



Agenda Item 14

Bonnybridge Transport Issues - Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) Pre-Appraisal

Falkirk Council

Title: Bonnybridge Transport Issues - Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) Pre-Appraisal

Meeting: Executive

Date: 10 December 2019

Submitted By: Director of Development Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report considers the STAG pre-appraisal prepared to investigate transport issues in the Bonnybridge area and possible options for future STAG1 and STAG2 Appraisal.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Executive is asked to:-

- (i) **Note the contents of this report.**
- (ii) **Agree to further more detailed appraisal as part of STAG 1 and STAG 2 being undertaken for transport issues in the Bonnybridge area subject to agreement with Transport Scotland, as set out in paragraphs section 5 of this report on the following options:**
 - **new railway station**
 - **improved and expanded car parking at railway stations**
 - **better access to bus and rail services**
 - **upgraded pedestrian and cycling facilities**
- (iii) **Agree, subject to Transport Scotland comments and representations that Development Services appoint an appropriate transport consultant to carry out the further STAG 1 and STAG 2 appraisal work with appropriate funding as per paragraph 6.1 of the report.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Executive agreed on 26 September 2017 that Council officers would carry out the STAG pre-appraisal to investigate transport issues in the Bonnybridge area and report back with recommendations on whether STAG 1 and STAG 2 appraisal work should be undertaken.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The STAG pre-appraisal has considered existing transport issues relating to the Bonnybridge area highlighted by the two surveys mentioned below.
- 4.2 The current transport provision including up to date base data for public transport services has been included in the document. This element has had to be updated twice due to alterations to both bus and rail timetables since the surveys were

carried out. Other data used includes information on travel to work, modal choice, and barriers to using alternative modes of travel.

- 4.4 This information has been used and set against high level objectives to generate various options to address the transport issues identified. These options would be taken forward through STAG 1 and STAG 2 for detailed appraisal should this work be undertaken.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Falkirk Council conducted an online survey via Myspace to gather information, Council wide, on transport issues. As part of this consultation, consultees were asked where they lived and what were their transport issues. This included the Bonnybridge area. In addition to the survey carried out by Falkirk Council the local Reinstatement Bonnybridge Railway Station group conducted their own survey. The results of both surveys were used in the preparation of the STAG Pre-Appraisal.
- 5.2 Transport Scotland is currently reviewing the draft pre-appraisal prepared by Falkirk Council and their comments and recommendations are awaited. If Transport Scotland agree that the case for change has been adequately demonstrated the Council will then be in a position to take forward STAG 1 and STAG 2 for the options outlined in Section 7 of this report.
- 5.3 If further work is required to satisfy Transport Scotland this will be carried out and submitted by Falkirk Council for agreement prior to the commissioning of the additional STAG 1 and STAG 2 appraisal work. If Transport Scotland cannot be satisfied that the case for change for transport issues in the Bonnybridge area can be demonstrated given all the available transport information, survey data and analysis, Falkirk Council will not progress STAG 1 and STAG 2 appraisal at this time.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 Falkirk Council agreed on 28 February 2018 as part of Agenda Item 4 Revenue Budget:
- (2) in addition, recognising that the first stage of the pre-appraisal for Bonnybridge Railway Station is not due to conclude until later this year, that funds should be made available from the reserves that are required to fund any future stage if the decision is made to proceed with it.

The most recent costs obtained by the Council for carrying out STAG 1 and STAG 2 were:

1. STAG 1: £10,000 - £15,000
2. STAG 2: £40,000 - £50,000

Resources

- 6.2 Staff time will be required to project manage the appointed consultant to carry out the STAG 1 and STAG 2.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no legal implications arising from the report recommendations

Risk

- 6.4 None arising from the terms of the report.

Equalities

- 6.5 An equality and poverty impact assessment is not required..

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 A full Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out on the Local Development Plan which included the safeguarded site for a possible railway station in Bonnybridge.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The information gathered through the public consultations carried out by Falkirk Council and the Reinstat Bonnybridge Railway Station group and the existing transport provision in and around the Bonnybridge area has been used to prepare a STAG pre-appraisal. This has concluded that further STAG appraisal should be carried out on the following options subject to agreement with Transport Scotland:
- New railway stations
 - Improved and expanded car parking at railway stations
 - Better access to bus and rail services
 - Upgraded pedestrian and cycling facilities

Director of Development Services

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Date 27 November 2019

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Bonnybridge Transport Issues STAG Appraisal Pre-Appraisal Report
Executive Summary - November 2019

Background Papers

- Bonnybridge Transport Issues STAG Appraisal Pre-Appraisal Report
November 2019



Falkirk Council



Bonnybridge Transport Issues

STAG Appraisal

Pre-appraisal Report

Executive Summary

November 2019

Bonnybridge Sustainable Transport Option STAG – Pre-appraisal

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STAG is Transport Scotland's official appraisal guidance and all transport investment projects seeking government funding required to comply with the STAG process. The process is an objective led framework and not for appraising pre-determined solutions. It is based on transport problems, issues, opportunities constraints; consultation and evidence based objective setting.

The potential for re-establishing a railway station at Bonnybridge has been highlighted in Falkirk Council's Local Development Plan. A site has been safeguarded in the current Local Development Plan and carried forward to the updated Local Development Plan. This is currently under examination by the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division with adoption likely in summer 2020.

The Bonnybridge Station site is located in High Bonnybridge, adjacent to Broomhill Road and Reilly Road on the Glasgow Cumbernauld Edinburgh Line (GCEL). The most recent railway station in Bonnybridge on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway closed in 1967. The current nearest stations to Bonnybridge are Camelon (2.7 miles), Larbert (3.5 miles), Grahamston (4 miles) and Cumbernauld (6.8 miles).

The potential for a new railway station in Bonnybridge has been referenced in the Council's Local Development Plan and previous works carried out including a TEE Analysis and platform design. A robust appraisal of transport problems and opportunities has not been carried out for Bonnybridge and the surrounding area to provide an evidence-based case to support a new railway station.

In recognition of the above a fully multi-modal STAG Pre-appraisal has been carried out to identify and evidence problems and opportunities within the Bonnybridge area and the most appropriate opportunities presented in considering all sustainable transport modes.

PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Problems and opportunities for the study area have been identified through the following:

- Economic and Social Data Analysis – this considers population, labour market, economic activity, age profile demographics.
- Transport Trends Data Collection – existing sustainable transport network, travel to work data, current public transport provision and use and private car accessibility.
- Consultation – with current residents, local operators, community groups etc.

The analysis highlighted key strategic transport issues and constraints within the Bonnybridge area as well as current travel patterns, mode, destinations etc.

The main transport issues highlighted in the public consultation were:

- Roads Issues
- Poor Bus Services
- Poor access to railway stations
- Local railway station
- Cost of public transport

The main opportunities identified as part of the public consultation were:

- New railway stations
- Improved and expanded car parking at railway stations
- Better access to rail services
- Cheaper fares
- Improved bus services – routes frequency and destination choices

The main opportunities were assessed against 4 transport planning objectives (TPO):

TPO 1: To support growth in the local economy in a sustainable way

TPO 2: To contribute to community regeneration through promoting social inclusion

TPO 3: To protect the environment by minimising the impact that transport can have on it and to improve health by promoting more active travel

TPO 4: To improve integration between different forms of transport

The results highlighted 4 options which should be taken forward for further STAG Appraisal these being:

- New railway stations
- Improved and expanded car parking at railway stations
- Better access to bus and rail services
- Upgraded pedestrian and cycling facilities