

Report to Partnership Meeting 27 November 2015

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Orkney Outer Isles STAG Study

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the progress of the work to undertake a STAG Part 2 Appraisal of transport connectivity to the outlying islands of Orkney with the aim of developing a timed and costed network-wide strategy and implementation plan for future inter-island transport connections.

Background

In December 2014 OIC, HITRANS, Transport Scotland, SIC and ZetTrans agreed a Joint Statement establishing Partnership commitments to jointly addressing Ferry Replacement issues in Orkney and Shetland. This Agreement was itself linked into the Empowering Scotland's Islands Communities Prospectus which identified the benefits of close working to establish a fair and effective solution to service requirements for the future. It was recognised in these Statements that there was a need for evidence gathering to support future funding and investment decisions. It was further recognised that the evidence gathering should follow the established Transport Scotland Routes and Services Methodology and STAG Appraisal approaches to ensure consistency and legitimacy alongside other services in Scotland.

Orkney Islands Council and HITRANS jointly funded a Strategic Transport Appraisal Guidance Part 1 (STAG 1) to explore air or ferry service provision to the outlying islands and support the partners consideration of Orkney's future Internal Transportation Infrastructure requirements.

In addition HITRANS, OIC and Transport Scotland undertook further work to apply the Routes and Services Methodology (RSM) process to all of Orkney's islands to identify whether there is any under or over provision of internal ferry services.

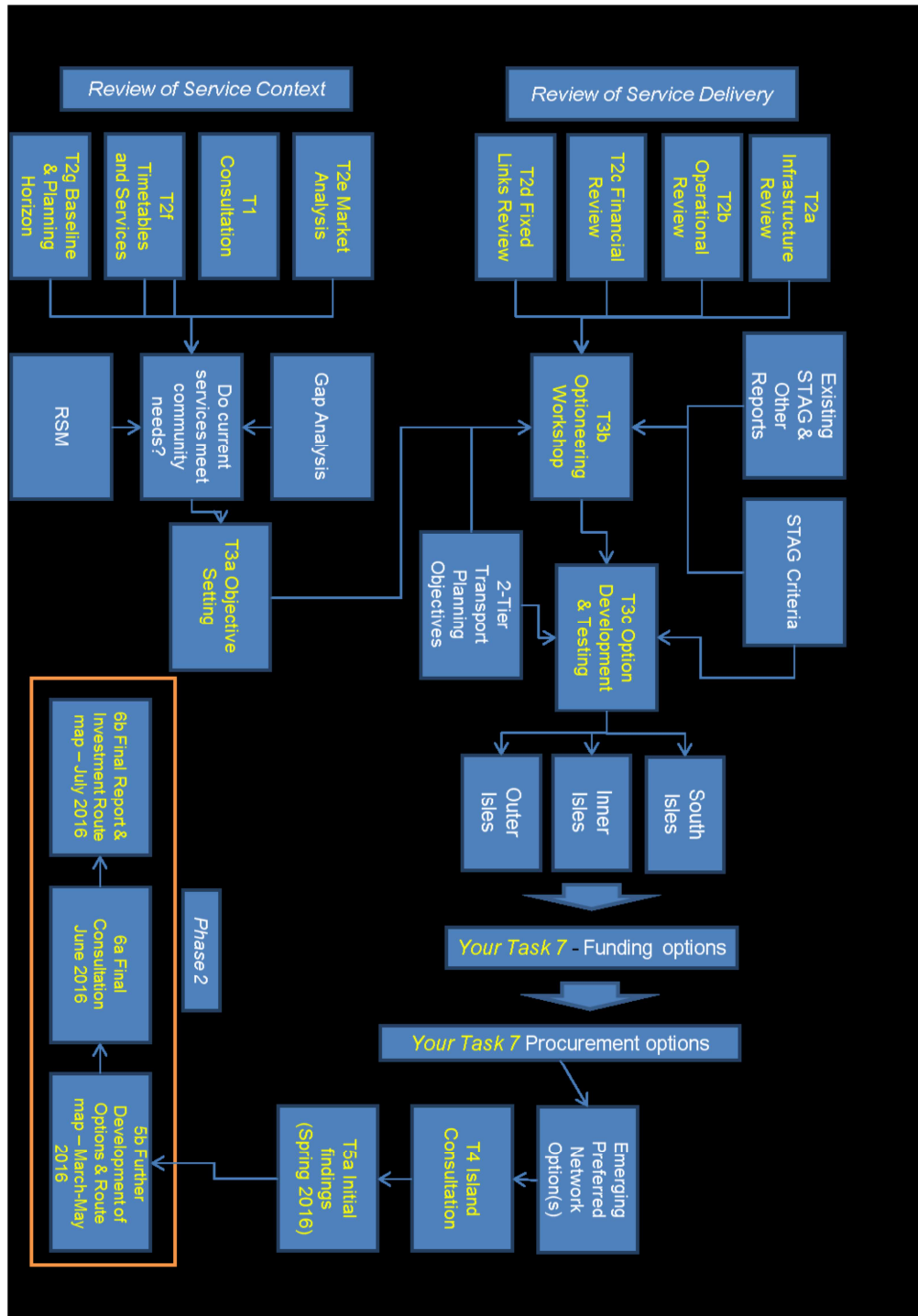
STAG Part 2 Appraisal

Whilst the STAG 1 process focussed on air and ferry services specifically to the Outer North Isles, the STAG 2 appraisal process will consider all internal transportation routes and services for the Inner, South and North Isles of Orkney, namely 13 islands including infrastructure that currently serves 19 piers/terminals and 6 isles airfields.

At the HITRANS Partnership meeting on 10th April 2015 members agreed to allocate £45,000 within the 2015/16 Business plan as a contribution towards this work. Following confirmation of match funding contributions from Orkney Islands Council, HIE and Transport Scotland an Invitation to Tender was issued by Orkney Islands Council.

Three compliant tenders were received and following an evaluation exercise the consultants Peter Brett Associates were selected to undertake the commission.

The Figure below summarises the proposed tasks to complete the STAG process outlined by PBA.



An inception meeting was held on 3rd November with representatives from HITRANS, OIC and HIE attending. PBA have also been appointed by Shetland Islands Council / ZetTrans to

undertake work of a similar scope for their outlying Islands and all partners attended an objective setting workshop in Edinburgh on 4th November.

It is hoped that the collaborative work being undertaken for the Orkney and Shetland Islands offers the opportunity for the consultants to consider where services may be more efficiently provided but also that both Local Authorities will have a robust and evidence-based case for investment in their lifeline transport services that can form the basis for discussing how these services can be procured and funded in the future.

An initial report on the emerging findings is anticipated by the end of March 2016.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note this report.

Risk	impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	This work supports RTS Strategic priority to enhance intra-regional connectivity between island and peripheral communities and regional centres and national gateways.
Policy	√	This work supports development of the Aviation and Ferry policies set out in the RTS
Financial	-	An allocation of funding for the development of STAG Part 2 Appraisal has been identified in the 2015/16 Business Plan.
Equality	-	

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