

REPORT

<p>To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</p>	<p>Subject: UPDATE ON SPT's FINAL DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY AS SUBMITTED TO SCOTTISH MINISTERS</p>	
<p>From: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</p>		
<p>Date: 18 April 2007</p>	<p>Ref: D/TT/73/21/JM</p>	

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report updates Committee on the final draft Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) submitted by SPT to the Scottish Ministers.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 On 2 August 2006 the Director of Planning and Environment reported to Committee on SPT's progress in producing a new RTS for the West of Scotland and noted that further update reports would be provided as and when required.
- 2.2 This update comments on the Final Draft Submission to the Scottish Ministers which has been approved by SPT and sent to the Executive.

**3. Comment**

- 3.1 The Council has been involved in the production of this document through officer's attendance at consultation events, direct contact with North Lanarkshire Partnership and with presence on working groups. Reports have been brought to Committee for decisions on responses to individual consultation documents and the Council's elected members on the SPT have had the opportunity to raise issues directly with SPT.
- 3.2 As a result of this process the Council has been able to influence the content of the final document, which is now more focussed on tackling social exclusion, delivering more accessible bus services, implementing major improvements to the road and rail network and supporting sustainable travel alternatives.
- 3.3 The Strategy therefore creates opportunities for North Lanarkshire through partnership working and access to additional funding to deliver key named projects e.g. Ravenscraig, Airdrie/Bathgate, Caledonian Express, Trunk Road upgrades to A80, A8, A725, M74 and M73, improved connections to Rail Freight hubs, A73 and A71 corridor improvements, traffic improvements to Air Quality Management Areas, Motherwell Station upgrade and rail park and ride improvements.
- 3.4 As well as the named schemes listed above the strategy also identifies generic headings for delivering regional improvements which align with schemes identified in our Local Transport Strategy. This will allow us to bid for partnership funding which hopefully will lead to earlier implementation of projects across the Council area.

#### **4. Corporate Considerations**

- 4.1 The RTS sets the regional transport strategy and will guide transport policy formulation over the next 10-15 years. The Council in embracing the strategy will be able to deliver transport improvements which will benefit all North Lanarkshire residents.

#### **5. Sustainability Implications**

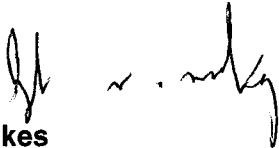
- 5.1 The vision for the strategy has sustainability at its core.

#### **6. Regional Transport Strategy Document**

- 6.1 A copy of the Regional Transport Strategy for the West of Scotland 2007 – 2021, A Catalyst for Change, Final Draft has been lodged in the members library for information.

#### **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the publication of the Final Draft Strategy and agrees to work with SPT to improve strategic transport provision across the Council area.



**Paul Jukes**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
4 April 2007

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