



## TRANSPORT UPDATE

**BOARD MEETING: 11 DECEMBER 2008**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This paper is to inform members on the progress made in relation to the transport related actions identified as a result of the Transport Seminar of 13 May 2008.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the JOG meeting on 15 July 2008, the following actions were agreed:
- the Lead Officers of the thematic Action Plan Groups would drive the actions identified in the report forward (see Appendix 1);
  - Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) would identify appropriate specialist officers from within SPT and ensure their participation in Action Plan Working Groups, as appropriate;
  - SPT would circulate best practice information to Partner agencies; and
  - East Ayrshire Council and SPT would work together to implement the Step Change for Bus Action Plan.

### **3. PROGRESS TO DATE IN RELATION TO ACTIONS FROM THE TRANSPORT SEMINAR**

- 3.1 Lead Officers were duly advised of the thematic based actions agreed on 15 July 2008 for inclusion on the agenda of future Action Plan Working Group meetings. To date, only the Delivering Community Regeneration Action Plan Working group has met. As this was the first meeting of the Group combining the roles of the former Improving Opportunities and Improving the Environment Groups, the key focus was establishing a Vision for the future. At the time of writing, it is anticipated that the transport actions across all thematic Action Plans will be picked up at a meeting of Lead Officers to be held on 9 December 2008.
- 3.2 In respect of identifying appropriate specialist officers within SPT, an exercise has been carried out which establishes that over twenty officers interface with their East Ayrshire counterparts on a regular basis. These officers will be able to participate as and when required in the thematic Action Plan Working Groups to deal with specific transport matters.
- 3.3 More importantly, SPT has gone through a process of identifying 'Envoys' who will undertake a supportive role to SPT's Ambassadors. Their particular role is to engage with the Action Plan Working Groups to facilitate SPT's contribution to Community Planning Partnerships at a grass roots level. The nominated envoy for East Ayrshire is John Robin, Bus Contracts Manager. He has already attended the first meeting of the Delivering Community Regeneration Action Plan Working Group.

- 3.4 In terms of the follow up actions listed in paragraph 2.1 above, progress has been made in identifying examples of best practice, which will be made available to partners in the near future.
- 3.5 Finally, steady progress is being made on rolling out the Step Change for Bus Strategy around the region. The strategy has already been launched in collaboration with many of the authorities in the Greater Glasgow conurbation, excluding Glasgow. The strategy will be launched on 27 October 2008 for all the Ayrshire authorities. This strategy which was first rolled out in Paisley, Renfrewshire in November last year has been seen to deliver noticeable improvements in terms of driver behaviour, reducing traffic infringements and improving information available to passengers.

#### **4. OTHER TRANSPORT RELATED ISSUES**

- 4.1 Unconnected with the Seminar but of relevance to the Community Planning Partnership, SPT has worked with all the local authorities in the west of Scotland, the Improvement Service and the Transport Directorate to identify a list of transport related indicators from the Regional Transport Strategy, which local authorities could use in support of their Single Outcome Agreements (SOA).
- 4.2 This list was circulated to all Chief Executives on 15 October 2008 for information and reference. In addition, it has also been circulated to all Heads of Roads and Transport, and Community Planning Managers. The aim is to achieve a level of consistency as well as ensure appropriateness and robustness. It is also hoped that this approach will contribute to limiting the number of indicators used in SOAs.
- 4.3 SPT will shortly circulate the data for each of the agreed indicators to partner authorities for their information and use. In addition, in 2009, SPT will prepare an annual monitoring report setting out progress on the delivery of the Regional Transport Strategy, including the transport indicators. This will be published around June 2009 and annually thereafter. It is hoped that this work will complement and support the 2009 and subsequent SOAs.

#### **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 Since the last meeting steady progress has been made in the follow up action agreed by JOG on 15 July 2008; as detailed below.
- The Thematic Action Plan Lead Officers have received the actions list to include on the agendas of future Action Plan Working group Meetings;
  - SPT has established a pool of over 20 specialists, including an 'envoy', who will participate as and when necessary, in Thematic Action Plan Working Group meetings;
  - Gathering Best Practice information is a work in progress and it is planned to give a report to the Joint Officers' Group at its meeting of 27 January 2009 on this subject.
  - The Step Change for Bus Strategy will be launched for all Ayrshire authorities on 27 October 2008.
  - A list of transport related indicators to assist in the preparation of the 2009 SOA has been circulated to all local authorities for information and use as appropriate.

5.2 It can be seen from the above that all of the necessary steps are in place to ensure that transport matters are effectively addressed by the thematic action plan working groups.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 The Community Planning Partnership Board is requested to:

- i) note the content of the report.

**Alan Murray**  
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**Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**  
**25 November 2008**