

**THE MORAY COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

MES TRANSPORTATION GROUP – 21 NOVEMBER 2012, (10am-12pm)

VENUE: Academy Street, Elgin

PRESENT:

Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services (SC)
Gordon Holland, Transportation Manager (GH)
Gordon Sutherland, Planning & Economic Development Manager (GS)
Cllr Graham Leadbitter (GL)
Ranald Robertson, Director, Hitrans (RR)
Frank Roach, Partnership Manager, Hitrans (FR)

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
1.0	SC introduced the meeting.	
1.1	<p>Part 1 - rail changes at Forres</p> <p>GH – Still at pre-application stage. Consultant representing the company (Arland Energy). SC has asked for a meeting to discuss the intention to move stuff by rail.</p> <p>Joint venture arrangement with network rail –</p> <p>FR – wasn't aware it was a rail freight scheme. Access might be an issue, along with issues with more traffic over Waterford crossing (private crossing). Previous study was undertaken, around 2007 (costs were around £12m).</p> <p>Can the money they receive from the development be ring fenced for the improvements (rail).</p> <p>Network rail meeting next Wednesday (with biomass people). Property involved?. FR also attending (via phone). GH (meeting in Aviemore 2 months ago with a lady from Network Rail who was going to come back with an update.</p> <p>Frequency of rail (hourly service) – being pushed back to 2013. RR explains about the differing improvements required – the rail side and also the upgrade to the road. Priority to sort Forres loop (reduced journey time, train crossing at platform to avoid delays, enhanced timetable (journey time reduced). Can make better use of the trains available. GL – is this the priority? Are loops at Dalcross (part of 2014-19 timescale) and Kintore better for frequency etc than Forres. There are improvements that can be made (not in Moray but those that would improve things for Moray). Dalcross (planning permission in place for single platform) and Kintore (costs around £18m) –</p>	<p>SC</p> <p>GH</p>

	<p>contributions expected from (public sector promoters as funding will not come entirely from Scot govt. Dalcross is deliverable whereas the costs for Kintore are too high.</p> <p>GL – duelled platform at Forres is priority as part of the economic strategy. RR – this is a long term aim (taking curve out and dual platform) – not sure if the development could take place without this. What order should the work be done? There are also thoughts about reinstating the Findhorn loop.</p> <p>A9/A96 (2030) – project accelerating, consultants being taken on board. A96 improvements for Elgin unlikely without this project going ahead.</p> <p>FR – money available from 2009-2014 – for development work.</p> <p>GL – spoke with Scotrail and Network rail (especially about journey times and Dalcross). GL – there is a demand for improvements from Elgin to Inverness (frequency (has been increased am but not pm) and capacity biggest issues). Thinks that Highland Council would also like to be involved and this would assist when/if meeting with the minister.</p> <p>Scot govt funding – can it be accelerated by Council and get it back at a later date?</p> <p>Programme to be scheduled along with scenarios of what ifs. There is already a programme (Aberdeen-Inverness improvement report (identifying 7 packages of work)) – RR and FR to review the report when it is available and pull together some key points to share with the group. To include short term deliverables – discussion to take place with the group.</p> <p>Aberdeen / Inverness – phase 4 and 5 of the electrification programme (by 2030). Commitment to electrify 100km of rail – should be suggesting that north is considered.</p> <p>Connectivity to high speed.</p> <p>Freight – govt announced £30m for strategic freight network. Clearance for bigger boxes Elgin to Aberdeen. Freight must be considered in any project. Forres loop would create a passing place for freight trains so helps to build the case.</p> <p>Whisky train – intention to run these from spring 2013. All these points will build case for more capacity.</p> <p>Two page rail strategy for Moray required (FR). RR – is there scope to have 5 page doc through moray economic strategy? Will assist with prioritisation (local/council etc).</p>	<p>RR/FR</p>
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	<p>FR – to feedback (e-mail – key points) from meeting next week.</p> <p>FR – report from network rail – let us know when it is available.</p> <p>FR – to do 2 page report (to include timeline of what has been done and when). Include links to key documents.</p> <p>RH and SC – meeting taking place next week (A9/A96).</p> <p>GH – stakeholder meeting in Aviemore 17 Apr 13. GH to meet with Jo – Transport Scot? – RR to attend with him.</p>	<p>FR</p> <p>FR</p> <p>GH</p>
2.0	<p>Key Projects List (taken from the moray economic strategy)</p>	
2.1	<p>SC – idea to get a feel from the group to see if anything should be added and then work out the priorities and who should do what.</p> <p>GH to outline the list (not only Elgin).</p> <p>To fit into the economic strategy and make it moray wide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A95 improvements. • Comprehensive pedestrian signing (tourist attractions/heritage). Not for just one project but for all. • Rail Freight. • Bus connection to central belt (RR and P Findlay involved in this). <p>GS – to send information that breaks info from the strategy into 5 groups. Also includes info gleaned from meetings with business groups. There will be information from it that will add to this list.</p> <p>GH to update this list. Update (master) to be circulated. Next meeting will work on rationalising the list and work on an action plan. Need to include how and who would deliver each of the points and own each action to take them forward.</p>	<p>GH</p>
3.0	<p>Whisky Project</p>	
3.1	<p>Report going to 18 December 2012 ED&I Committee and if approved to policy and resources - £23,000 is being sought from the Council. GH sees it as part of the strategy for this group.</p>	
3.2	<p>SC to seek sources from where the money will come. SC to include GS in any discussions. Money to come from next financial year.</p>	<p>SC</p>
3.3	<p>GS – can Council capital money be spent on something that we do not own? L Paisey to be approached.</p>	<p>SC</p>

3.4	FR – meeting taking place next week (29 Nov 12, 10am-4pm, Sunninghill Hotel) with distillery groups – FR to send details to SC for someone from TMC to attend.	FR
4.0	Economic Strategy – wider group	
4.1	Meeting taking place on Friday 23 Nov 12 – speakers assisting with promoting the role of the group to business communities. GS to speak with GL about attending. RR not able to attend.	
4.2	GS – noted that HIE website can be used for posting meeting notes etc to be shared with the other groups.	
4.3	GS – to send out note about SCDI.	GS
5.0	Next Meeting Date:	
5.1	TBC.	LD