

**ANGUS COUNCIL****PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE****20 APRIL 1999****SUBJECT: PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE****REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**

<b>Abstract: This report updates Committee on public transport developments within Angus and of the Government's recent consultation paper in respect of buses.</b>
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**1 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee -

1. Note the publication of the 1999 editions of the Public Transport Map and Guide, Days Out By Bus Leaflets and Angus Transport Guide.
2. Note the award of £475,000 from the Scottish Office for the Public Transport Fund Bid submitted in partnership with Dundee City Council, Travel Dundee, Strathtay Scottish Ltd., Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Ninewells Hospital Trust for the Ninewells Hospital to Carnoustie corridor.
3. Note the publication by the Government of the buses daughter document to the White Paper on Travel Choices For Scotland and agree that a separate report on this document and responses to the consultation questions contained within it be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report advises Committee of the recent publicity material produced and distributed by the Council in respect of public transport services. Committee is also advised of the successful partnership bid made in respect of funding from the Scottish Public Transport Fund which will see a Quality Corridor for bus operation being provided between Ninewells Hospital and Carnoustie. Outline details are also given of the Government's recent daughter document on buses which follows on from the White Paper - "Travel Choices For Scotland" which was published in July 1998.

**3 PUBLIC TRANSPORT PUBLICITY**

- 3.1 The 1999 editions of the Angus Public Transport Map and Guide and Days Out by Bus Leaflets for each of the Angus Towns have been printed and distributed. In addition, a new Days Out leaflet detailing services to Glamis and the attractions both in the village and at the Castle has been produced. This new leaflet has been funded from the Council's Rural Transport Grant allocation for 1998/99 and promotes the improved services to Glamis secured from that additional funding.

- 3.2 The Transport Guide has been updated for 1999 by the Angus Transport Forum's Rural Transport Development Officer, this being one of the duties requested by the Council of the postholder. This leaflet has been widely distributed to Voluntary Organisations throughout Angus and at key Council Offices including all Social Work Offices and Libraries.

#### 4 SCOTTISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT FUND BID

- 4.1 Committee were informed at the meeting on 28 January 1999 (Report 92/99 refers) of a Partnership bid to be submitted to the Scottish Office for Scottish Public Transport Funding on behalf of Angus Council, Dundee City Council, Travel Dundee, Strathay Scottish Ltd. Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Ninewells Hospital Trust.
- 4.2 A total of £475,000 has been awarded to the Partnership to fund a cache of measures to provide benefits to public transport on the Ninewells Hospital to Carnoustie Corridor. This funding will permit :
- the introduction of transponders to control traffic signals and give priority to buses;
  - an electronic tracking system to give passengers at selected stops up to the minute information on when the next bus is due (this information system will also be extended to the outer circle in Dundee);
  - Kassel type kerbing to be introduced to complement the operation of low-floor vehicles and therefore improve access to buses.
- 4.3 The original bid had been for £660,000 therefore there is a shortfall in the amount requested. Detailed negotiations are however now underway with manufacturers to finalise the costs involved. Partnership representatives are also holding initial meetings to agree locations for the real time information at bus stops and possible locations for the introduction of Kassel type kerbing. The number of locations for improvement will obviously be dictated by the amount of funding available. Once plans for the Scheme have been finalised then these will be reported back to this Committee.

#### 5 WHITE PAPER : A NEW DEAL FOR TRANSPORT - BUSES DAUGHTER DOCUMENT

- 5.1 The Government issued on 23 March 1999 a daughter document to the Transport White Paper entitled "From Workhorse To Thoroughbred - A Better Role for Bus Travel". The main bus policy changes outlined are :
- **A new framework for local authority influence over buses** - through the preparation of local transport strategies the Government is influencing Local Authorities to take a more strategic approach to transport provision in their area and encouraging them to set clear objectives and targets.
  - **Statutory backing for Quality Partnerships** - voluntary partnerships between Local Authorities and Operators will be strengthened.

- **An end to the deregulation “free-for-all”** - consultation will take place to consider options for reducing the frequency of service changes and the provision of additional powers for the Traffic Commissioner to take action against Operators who fail to provide the services which they have registered.
  - **Better bus information** - Local Authorities will be given a statutory duty to provide bus passenger information in their area, this will support the development of a National Public Transport Information Service by the year 2000.
  - **More joint ticketing** - Operators will be encouraged to develop joint ticketing arrangements. Consultation is on-going to consider giving the Local Authorities power to make bus operators provide such ticketing arrangements.
  - **Service frequency enhancements** - the legal position is to be clarified to permit Local Authorities to increase frequencies on commercial services for example to encourage a modal shift to public transport.
  - **Option of bus “Quality Contracts” for area-wide networks** - the Government intends to publish guidance and a formal appraisal process for the introduction of “Quality Contracts” which are in effect exclusive franchises for a route, small town or corridor. These are only likely to be introduced as a last resort when a Partnership approach has failed and would have to be agreed by the Scottish Executive. In practice it is anticipated that their application would be very limited.
- 5.2 This daughter document on buses is a consultation document which requests the Local Authorities views on a number of issues and proposals. The deadline for responding is 25 June 1999 and it is therefore proposed that the full contents of the document and a suggested response from the Council will be reported to the next meeting of this Committee on 8 June 1999.

## 6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

## 7 CONSULTATION

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

## 8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The production of comprehensive public transport publicity continues to be undertaken, the Council already meeting the statutory requirements outlined in the Buses daughter document which will be imposed on other Local Authorities which do not currently do so.

- 8.2 Opportunities for working in Partnership with other Local Authorities and Operators will continue to be sought and further Scottish Transport Fund bids will be investigated following the publication of the Council's Interim Local Transport Strategy Document. It is a requirement that an Interim Strategy must be produced before further bids can be submitted.
- 8.3 Legislation in respect of bus service provision will be amended by the Government and Scottish Executive in response to both the White Paper "Travel Choices For Scotland" and the recently published daughter document. The Council's Public Transport Policy Statement (approved by Committee on 25 April 1996 - Report 261/96 refers) will be amended as necessary to meet any changes in the legislative provisions and local bus services will be provided in line with the objectives and policies set out in that document.

#### **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/LEM/KW  
9 April 1999

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