

PREPARATION OF LOCAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The white paper, "Scotland's Transport Future" signals significant reforms in the way that transport is delivered in Scotland.
- 1.2 Local Transport Strategies (LTS) are the means by which local authorities describe how they intend to deliver on both national and local transportation objectives and provide an action plan for meeting local challenges and objectives.
- 1.3 Guidance has been issued by the Scottish Executive on developing an effective LTS and it expects all Local Authorities to review their existing strategies and complete this latest review by 2006.
- 1.4 To ensure that the LTS reflects the needs of the people of Argyll and Bute it is intended that stakeholders are involved in the development of the strategy, and this will be best achieved by engaging with the Community Planning Partnership (CPP). It is expected that the Partnership will take an active role in the process such that the emerging strategy will meet the requirements of all agencies involved.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Committee note the requirement to prepare the LTS over the coming months, and agree the proposals to engage the CPP, the Area Committees and other major stakeholders in the process. The Committee are also asked to note the proposed use of the Citizens Panel to gauge public opinion on transportation issues.

3. BACKGROUND

The following transport matters are significant to the Council in developing its LTS:

3.1 Scotland's Transport Future

The white paper, "*Scotland's Transport Future*" sets out the Scottish Executive's aims and objectives for transport.

The Executive's overall aim is to:

".....promote economic growth, social inclusion, health and protection of our environment through a safe, integrated, effective and efficient transport system."

3.2 National Transport Agency

A new National Transport Agency should be established by the end of 2005 which will be responsible for the trunk road and rail networks and delivery of national transport services.

3.3 Regional Transport Partnerships

The Minister's current proposals are for seven statutory Regional Partnerships to be established by April 2006. The partnerships will have the common statutory requirement to produce Regional Transport Strategies for their areas. These strategies will need approval from the Scottish Ministers and will be binding on their constituent authorities.

3.4 Local Transport Strategies

LTS should communicate the authority's strategy and proposals for transport to its citizens.

Guidance on LTS production has been produced by the Scottish Executive which identifies how authorities might deliver on national and local objectives. A central theme is the support of projects/policies that encourage people, wherever practical, to move away from the car to other more sustainable modes of transport.

The LTS should cover a three year period in detail and the timetable for production anticipates completion of the document during 2006. It is recognised that many transport projects extend beyond this period and that the strategy will need to reflect this.

4. DETAIL

4.1 Transport impacts on the lives of everyone in the community - it is the social and economic "glue" of any society. It is therefore important to ensure that the LTS is inclusive, reflects the needs of the entire community and facilitates the Council aim of Argyll and Bute being Scotland's leading rural area.

4.2 Given the importance of this strategy it is intended to widely engage the community in creating the LTS. It is proposed that this be achieved by the active involvement of all partners in the CPP, and other major stakeholders (see Appendix 1), such that the final strategy reflects the views of the community. The proposed delivery mechanism is as follows:

- All partners will be asked to sign up to the production of the LTS, to engage in its development, and to take ownership of the final strategy document.
- The Council will guide the LTS partnership in this work to bring to the fore the partners' concerns / ideas for transport in their particular field within short and medium timeframes. e.g. it is hoped that local economic forums will play a prominent role in the preparation of economic development aspects of the strategy.
- Working groups will be established to achieve this aim and it is envisaged that an interactive process will be vital in securing the partners' ownership of the strategy.

4.3 The Council's website will also form a key role in the LTS consultation / information process and indeed the Scottish Executive expect all completed

strategies to be published on authorities' websites. The website has successfully been used recently for several online questionnaires and comments - most recently the Local Plan (almost 300 responses received via the internet). To reach more of our citizens and to possibly target particular issues, e.g. ferry travel, it is intended to generate online questions to raise awareness of the LTS and gain opinion.

- 4.4 Transport related issues were identified in the first questionnaire of the Citizens' Panel as one of the most important areas of concern for the people of Argyll and Bute. The second questionnaire, in October 2001, focussed solely on transport issues and achieved a response rate of 66%. The next questionnaire issue is September 2005 and it is intended to repeat some of the questions asked in 2001 and introduce some additional questions in order to gauge whether public attitudes and practices have changed on matters such as how people travel, walking, cycling and public transport information.
- 4.5 It is anticipated that a consultative draft of the LTS will be sent to the Executive in the spring of 2006 with a view to producing the final document by the end of the summer. (See timetable included in Appendix 2.)

