

14 February 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

**Nestrans' response to the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Main Issues Report**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Main Issues Report. We have provided comments in the sections below and this response was considered by the Nestrans Board at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

We welcome the inclusion of the Regional Transport Strategy in the list of documents that have been given due regard to in the development of this Main Issues Report. As I am sure you are already aware, Nestrans has started work on the development of a new Regional Transport Strategy which we hope to have complete by the end of 2019. This new strategy will reflect the fact that many of the large infrastructure projects contained within the current strategy have now been or will soon be delivered. It is anticipated that the new strategy will likely focus to a greater degree on maximising the benefits of existing infrastructure, promoting modes other than the private car and environmental factors such as alternative fuels. We therefore welcome the reference made to home and workplace charging facilities for vehicles and hydrogen refuelling facilities within Main Issue 18.

We also wish to submit comments on several individual settlements as follows:

**Insch** – we fully support the planning objective to improve accessibility at the station and inclusion of site GR05 to allow for further consideration of access for all to the platforms at Insch Station. This is a key priority for Nestrans and work has been commissioned to explore further the options for doing this.

**Westhill** – The Main Issues Report highlights that the cumulative impact of future development will need to be determined in relation to the AWPR and we fully agree with this statement. We request however that this is widened to recognise the cumulative impact on the strategic road network generally, including roads and junctions in Aberdeen City, and the

need for cross-boundary working with the relevant bodies to assess and mitigate the cumulative impacts of development.

**Banchory** – We support the recommendation made not to omit the provision for a park and ride facility within site OP1/MR057. Park and Ride remains a key element of the Regional Transport Strategy and provision of facilities on the A93 will increase options for bus travel on this corridor.

**Laurencekirk, Stonehaven and Portlethen** – In 2018 Nestrans commissioned a Mearns Stations Study to look at car parking capacity at Laurencekirk, Stonehaven and Portlethen stations, taking into consideration the likely increases in demand resulting from improved rail services. The final report for this study was reported to the Nestrans Board on 13th February 2019 and is available on the Nestrans website.

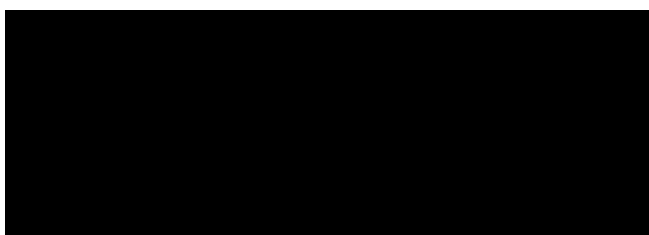
In relation to Stonehaven Railway Station, the study found that the car parks are already over capacity and this is likely to increase in future years. We would therefore request that the Local Development Plan takes this into consideration and looks to identify a site for additional rail parking in Stonehaven in the longer term. The report identifies that if the Council Roads Depot were to be relocated, that this site on Kirkton Road may be suitable as a further car park for stations users.

The study concluded that Laurencekirk Railway station may require some extra spaces by 2030 which we appreciate is beyond the scale of this LDP, however we feel is still worth raising for information at this point.

Portlethen Railway Station is currently showing as having capacity, however there are options to increase the number of spaces relatively easily using land already owned by Network Rail and permitted development for rail. This is something that Nestrans is currently pursuing in partnership with ScotRail.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any of our comments in more detail.

Yours sincerely



Transport Executive (Strategy & Delivery)