

Review of the Scottish Planning System

Infrastructure Delivery Group – Meeting Note – 6 June 2018

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Apologies</u>
Lisa Bullen – Scottish Government	Colin Brown – Virgin Media
Robin Campbell – Scottish Government	Lisa Cameron – Network Rail
Helen Carter – Scottish Government	Craig Clement – Aberdeenshire Council
Ian Chapman – Openreach Ltd	Andrew Dailly – Scottish Government
Mark Dames – BT plc	Gerry Donald – NHS
Rachel England – Scottish Government	Sue Evans – CSGNT
Kelly Forbes – Institution of Civil Engineers	Mark Everett – SP Energy Networks
Stuart Forrest – Scottish Gas Networks	Lesley Fraser – Scottish Government
Iain Graham – NHS Lothian	Robert Gray – HoPS
Rosemary Greenhill – Scottish Government	Alison Irvine – Transport Scotland
Rachel Gwyon – Scottish Government	Mark McEwan – Scottish Water
Sandra Heberton – Network Rail	Martin McFadyen – Virgin Media
Mark Hunter – Scottish Water	John Mckechnie – Openreach Ltd
Deryck Irving – CSGNT	Daisy Narayanan – Sustrans
Ian Jessiman – Scottish & Southern Energy	Robert Nicoll – COSLA
John Lauder – Sustrans	John Nicolson – Scottish Government
Fabrice Leveque - Scottish Renewables	Colin Proctor – Scottish Futures Trust
Dorothy McDonald – HoPS	Peter Reekie – Scottish Futures Trust
John McNairney – Scottish Government	
Jonathan Padmore – tactran	
Tony Rose – Scottish Futures Trust	
Neil Rutherford – Scottish Futures Trust	
Rory Sherwood – Virgin Media	
Fiona Simpson – Scottish Government	
Richard Slipper – Slipper consultants	
Sara Thiam – Institution of Civil Engineers	
David Torrance – Transport Scotland	
Josie Turner – National Grid	

1. Introductions and Welcome. John McNairney introduced the meeting and welcomed participants. Introductions were made.

2. Minutes. John McNairney asked if there were any comments on the minutes of the last meeting, held on 6 November 2017. There was one request that the minutes be amended to reflect the fact that BT plc and Openreach Ltd are now the correct organisational terms.

3. Draft remit of the group. John McNairney highlighted the key elements of the draft remit for the group, which was circulated prior to the meeting. The group provided the following comments:

- The group would be open to organising itself into sub-groups if required;
- There may be scope for the creation of something similar to the Infrastructure Client Group (brought together by ICE), which is in place at the UK level, in Scotland;
- It was noted that representation from the home building industry should be considered;
- It was observed from the minutes that in terms of water infrastructure, in most cases the co-ordination of infrastructure for larger developments functions well and that it is often issues with more local sites which can be more problematic to address.

ACTION – through correspondence, the group will agree on:

a) whether any additional members should be invited to join the group as full members and/or;

b) whether other organisations should be invited to particular sessions or to join future sub groups, where there is an interest.

4. Scottish Government Updates.

- Lisa Bullen of the Scottish Government gave an update on the Housing Infrastructure Fund. She explained that HIF is intended to support affordable housing delivery and to provide a funding solution for strategic priorities. It comes in the form of grant and loan funding;
- Rachel Gwyon gave an update on the Infrastructure Investment Board of the Scottish Government. She gave an insight into the structure and purpose of the group which provides strategic advice to Ministers on the prioritisation of national infrastructure funding. Rachel also provided an insight into the Fiscal Framework and the definition of 'infrastructure' which the IIB have developed;
- Fiona Simpson gave an update on the progress of the Planning Review. This included an overview of the review work streams, as well as the content and current stage of the Planning Bill. This led to discussion around the exemplar work and engagement between local authorities and utility providers. The importance of using consistent data, (e.g. population data) in planning, and other key data such as migration patterns and household composition was discussed;
- Rachel England gave an update on the Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB). She outlined the origin and evolution of SNIB, that it has been endorsed by Cabinet and that there is broad consensus for it having an important role in Scotland. SNIB will be established through legislation and will be a public body with an investment function (not a retail bank). Discussion followed around what organisations/entities could borrow from SNIB.

ACTION - The Scottish Government is to send links to IDG for feedback on the exemplar work undertaken, including work with Fife Council on delivery programmes.

5. Break

6. Overview of SFT Infrastructure Delivery project

- Tony Rose of SFT gave an introduction to the Infrastructure Delivery work which SFT have undertaken together with Richard Slipper and Scottish Government. The work has explored the scope for better co-ordination of infrastructure providers with planning to

inform prioritisation and increase confidence all round. Neil Rutherford of SFT and Richard Slipper (planning consultants) provided more detail around the project undertaken, the aims, objectives, who was consulted, the key findings and outputs.

- Discussion points raised included: the importance of the regulatory and competitive environment for infrastructure providers; the challenge of investing where there are wider benefits and how to measure; the use of data, collective knowledge and intelligence; the challenges of prioritising capital programmes for providers in light of development plans and their regulatory regimes; different infrastructure providers may have a different definition of 'strategic'.

ACTION - slides from the SFT presentation to be made available.

7. Discussion: Outline Work Plan

The group had a broad discussion of possible tasks and areas of work for inclusion in a future work plan. Suggestions included:

- A Scotland focused infrastructure needs assessment.
- Skills and resourcing, including scope for multidisciplinary working.
- Testing of issues real / live examples and case studies.
- Consideration of the need for upgrading legacy assets (in addition to new infrastructure provision).
- Read across to the Glasgow City Region Infrastructure Assets and Portfolio Group. It was suggested that an update on this work could be useful for the group.
- The work plan should be aligned with the 6 pillars of planning empowerment which are shaping the SFT's work with the Scottish Government.
- Consideration of the gap / bridge between strategic and local planning.
- An update on low carbon infrastructure work.
- Exploring how greater certainty or confidence can be achieved, to encourage alignment of infrastructure investment with future development.

ACTION - The Scottish Government to develop an outline plan for the group to consider on the basis of these suggestions. All members are invited to provide any further thoughts in the meantime.

ACTION - The Scottish Government to provide SG contacts on low carbon infrastructure;

8. Close

Summary of Agreed Actions

- **ACTION** – through correspondence, the group will agree on:
 - a) whether any additional members should be invited to join the group as full members and/or;
 - b) whether other organisations should be invited to particular sessions or to join future sub groups, where there is an interest.
- **ACTION** - The Scottish Government is to send links to IDG for feedback on the exemplar work undertaken, including work with Fife Council on delivery programmes.
- **ACTION** - slides from the SFT presentation to be made available.
- **ACTION** - The Scottish Government to develop an outline plan for the group to consider on the basis of these suggestions. All members are invited to provide any further thoughts in the meantime.
- **ACTION** - The Scottish Government to provide SG contacts on low carbon infrastructure.