

Islands Transport Forum

Report to Meeting of 28 March 2018

Update on Progress of National Transport Strategy Review

Purpose

To provide the Islands Transport Forum with an update on the progress of the National Transport Strategy (NTS) Review.

Background

In August 2016 the Minister for Transport and the Islands announced that the National Transport Strategy (NTS) will be subject to a comprehensive review. The NTS Review team has established collaborative partnerships with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders which are meeting regularly through working groups and partnership forums. The review will culminate in a formal public consultation in early 2019 and the publication of an updated strategy in summer 2019. The new strategy will establish the strategic direction for transport in Scotland for the next 20 years, as well as delivery and monitoring frameworks.

The NTS Review will inform the review of the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR), helping to identify future spending priorities on infrastructure, and will set a strategic direction for possible spending priorities in other, non-infrastructure, areas of importance. However, the NTS Review will not set a funding framework (that being determined by the Spending Review Process) nor will it identify specific infrastructure priorities. This latter will be done by the review of STPR.

The review is being progressed through three main strands of work:- **collaboration** with key stakeholders and delivery partners enabled by the establishment of NTS Review Working Groups; **building a robust evidence base** on which policy proposals for the NTS2 will be founded; and **engagement** with the general public, transport users and other stakeholders.

COLLABORATION

NTS Review Working Groups

Functional working groups have been established to deliver the fundamental building blocks for the review process: Research and Evidence; the Strategic Framework group; and the review of Transport Roles and Responsibilities. These working groups have already met on a number of occasions and will continue to do so in 2018.

Four **Thematic** groups are addressing wider facets of the review under the themes; Enabling Economic Growth, Tackling Inequality, Greener & Healthier and Delivering

Safe and Resilient Transport. These groups have all met on at least four occasions and their work will culminate in early summer 2018 with each thematic working group submitting a paper setting out policy recommendations for NTS2. Consultants (Aecom and Peter Brett Associates) have been appointed to support each working group in finalising and reporting their recommendations.

Each working group brings together a wealth of expertise and a range of views from both inside and across government, the transport sector, delivery partners, academia, third sector and other stakeholder groups. Reflecting the collaborative nature of the review, each working group is co-chaired by an external party.

Strategic Framework

The **Strategic Framework Working Group** has developed the draft NTS2 vision and outcomes and these will be shared with stakeholders through various channels as we progress through the review.

Review of Transport Governance

The NTS review includes a review of Transport Governance which will build on the work of the NTS Refresh and further clarify, and possibly modifying, existing transport roles and responsibilities nationally, regionally and locally. All areas of transport are within scope to ensure this is properly a review of transport governance and this is being taken forward through the collaborative approach by the **Roles and Responsibilities Working Group**.

This group is co-chaired by Jim Valentine, Deputy Director for Perth & Kinross Council and SOLACE transport rep and Transport Scotland (Tom Davy). Membership of the group includes Transport Scotland, Scottish Government Planning and Enterprise & Skills, SCOTS, COSLA, Clydeplan, Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPs), Sustrans and two RTP representatives (SPT and Nestrans).

NTS Review Governance

The progress of the review is supported by a number of groups including the **NTS Review Reference Group** (an internal cross-directorate Transport Scotland group), the **NTS Review Scottish Government Advisory Group** which manages policy interdependencies with the review across the Scottish Government and the **NTS Review Partnership Group**, co-chaired by Transport Scotland and CoSLA, which includes external stakeholders to provide constructive challenge of the working groups.

The **NTS Review Board**, chaired by the Minister for Transport and the Islands, is the main overarching governance body for the conduct of the NTS review. It consists of a range of key stakeholders to provide strategic advice, guidance and challenge on the review and strategic advice to inform determinations on areas of policy tension unable to be resolved at partnership working level.

BUILDING A ROBUST EVIDENCE BASE

Call for Evidence

The NTS Research and Evidence Working Group launched a Call for Evidence to a wide variety of stakeholders and partnership working groups on Wednesday 5th April 2017. The Call closed on Friday 14th July 2017.

The Call asked for submissions of evidence (from all sectors and interested parties: academic, public, private and third sectors) to address questions grouped around seven key themes:

- Economic growth and inclusive growth
- Transport mode choice and demand
- Environmental impact of transport
- Active travel (e.g. walking and cycling)
- Safe and resilient transport
- Transport governance
- Potential changes in society and technology

Full details of the questions asked and further information about the Call can be accessed at: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/consultation/national-transport-strategy-call-for-evidence/>

A total of 66 responses were received, including a wide range of submissions from sectors and modal interests.

The NTS Review Research & Evidence Working Group published a paper at the end of January 2018 (<https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/41506/call-for-evidence-summary-report.pdf>) which summarises the evidence highlighted in the 66 responses received to the call, highlighting the themes, uncertainties and gaps. This paper provides a starting point for the Working Groups of the NTS Review in formulating policy options informed by evidence.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Broader stakeholder engagement to date

Full scale stakeholder engagement on the NTS Review, including face to face meetings and workshops and social media dialogue is ongoing. This has been informed by the findings of an early engagement survey <https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/national-transport-strategy-early-engagement-consultation-survey/> which was conducted in early 2017, and which identified a number of key themes that were particularly important to respondents. This survey also highlighted specific groups of people who appeared to be less engaged on transport issues. Our current and planned engagement activities, designed in close collaboration with advocacy groups such as Age Scotland, Scottish Rural Action and Young Scot, have been specifically designed to make it

easier for these less engaged groups to participate in a way which meets their needs.

To date we have hosted workshops, meetings and discussions on the NTS Review at forty events held in a variety of urban, rural and island locations, reaching over 1,350 people in the process.

Events at which the NTS Review has been showcased include annual national conferences held by the Community Transport Association Scotland, the Confederation for Passenger Transport (CPT), Age Scotland and Scottish Rural Action as well as existing stakeholder fora. This includes the December 2017 cycle of Ferry User Group (FUG) meetings. A National Transport Leaders Event was held jointly with CoSLA in November 2017 in which over 100 senior elected members and officials from local authorities across Scotland provided feedback on the NTS Review. All Islands local authorities fully participated in this event.

Broader stakeholder engagement in 2018

Engagement activities in the first part of 2018 are structured in order to maintain awareness of the review and to glean views on transport needs and priorities from a wide range of stakeholders across the country, ensuring that urban, rural and island specificities are captured within our engagement process. From late summer 2018 engagement activities will focus on intensively testing emerging policy proposals originating from the review. Engagement activities planned in this phase of engagement include the establishment of an Islands Citizens Panel on Transport.

A number of engagement events are planned for island communities in Spring 2018. Events confirmed/ in advanced planning at present include:

- Argyll & Bute Grey Matters Meeting on Transport, Helensburgh, 24th March 2018
- Arran Locality Partnership Meeting – NTS Review Workshop, April/ May tbc
- Young Peoples` Workshop on Transport (in collaboration with Young Scot), Lerwick, Shetland, April date tbc
- Age Scotland Western Isles Network Meeting – NTS Review Workshop, 22nd May 2018

We are working with a number of organisations to add further islands focussed events to this calendar.

Daniel Lafferty
Stakeholder Engagement Manager
National Transport Strategy Review Team, Transport Scotland
0141 272 7976 / 07837 062227
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