

**THE MORAY COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

MES TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Date: Friday 27 May 2016, 2pm

Location: SC Office, Moray Council HQ Room 227b

ATTENDEES:

S Cooper, Head of Direct Services (SC)

Cllr G Leadbitter (GL)

M McLennan, Moray Chamber of Commerce (MM)

R Robertson, Director Hitrans (RR)

S Hutcheon, Head of Regional Development HIE (SH)

APOLOGIES:

N Moss, Transportation Manager (NM)

Item	Subject	Action
1.0	Introductions and Apologies	
1.1	Apologies from Nicola Moss.	
1.2	Graham Scott (Diageo) has retired. LD has been in contact with Diageo to find a replacement. Invitation sent to Fiona Bruce, Operations Director. MM agreed to speak to Fiona about attendance.	MM
2.0	Minute of last meeting: 28 March 2016	
2.1	Improvements on A95 – MM to raise the topic of the Facebook page at the next stakeholders meeting.	MM
2.2	Cruise Ships – MM spoke to Shona at Brodie Castle last week. They have 17 trips booked in from cruise ships that are coming into Invergordon this year. The visits have been organised by Wow Scotland Tours and MM will try to arrange a meeting with them.	MM
2.3	RR suggested that MM contact Orkney Islands Council as they have a lot of business from cruise ships. MM said that Orkney has been experiencing issues with the amount of tourists that can come into Orkney in one day via cruise ships (it can be between 3,000 and 7,000 people) and there are only a small amount of places to visit. Issues have arisen accommodating so many people on the same day and the effect on the other tourism on the island.	
2.4	SC has spoken to colleagues in Aberdeenshire about cruise ships. Issues with changes to weather were spoken about because there are no facilities for cruise ships to berth close enough to the shore (would be difficult for visitors to return to the ship if the weather changed whilst they were on a visit).	
2.5	Improvements to Aberdeen – Inverness – this was in relation to the path leading from Asda to a park across to the north side of the railway. GL is	GL

2.6	<p>still to carry out a walk through on the path with National Rail.</p> <p>RR said that he has a meeting with Scott Prentice from Abellio to discuss stabling in Elgin and SC asked if he could find out if Scott could do a presentation to the next MEP meeting (the next one is 15.9.16). SC will speak to Cllr Cowe regarding the presentation to get the go ahead. GL suggested that all Councillors are invited.</p>	<p>RR SC</p>
3.0	<p>MES Transportation Action Plan Refresh</p> <p>3.1 The list of projects was discussed and agreed. The following was noted:</p> <p>3.2 SC said that the Elgin Transport Strategy has not been approved yet. SC informed MM of the background to the paper. RR suggested that SC touch base with Rab Dickson and Derek Murray from Nestrans as they have been through a lengthy issue with developer contributions and their lessons learned may be useful.</p> <p>3.3 Enhancements to the railway station – GL wanted to know if it came under the Junction Strategy or the Parking Strategy – SC confirmed it was the Parking Strategy.</p> <p>3.4 Harbour Developments – SC explained that we are carrying out a 2 stage programme. Need to get close to closing the funding gap before carrying out further investment in the harbours.</p> <p>3.5 Northern Roads Collaboration Forum – SC explained the reason behind the collaboration. One of the projects within the collaboration would be to have a separate agreement to share the Council dredger with other authorities. One of the other things being thought about is planning out a leisure route (with a view to having a booklet produced showing a range of routes and ideas for where people could stop off with contact details etc). RR said that he thought the likes of the West Coast of Scotland was well geared up for the industry already and they may not want to buy into this. It was agreed by all that an East Coast Scotland publication would probably work better. MM noted that Visit Scotland might provide funding towards this. SC asked RR how this could be better co-ordinated. SC suggested that a co-ordinator could approach all of the harbours from the Borders north. MM agreed to speak to Visit Scotland to see if they had any interest in either some funding or assisting with someone co-ordinating. SH agreed to find out if money could be made available to carry out a feasibility study (via a consultant).</p>	<p>SC</p> <p>MM SH</p>
4.0	<p>A96 Dualling (Economic Appraisal)</p> <p>4.1 Consultants were announced this morning.</p> <p>4.2 High level scoping for economic assessment for dualling A96 – document circulated and discussed.</p> <p>GL suggested adding ‘road/rail interface’.</p>	

4.3	<p>SC agreed that he would update the list and discuss with Transport Scotland.</p> <p>SC noted that he had a meeting with Ewan Wallace from Aberdeenshire and he advised that they are hoping to put together a team to plan out their preferred route.</p>	SC
5.0	<p>Regional Transport Strategy</p>	
5.1	<p>RR e-mail was circulated with the papers. The strategy hasn't been updated since 2008. Comments to be passed to RR by 17.6.16. Once all comments are in a further opportunity to comment on the complete document will be given.</p>	ALL
6.0	<p>Project Updates</p>	
6.1	<p>Not discussed.</p>	
7.0	<p>Membership</p>	
7.1	<p>Agreed. See 1.2.</p>	
8.0	<p>AOCB</p>	
8.1	<p>Buckie Harbour Updates-</p> <p>Beatrice Offshore Wind Limited (BOWL) SSE have agreed that Moray Council could participate as a contingent Port (even though they are committed to going to Wick as there are constraints in Wick). Unable to quantify the level of work that will come to Buckie but a Heads of Terms agreement has already been signed and the next stage is to agree leases etc. A promotional leaflet for Buckie is being worked on just now to publicise that Buckie is open for business.</p> <p>Buckie Harbour Master Plan – there will be a refresh in due course.</p> <p>GL asked about advice that could be given to school leavers in relation to opportunities that could open up in and around Buckie.</p> <p>Moray Offshore Renewables Limited (MORL) – awaiting the award of the contract for difference. This will not be until early 2017.</p>	
8.2	<p>Active Travel – GL commented that secure cycle storage is missing within all the cycle paths that have been built. SC agreed this was a good idea and said this should be added as a project under active travel. RR said that they are funding a project in Stornoway just now and working with the Head of Leisure to put in secure lockers outside the leisure centre (those who sign up for a locker are able to use the showers etc in the leisure centre). RR said there was funding available for this type of project. NM to include active travel in the strategy refresh and to develop to the next stage with actions.</p>	NM

8.3	GL asked if cycle space could be built into the parking strategy to use some car park space within each car park for cycle storage.	NM
8.4	Roundabout (Asda) – MM asked for an update on the roadworks – it has been confirmed that all roadworks will be clear a few days after 4.6.16.	
8.5	Blue Badge – MM raised an issue with not being able to park by the cathedral for example (you can drop people off). Sometimes the guide is the driver as well and they can't drop people off and go and park the bus and then come back (as they don't have enough time to do it). This is causing issues for tours.	
8.6	Toilets – MM said that Jill Neill from Elgin Bid has spoken to some of the local pubs and shops about joining up to a 'toilet scheme' to allow visitors to use their facilities.	
8.7	Coach Drop Off – MM said a new stop will be located at Marks and Spencer.	
9.0	Next Meeting	LD
9.1	Monday 22 August 2016, 9am – Venue TBC.	