For further information - please contact Nicola Debnam
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POLICY	The LTS will be one of a suite of Council policy documents. It will set a direction for future investment in transport infrastructure and it is hoped the LTS will influence the developing Regional Transport Strategies.
FINANCIAL	There are no immediate financial consequences to the production of this strategy document, other than staff time and publishing costs. It is important however that large scale infrastructure projects identified as necessary for economic regeneration are included in the strategy if they require, in time, to secure funding from the Executive from sources such as the Integrated Transport Fund.
PERSONNEL	N/A
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES	Consultation process needs to ensure all stakeholders are reached.
LEGAL	N/A

Dave Duthie
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27th September 2005

Appendices, see over

APPENDIX 1 - Proposed members of LTS workshops

	ENVIRONMEN T	SAFETY	ECONOMY	INTEGRATIO N	ACCESSIBILIT Y
WE WANT TO.....	Protect our environment & improve health by building and investing in public transport and other types of efficient and sustainable transport, which minimise emissions and consumption of resources and energy.	Improve safety of journeys by reducing accidents and enhancing the personal safety of pedestrians, drivers, passengers and staff.	Promote economic growth by building, enhancing, managing and maintaining transport services, infrastructure and networks to maximise their efficiency.	Improve integration by making journey planning and ticketing easier and working to ensure smooth connection between different forms of transport.	Promote social inclusion by connecting remote and disadvantaged communities and increasing the accessibility of the transport network.
WHO CAN HELP US ACHIEVE THIS.....					
Proposed lead member	Forestry Commission	Community Safety Partnership	Local Economic Forums	Argyll & Bute Council - Public Transport Officer	Argyll & Bute Council - Community Services, Community Regeneration
Proposed team members	Shanks Scottish Natural Heritage Scottish Environmental Protection Agency Scottish Water West Coast Motors ALI Energy Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Vestas Argyll & Clyde Health Board	Scottish Ambulance Service Strathclyde Police Strathclyde Fire Brigade Caledonian MacBrayne Highland Rail Partnership West Coast Motors Argyll & Clyde Health Board	Argyll and the Isles Enterprise Chamber of Commerce Careers Scotland Job Centre Plus Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire	Forestry Commission Tesco Freight Transport Association Strathclyde Passenger Transport Caledonian MacBrayne Highland Rail Partnership West Coast Motors	Argyll CVs Careers Scotland Job Centre Plus Housing Association Association of Community Councils Young Scot Argyll & Clyde Health Board
Proposed team members - Argyll & Bute Council	<u>Development Services - Planning Access Project Manager</u> Local Biodiversity Officer Development Policy <u>Operational Services - Facility Fleet Manager</u> <u>Corporate Services - Legal & Protective Protective Services Officer</u>	<u>Development Services - Transportation & Infrastructure Road Safety Training Officer</u> <u>Chief Executive's Unit - Personnel Health and Safety Manager</u> <u>Corporate Services - Legal & Protective Protective Services Officer</u>	<u>Development Services - Planning Development Projects Employability Unit</u> <u>Operational Services - Roads & Amenity Roads</u>	<u>Development Services - Planning Development Policy</u> <u>Corporate Services - Democratic Services and Governance</u> <u>Community Services - Planning & Performance</u> <u>Operational Services - Roads & Amenity Roads</u>	<u>Community Services - Planning & Performance</u> <u>Community Services - Community Support</u> <u>Community Services - Housing</u> <u>Community Services - Children & Families</u> <u>Development Services - Planning Development Policy Employability Unit</u>

APPENDIX 2 - Programme for formulating Local Transport Strategy

Task	Month	Sep '05	Oct '05	Nov '05	Dec '05	Jan '06	Feb '06	Mar '06	Apr '06	May '06	Jun '06	Jul '06
Gain approval of SMT for CPP engagement												
Meet with CPP and agree way forward				regular meetings interactive themed groups								
Analyse current situation												
Identify opportunities & problems												
Generate options												
Produce Action Plan												
Establish set of PI's												
Prepare draft document												
Submit consultative draft to Scottish Executive												
Final edit												
Publish final document - hardcopy and website												