

**THE MORAY COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**MES TRANSPORTATION GROUP**

**Date:** Friday 31 January 2014, 10am

**Location:** The Moray Council Annexe, Meeting Room 7

**ATTENDEES:**

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| S Cooper, Head of Direct Services (SC)    | Cllr G Leadbitter (GL)             |
| G Holland, Transportation Manager (GH)    | R Robertson, Director Hitrans (RR) |
| G Scott, Diageo (GS)                      | L Davidson, PA to HODS (LD)        |
| D Duncan, Principal Planning Officer (DD) |                                    |

**APOLOGIES:**

D Wood, Northern Oils (DW)

| <b>Item</b> | <b>Subject</b>  | <b>Action</b> |
|-------------|---|---------------|
| 1.0         | <b>Apologies</b>  |               |
| 1.1         | Apologies from David Wood.  |               |
| 2.0         | <b>Minute of last meeting: 8 August 2013</b>  |               |
| 2.1         | European Regional Directive Funding (ERDF) – meeting to be set up between GH, SC and Reni Milburn (Principal Development Officer) to discuss funding.   | <b>LD</b>     |
| 2.2         | Scotrail/Network Rail – advice given is that nothing will change just by writing to Scotrail and RR/F Roach have written to all bidders now.  |               |
| 2.3         | East Coast Mainline Stakeholder Event 17 January 2014 – GL attended.  |               |
| 2.4         | A9/A96 – presentation was made by Transport Scotland at ED&I Committee on 3 September 2013. No firm programme but broadly speaking it looks like 1 year to 18 months away before we look at options for routes. RR spoke to Jacobs/Transport Scotland by conference call– concern that they had introduced the strategic dualling discussion rather than the minister.<br><br>Concern that prioritising may be to do with bypasses before dualling is done. The worry with doing bypasses then dualling is that there may be less justification for finishing it off in the end. More expensive way of doing it and we may end up with a route which is not as effective. |               |
| 2.5         | Bid from Council/Devron Coaches/Hitrans – expected that there will be another chance to bid. Anticipated that there will be annual bids and we will participate next time. GH, RR, Peter Findlay (PTU Manager, Moray Council) will meet to discuss. A meeting with Stagecoach might then be required.   |               |

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| 3.0 | <b>A95</b>  |           |
| 3.1 | <b>A95 Craigellachie to Aviemore:</b> HITRANS have offered to contribute up to £20k to the Moray Economic Partnership for a study to determine the economic and operational benefits of improving parts of the A95, and to identify the work required to gain maximum benefits from relatively low cost improvements. This work has been delayed and will commence in April 2014.   |           |
| 4.0 | <b>Masterplan for Lossie Green, Elgin – David Duncan in attendance</b>  |           |
| 4.1 | Moray Economic Partnership has been tasked with delivery of ‘The Moray Economic Strategy’ which includes an action plan. There are a number of priorities identified under the ‘high street first’ action. Projects related to the preparation of a masterplan and development brief for Lossie Green.  |           |
| 4.2 | Mini ‘charette’ to take place 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2014. This will be accompanied by an initial financial appraisal. Following this a ‘public charette’ may take place to test, revise and develop outcomes from the mini charette.  |           |
| 4.3 | DD preparing a report for ED&I Committee 14.01.14.  | <b>DD</b> |
| 5.0 | <b>Buckie Harbour</b>   |           |
| 5.1 | <b>Developments at Buckie Harbour:</b> Design work is progressing on the refurbishment of the Old Net Store in Buckie to convert it to 6 new industrial units which it is hoped will provide for harbour-related activities. Planning application soon and anticipated completion end December 2014. Discussions are on-going with Forsyths to determine how the Council can assist with use of its land assets in the area. Marketing of the Buckie Shipyard is under way. Discussions with other harbour-related companies progressing with the hope that this may lead to future expansion and development of the harbour. |           |
| 5.2 | <b>Northern Oils Presentation:</b> presentation taking place on 18 March 2014 at Elgin City Football Club. All Elected Members have been invited.   |           |
| 6.0 | <b>Lifting the Spirit Project</b>   |           |
| 6.1 | <b>Lifting the Spirit pilot project:</b> Analysis of the findings from this pilot project have now been completed by HITRANS and it is hoped that arising from this work some Moray food sector companies may be encouraged to take up opportunities for using rail freight out of Elgin.   |           |
| 6.2 | GS noted that all distillery sites have to be ‘bottom loading’ by 2016. F Roach is looking at a design change as the trains would not be able to accommodate tankers that are bottom loading. There also has to be economic savings for this to be viable in the future but they would be willing to participate further.<br><br>4 distillers participated in the project during the trial period. Others would   |           |

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|     | be needed as well as the interest from other industries to make it viable.  |           |
| 6.3 | Elgin yard – has been regenerated because of the project and the PR has been successful for generating interest.  |           |
| 6.4 | Douglas Norris will produce a report on the project.  |           |
| 6.5 | Presentation to Moray Economic Partnership or ED&I Committee to be considered.  |           |
| 7.0 | <b>AOCB</b>   |           |
| 7.1 | <b>Whisky Tourist Transport:</b> The need for local transport to cater for whisky tourists in Speyside during the summer months has been identified. It is proposed to work jointly with the Tourism and Culture group to assess feasibility and then liaise with the whisky industry to determine if there is a willingness to provide transport.  |           |
| 7.2 | <b>Lossie Green, Elgin.</b> The 4 transportation theme projects linked to this proposal have been discussed with the consultants. These are the relocation of the Elgin Bus Station, the relocation of the Elgin Lorry Park, car parking and improvements to junctions and pedestrian facilities on Alexandra Road, and consideration of these transport issues will form an integral part of any development proposals. Transportation officers will participate in the  |           |
| 7.3 | <b>Elgin Cycle Network:</b> The Council has submitted a bid for funding to Sustrans who are administering the £20m Government fund for “Community Links” projects. If the bid is successful It is proposed to construct a cycleway along the full length of the floodworks embankment running East - West through Elgin, and if possible, extended to Lhanbryde. This would link a significant number of residential areas with areas of employment and retail activities in the town, improving accessibility to jobs and to businesses. |           |
| 7.4 | <b>Dualling of the A96:</b> Work by the Transport Scotland design team and their consultants is continuing. The next liaison meeting with Local Authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships is in April 2014.   |           |
| 7.5 | GS – to ask S Pritchard to contact SC.  |           |
| 8.0 | <b>Next Meeting</b>   |           |
| 8.1 | LD to arrange the next meeting for three months time.   | <b>LD</b> |