



**Community
Transport
Association**

**Response to
Shetland Transport Partnership**

**Regional Transport Strategy
Consultation Draft**

24 January 2007

The Community Transport Association

The CTA is a rapidly growing national charity giving voice and providing leadership, learning and enterprise support to member organisations, which are delivering innovative transport solutions to achieve social change. CTA UK promotes excellence through providing training, publications, advice and information on voluntary, accessible and community transport.

Voluntary and community transport exists to meet the travel and social needs of people to whom these would otherwise be denied, providing accessible and affordable transport to achieve social inclusion.

The CTA is the representative body for third sector passenger transport operators in the UK. CTA Member organisations are involved in the provision of transport, especially accessible services.

The CTA is part-funded by the Department for Transport, the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department for Regional Development (Northern Ireland).

CTA's Response to Consultation

The CTA welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Shetland Transport Partnership's Draft Regional Strategy. The responses to the questions asked in the report are shown on the following pages.

Contact Details

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QUESTION 1

Are there any other issues which should be included?

Social Inclusion and equal opportunities rank alongside economic growth and reduction in carbon emissions as the most important strand in the National Transport Strategy for Scotland. We would encourage a strategy which has a strong focus on the individual and his/her needs and would like to see some more emphasis within the key issues on STP's commitment to those who marginalised for whatever reason.

QUESTION 2

Do you accept the financial analysis presented?

The Scottish Executive's aim for all RTPs was for transport strategies which would be suitable for their regions for the next 15 years. This strategy limits its aspirations as a result of the problems of other departments within Shetland Islands Council (SIC), in particular the Council's spending pressure on Social Care. We believe that the strategy should not be hidebound by short term constraints within other departments of SIC and should focus on transport alone.

QUESTION 3

Do you support the vision and principles presented ?

We support all the principles and our only comment regarding vision is that it should aim for a transport system for all people. The words "inclusive society" are included in the vision statement but we would prefer to see a set of words which is more explicit about a transport system for all people.

QUESTION 4

Do you support the objectives presented for:

1. Economy **Yes.**
2. Social Exclusion and Accessibility **Yes.**
3. Environment **Yes**
4. Safety **Yes**
5. Integration **Yes**

QUESTION 5

Do you agree with the main findings of the appraisal of strategic options?

The findings would appear to be reasonable, though some might find it difficult to understand figures 4.1 and 4.2. We feel that this section could be presented better.

QUESTION 6

Do you support or have any comments on the sets of actions outlined?

We do not have an opinion on the 5 sets of actions.

Question 7

Do you have comments on the analysis and action associated with Fixed Links?

We do not have an opinion on this matter.

Question 8

Do you support, or have any comments on the actions outlined for inter-island ferry services

We do not have an opinion on the specific ferry services outlined. We would urge that the services are available for all, are affordable and accessible for people with mobility problems. We support SIC and STP in their campaign to extend the national concessionary fares schemes to inter-island services. We would also urge SIC and STP to support the extension of these schemes to community transport schemes.

Question 9

Do you support, or have any comments on the sets of actions presented for inter island air services?

We do not have an opinion on the sets of actions for inter island air services.

Question 10

Do you support or have any comments on the sets of action presented for walking, cycling and travel behaviour change?

Yes, we support all of these sets of actions.

Question 11

Do you support or have any comments on the sets of actions presented for the Local Road Network

We do not have an opinion on the 7 items highlighted in this section.

Question 12

Do you support, or have comments on the sets of actions presented for Public Transport Services, including:

1. Public Transport Services

Yes. We support all the services outlined and in particular STP's plans to investigate further the development of community transport initiatives and other forms of rural demand responsive provision.

2. Fares and ticketing.

Yes. We support your comments on fares and ticketing. We would urge STP to press for an extension of the national transport concessionary scheme offered by Transport Scotland to people who use non-mainstream services such as community transport.

3. Information, Infrastructure and Facilities

Yes.

4. Other transport services – Education, Social Care, Community Transport Initiatives, etc.

We would prefer to see some expansion in the details given in this section. It is lightweight in comparison to the other aspects of Public Transport Services. Although the number of people who might use these services in Shetland may be small, we believe that the imperatives behind transport provision should be based on a

“needs not numbers” philosophy. Some provision should be given in the strategy for initiatives which come from the various communities of Shetland which would address any gaps in STP’s services.

Question 13

Do you support or have any comments on the sets of actions presented for Environmental Protection and Mitigation?

We do not have an opinion on these sets of actions

Question 14

Do you have any comments, or additional suggestions, for the actions and projects highlighted in the draft implementation plan?

We do not have an opinion on these.