

**MINUTES of MEETING of POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP ON SCOTLAND'S TRANSPORT
held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on MONDAY, 5 JULY 2004**

Present: Councillor Duncan MacIntyre (Chair)

Councillor Robin Currie
Councillor Donald MacMillan

Councillor Bruce Marshall

Attending: George Harper, Director of Development Services
Charles Reppke, Head of Democratic Services and Governance
Blair Fletcher, Transportation Manager
Graham Brown, Operations Manager

Apologies: Councillor Al Reay

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Policy Development Group meeting of 26 May 2004 were approved as a correct record.

*** 2. SCOTLAND'S TRANSPORT FUTURE: THE TRANSPORT WHITE PAPER**

The Transportation Manager ran through the main points contained within the White Paper explaining that while Councils would be required to join a regional partnership (or form their own) the duties of the regional partnerships had not yet been decided.

The Chair advised the Group that Westrans and Hitrans would meet in August to discuss the White Paper and suggested that while the Group should form their own conclusions, the outcome of these meetings should be awaited before a formal response is submitted in September.

The Group then discussed the implications in terms of possible diminution of voting rights if the authority agreed to divide between Hitrans and Westrans and did not consider that it would be feasible for the Council to form its own partnership. The Group also could not foresee how being divided between the two Partnerships could work at a strategic level and envisaged that each area would need to determine their own strategies. There were also concerns raised about the financial implications if the authority were to be split.

Decision

1. To recommend to the Strategic Policy Committee that this Authority should be within one Partnership only and that, in principle, this be Hitrans on the basis that the Authority is already seen as a key player within this Partnership.

2. That the Transportation Manager be instructed to prepare a report for SPC highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of being a Member of both of the Partnerships based on the discussions of this meeting.
3. To recommend to the SPC that it consider widening the remit of this Group to consider the Calmac Tendering process and HIAL issues.
4. To further recommend to the SPC that Hitrans and Westrans be invited to make a presentation to the Council on their strategies for the future in order that a final decision can be taken as to which Partnership best suits the Council.

(Ref – Scotland's Transport Future: The Transport White Paper, submitted)

3. DISCUSS WESTRANS JOINT TRANSPORT STRATEGY

It was agreed to continue this matter to the next meeting of the Group which would be held on 28 July 2004 at 11.00am in the Council Chamber, Kilmory, Lochgilphead in order that the Transportation Manager could prepare a response to the consultation taking into account any responses received from elected Members and officials.

4. CONSIDER AREA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Group agreed to continue this matter to their next meeting on the basis that some of the Area Committees had yet to consider the matter.