to provide advice and comment at the appropriate points in the study when requested.</p>

Identified Action	Update
<p><b>8.</b> Transport Scotland will work with local authorities to consider ways in which congestion can be reduced to ease travel for bus services.</p>	<p><b><u>On-going:</u></b> Transport Scotland has undertaken a survey of congestion hotspots with bus operators. Data is currently being analysed to enhance understanding some of the perceived causes of delay experienced by bus services across the country. The survey covers both trunk roads and local roads and will initially focus on the most problematic areas, working with relevant operators and local authorities.</p> <p>In the longer term, congestion and its impacts will be one of the issues considered through the review of the National Transport Strategy.</p>
<p><b>9.</b> Transport Scotland will bring forward proposals for a Transport Bill, including measures to improve bus services, and consult widely on those.</p>	<p><b><u>On-going:</u></b> The Scottish Government is committed to introducing the Transport Bill during the current Parliamentary Session. As part of our preparation for the Bill we will work with stakeholders to develop legislative and other options for: regulation of road works, improving bus services, nationwide multi modal smart ticketing and responsible parking. The consultation on responsible parking closed on 30 June 2017 while a consultation on measures to raise standards and improve the quality of roadwork’s launched in July and closed on 12 October 2017. This includes proposals to improve the availability of information on road works which will benefit bus operators and other road users more generally.</p> <p>Preparations are underway for consultations on the remaining subjects under consideration for the Bill, including our proposals for improving bus services, and the final scope of the Bill will be determined following these consultations.</p>
<p><b>10.</b> Transport and travel aspects related to health and social care to be considered in the National Transport Strategy review.</p>	<p><b><u>On-going:</u></b> The National Transport Strategy Review, currently underway, will consider health and social care issues as part of the policy development undertaken by its thematic working groups. The Greener &amp; Healthier and Tackling Inequality working groups will develop policy proposals on how transport can address health issues through reducing overall transport emissions, developing active and sustainable transport and providing accessible transport to health provision.</p>

<b>Identified Action</b>	<b>Update</b>
<p><b>11.</b> All partners should consider current legislation that limits council's to operate commercial bus services.</p>	<p><b><u>On-going:</u></b> One element of the proposals for the Transport Bill is around councils' ability to operate commercial bus services. We will be considering that issue, as part of the forthcoming bus services consultation, with a view to clarifying the situation.</p>
<p><b>12.</b> SWestrans will refresh their Regional Transport Strategy.</p>	<p><b><u>On-going:</u></b> The development of the draft Main Issues Report for the refresh of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) was reported to the SWestrans Board in September 2017. The Board will be informed of the necessary stages required to undertake a refresh of the strategy and will be asked to agree the process and timeline required to ensure a full and robust review which will include consultation with key stakeholders and the public. It is intended that the refresh of the RTS will continue in step with the National Transport Strategy (NTS) development which in turn will allow SWestrans to present a refreshed RTS shortly after the production of the final NTS.</p>
<p><b>13.</b> Progress on key road improvements, including improvements to the A77 south of Girvan, linking to Cairnryan Ferry hub and the A75 and improvements to connect Dumfries and the A74(M), will be considered in the forthcoming reviews of the National Transport Strategy and the Strategic Transport Projects Review.</p>	<p><b><u>On-going:</u></b> The Scottish Government will shortly be taking forward the "Programme for Government" commitment to commence work for the second Strategic Transport Projects Review in the Dumfries and Galloway area including looking at the access to the ports at Cairnryan, the outcomes of which will inform the second Strategic Transport Projects Review.</p> <p>A key part of any study into the transport network is to understand how it currently performs. Therefore, Transport Scotland with the support of Dumfries and Galloway Council will be undertaking a programme of transport surveys across the region to assist with a robust evidence baseline to support future appraisal. In addition, there will be a programme of stakeholder engagement to help assist in gathering evidence of the network performance.</p> <p>Transport Scotland has begun procurement of the main works construction contract for the A77 Maybole Bypass, with publication of a Contract Notice on 31 August, and award of the contract planned in summer 2018.</p>



<b>Identified Action</b>	<b>Update</b>
<p><b>14.</b> The final transport summit report will form part of the initial evidence base that will support the reviews of the National Transport Strategy and Strategic Transport Projects Review.</p>	<p><b><u>On-going:</u></b> The transport summit report and the views submitted as part of the following public engagement exercise will be added to the evidence base supporting the review of the National Transport Strategy (NTS). The report will be provided to the review's, Research and Evidence Working Group, who have the role of ensuring the NTS review is informed by the best available evidence.</p> <p>Consideration of strategic rural transport issues will form an important part of the review process, in particular the Tackling Inequality and Enabling Economic Growth working groups will look to address points such as those raised in the Dumfries and Galloway transport summit report.</p>



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