

**REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 1 MARCH 2006**

**SUBJECT: STAG REPORT AND TRANSPORT MODEL UPDATE –  
PROPOSED STAG WORKSHOP, STAG TIMETABLE AND  
ROADSIDE INTERVIEW SURVEYS**

**BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the proposed (Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance) STAG Report Workshop and key Committee report target dates.
- 1.2 To advise members of the proposed roadside interview surveys to be carried out for the Transport Model and STAG Report tasks prior to the Easter school holidays.
- 1.3 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (13) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the functions of the Council as Roads Authority.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 On 01 September 2004 the Environmental Services Committee approved that a traffic model for Elgin should be prepared and following on from that to commission a STAG Report ( para 8 of the Minute refers).
- 2.2 The Environmental Services Committee at its meeting on 01 February 2006 (para 14 of the Minute refers) approved the appointment of Halcrow Group Ltd for the Transportation Professional Services Call-off Term contract including the Transport Model and STAG Report tasks. This report has been prepared following the recent inception meeting with the Consultant.
- 2.3 The STAG appraisal process requires inputs from the Council and representatives of community groups, and other organisations.
- 2.4 The development of the Transport Model and the STAG Report requires detailed origin and destination information. Previous roadside interview surveys were carried out in 1997.

### 3. The Proposals

- 3.1 The proposed stages of the STAG Report task and target dates for future reports to Committee are shown in the programme below:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Report Target Date</b>
<b><u>Pre-Appraisal</u></b>	Problems & Opportunities analysis Derivation of specific planning objectives Options for appraisal <u>Stakeholder Workshop</u>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> April 2006</b>
<b><u>STAG Part 1 Appraisal</u></b>	Option data collation STAG Part 1 Report	<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 2006</b>
<b><u>STAG Part 2 Appraisal</u></b>	Option data collation Transport Model Scenario STAG Assessment Report Presentation to Committee	<b>21<sup>st</sup> June 2006</b>

- 3.2 There is a need to hold a problem, objective and option workshop as part of the pre-appraisal stage of the STAG process. The workshop needs to involve key stakeholders from the Council, the community and other key organisations. The Consultant has advised that a very important aspect of delivering a successful workshop is the number of delegates attending the workshop. Therefore it is proposed to limit the workshop to a maximum of 30 delegates. It is proposed to invite representatives from each of the organisations that are part of the Community Planning Partnership. All Councillors will be issued a questionnaire prior to the workshop allowing them to contribute to the pre-appraisal process. It is proposed that the Council is represented at the workshop by the Convenor, Chair of Environmental Services, HITRANS representative, the six Elgin Councillors and the Councillor for Heldon & Laich. Participation in the pre-appraisal stage of the STAG process will not jeopardise Elected Members involved in any future planning procedure as they are not going to be declaring a preferred option at this point.
- 3.3 Elected Members are requested to note the programme and the target Committee report dates.
- 3.4 The previous Transport Model for Elgin used detailed origin and destination data collected through a series of roadside interview surveys carried out in 1997. It is proposed to carry out a series of roadside interview surveys prior to the Easter school holidays that begin on Monday 03 April 2006. The surveys will be carried out in accordance with the Scottish Executive Roadside Interview Survey Guidance and liaison has already started with the Scottish Executive, Police and BEAR Scotland. Elected Members are requested to note the proposal for roadside interview surveys.
- 3.5 Elected members will be circulated a copy of the media/public relations information document relating to the roadside interview surveys in due course.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no additional costs associated with these proposals.

#### **5. Staffing Implications**

5.1 Transportation staff and Development Services staff will be involved in providing data to the Consultants carrying out the STAG Report and Transport Model tasks.

#### **6. Environmental Implications**

6.1 An important element of the STAG Report covers the environmental aspect of the transport scheme options.

#### **7. Sustainable Development Implications**

7.1 The overall aim of proposed transport network improvement schemes is to ensure the economic viability and sustainability of Elgin. There may be some environmental and social mitigation measures to be considered and implemented where required.

#### **8. Consultations**

8.1 The Principal Solicitor (Commercial and Conveyancing) is in agreement with the content of this report.

8.2 The Planning and Development Manager has commented that “provided there is no slippage in the reporting timetable it will comply with the programme for finalisation of the review of the Local Plan”.

#### **9. Corporate Plan**

9.1 The report encompasses the main aims of the Economic Development programme by maintaining and enhancing suitable transport facilities and infrastructure for residents, visitors, businesses and workers.

#### **10. Recommendations**

**10.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the proposed programme for the STAG Report task, including a workshop, and the target dates for Committee Reports.**

**10.2 It is recommended that Committee notes that a series of roadside interview surveys are proposed prior to the Easter school holidays.**

Author of Report: Transportation Manager  
Background Papers: Reports to Environmental Services Committee  
Ref: RG/PA/R/66/24/1