

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE  
ROADS COMMITTEE

2 MAY 2002  
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**SUBJECT: SCOTLAND'S TRANSPORT : DELIVERING IMPROVEMENTS**

**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT and DIRECTOR OF ROADS**

<p><b>Abstract:</b> This report informs members of the publication of the document "Scotland's Transport : Delivering Improvements" which lays out the Scottish Executive's transport vision for Scotland for the next decade and beyond.</p>
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## **1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee –

1. note the publication by the Scottish Executive of the document Scotland's Transport : Delivering Improvements;
2. note the emphasis within the document on transport improvements already delivered or committed, and the absence of significant new additional investment of direct relevance to Angus.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive on 21 March 2002 published the document "Scotland's Transport : Delivering Improvements" which it describes as a "route map" for transport in Scotland, designed to tackle congestion, improve public transport services, and complete vital missing links.
- 2.2 A copy of the full document has been placed in the Members' Lounge and Appendix 1 to this report contains the Executive Summary which sets out the transport vision for Scotland, including the Executive's top ten priorities for delivery.

## **3 DISCUSSION**

### **Executive's Vision**

- 3.1 The main focus of the document is on tackling congestion in and around major metropolitan areas aimed at delivering greater integration and the completion of vital missing links in the transport network. Only three of the Executive's stated top ten priorities are of direct significance to Angus, these being:-
  - Improving rail infrastructure and overall services to passengers by letting a new fifteen year passenger rail franchise from April 2004.
  - Tackling social exclusion by delivering free local off-peak bus travel for elderly people and people with a disability from October 2002.
  - Improving Traveline to provide travellers with customised information and making it easier to use public transport in Scotland.

- 3.2 The extension of the rail franchise period was widely expected and the position on concessionary fares and on Traveline has previously been reported to the Planning and Transport Policy Committee (report 138/02 and 320/02 refer).

### **Area Achievements**

- 3.3 As part of a discussion on delivering improvements, the document describes in detail area by area various transport improvements that have been and will be delivered since 1997 with committed funds.
- 3.4 Angus is identified in the document along with Dundee City, Fife and Perth & Kinross as forming the "Tay Area". The document illustrates sixteen public transport improvements supported by the Public Transport and Integrated Transport Funds in the Tay Area, and 70 projects supported by the Rural Transport Fund.
- 3.5 Appendix 2 to this report reproduces an extract from a leaflet covering the Tay Area published by the Scottish Executive alongside the main document. This illustrates specific improvements and spending already committed in Angus.
- 3.6 It is disappointing that the document makes no mention of "lifeline" projects such as the Montrose Bridge Replacement; and makes no commitment to provide additional funding to tackle the backlog of maintenance on local roads. Indeed the only mention of this fundamental issue for Scotland's Transport is in the Appendix on "Research and Studies Underway" that "Tackling the backlog and such improvements will require Local Authorities to increase the priority given to local roads and bridges from their block allocations for revenue and capital expenditure".

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 The Scottish Executive's document contains a considerable amount of financial information on projects and schemes already underway or committed throughout Scotland.

## **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 document "Scotland's Transport : Delivering Improvements" has been heralded by the Scottish Executive as marking an important stage in the development of a modern integrated transport strategy for Scotland. In practice the document mainly draws together information on schemes, projects and initiatives already underway and reinforces the commitment to containing traffic growth and tackling congestion especially in urban Scotland. The next steps are to roll forward the report by developing solid plans for the next decade and beyond incorporating the sequencing and phasing of the ten priority projects that will follow the Spending Review in 2002. Further reports will be brought to the Committee's attention at the appropriate time.

**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  
22 April 2002

Alex Anderson  
Director of Planning and Transport

Ronnie McNeil  
Director of Roads