

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE

24 JANUARY 2002

SUBJECT: STRATEGIC RAIL AUTHORITY – STRATEGIC PLAN

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

<p>Abstract: This report provides an initial appraisal of the Strategic Plan recently published by the Strategic Rail Authority.</p>

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee –

1. note the publication of the Strategic Plan;
2. note the emphasis within the Plan on delivering investment already committed and the absence of significant new additional investment in rail infrastructure on the East Coast Main Line north of Edinburgh; and
3. await a further report on both the SRA Strategic Plan and the Draft Network Management Statement for 2002 which is due to be published by Railtrack in February 2002.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Strategic Rail Authority have recently published their Strategic Plan. The SRA have indicated that this is a Plan and not a formal consultation document. It will be updated annually and comments on the Plan will inform SRA's ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders.
- 2.2 A copy of the Strategic Plan Summary has been placed in the Members' Lounge and Appendix 1 to this report contains an extract from the delivery plan for the ScotRail area.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Strategic Plan includes seven main sections covering:-

- The Way Forward for Britain's Railway
- Key Issues for the Railway
- Assessing the Options
- The Priorities – Short Term
- The Priorities – Medium Term
- The Longer Term
- Conclusion.

- 3.2 Delivery Plans of particular importance to Angus include:-

- ScotRail
- Great North Eastern Railway
- Cross Country.

- 3.3 An initial appraisal of the SRA Plan suggests the consolidation of various previous expenditure proposals rather than a wide range of wholly new or additional major investments in rail infrastructure within Scotland. This particularly applies north of the Central Belt, including the East Coast Main Line north of Edinburgh, where additional investment appears to be limited to various local schemes. The continued absence of any commitment to electrification of the East Coast Main Line north of Edinburgh reflects the earlier Strategic Agenda document published by the SRA last year (report 486/01 to the Planning and Transport Policy Committee 26 April 2001 refers).
- 3.4 Alongside publication of the SRA Strategic Plan, Railtrack will shortly be circulating their Draft Network Management Statement for 2002 for consultation. A further report on both documents, including any implications for improvement works at Angus Rail Stations to be funded from the Public Transport Fund Award will be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee on 7 March 2002.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Law & Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The Strategic Plan is a key document for both the railway and the Strategic Rail Authority. It sets out the SRA's plans to tackle the industry's problems and its priorities for the short, medium and long term.
- 7.2 From an Angus perspective there is little in the Strategic Plan that is wholly new. However, it remains essential for the Council to continue to work in partnership with the SRA, RailTrack, Train Operating Companies, Rail Freight Operators and other interested parties in order to enhance train services and railways serving Angus.

NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

AA/CGR/IAL
17 January 2002

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport