

Report to Partnership Meeting 17 September 2021

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Regional Transport Strategy Update

Purpose of Report

Following Partnership approval to update the Regional Transport Strategy earlier this year, officers have begun to consider the scope of the update and next steps.

Introduction

Guidance on the content and scope of Regional Transport Strategies was set out a 2006 document which followed the implementation of Transport (Scotland) Act 2005. The Act places a statutory duty on the regional transport partnerships to draw up regional transport strategies (RTS). The Act also sets out various specific requirements for regional transport strategies in terms of both their content and the procedures for their production, publication and implementation. These requirements form the basis of this guidance. The Act also places duties on local authorities and designated health boards to perform certain of their functions, so far as possible, consistently with the transport strategies.

Regional transport strategies

5 Formulation and content of regional transport strategies

- (1) It is the duty of each Transport Partnership to draw up a strategy for transport within its region (its “transport strategy”).
- (2) Its transport strategy shall include provision about each of the following matters—
 - (a) the respects in which transport in the region needs to be provided, developed or improved having regard to, among other things—
 - (i) future needs including those occasioned by demographic and land use changes; and
 - (ii) what can be done, taking account of cost, funding and practicability;
 - (b) meeting the needs of all inhabited places, in particular, those which the Partnership considers different from the remainder of the region by reason of their remoteness or the sparsity of their populations;
 - (c) meeting the need for efficient transport links between heavily populated places;
 - (d) how transport in the region will be provided, developed, improved and operated so as—
 - (i) to enhance social and economic well-being and public health;
 - (ii) to promote public safety, including road safety and the safety of users of public transport;
 - (iii) to be consistent with the principle of sustainable development and to conserve and enhance the environment;
 - (iv) to promote social inclusion;
 - (v) to encourage equal opportunities and, in particular, the observance of the equal opportunities requirements;
 - (vi) to facilitate access to hospitals, clinics, surgeries and other places where a health service is provided;
 - (vii) to integrate with transport elsewhere;
 - (e) the order of priority in which different elements of the provision, development and improvement of transport should be undertaken;
 - (f) how the Transport Partnership’s functions will be exercised so as to fulfil its transport strategy and, if the Partnership considers that the conferring of further functions is necessary for that purpose, what those functions are;
 - (g) how the Transport Partnership, so as to enable it to fulfil its transport strategy, will seek to influence its constituent councils or council in the performance of their functions relating to transport;
 - (h) the measuring and monitoring of the achievement of the strategy.

HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy 2021+ Early Planning

PHASE 1 – SCOPING: UPDATING POLICY AND STRATEGY ENVIRONMENT

The section below provides a summary of some of the key areas that the Partnership will need to consider in updating 2018 Regional Transport Strategy.

1. Policy Update

Programme for Government | Infrastructure Investment Plan | NTS2 | STPR2 | National Islands Plan (Scottish Ferries Plan) Islands Connectivity Plan | Aviation Plan | Economic Recovery Plans| Anti-Poverty Plans | Local Transport Strategies | Power sharing agreement | Place based | Neighbouring RTP Strategies

2. Context, Demographic, Economic etc. Update

Using available sources of data, refer to STPR2, Islands Plan etc. context and undertake deeper dive, describe implications for the region.

3. Transport Update

How transport provision and networks are changing – active travel bus services, aviation, ferries, local roads, trunk roads etc. How is demand changing, including shift as a result of Covid. What infrastructure and services are programmed or have been introduced since the last RTS.

4. Climate Change and Decarbonisation Update

Platform for decarbonisation roadmap. Future fuels strategy etc.

5. Funding for Transport and Governance Update

How is funding distributed; how will it be distributed post-Brexit. Roundup of key issues, challenges etc. Local Governance Review

Undertake initial work on the key issues, challenges and opportunities to help prepare a scoping paper but also undertake parallel exercise to update strategy objectives with Board and Advisor input.

6. Technology Update

Infrastructure, information etc., including progress made and opportunities on the horizon.

7. Impact Assessments

Undertake relevant assessments as appropriate including Equalities Impact Assessment, Island Communities Impact Assessment (remote rural mainland too), SEA.

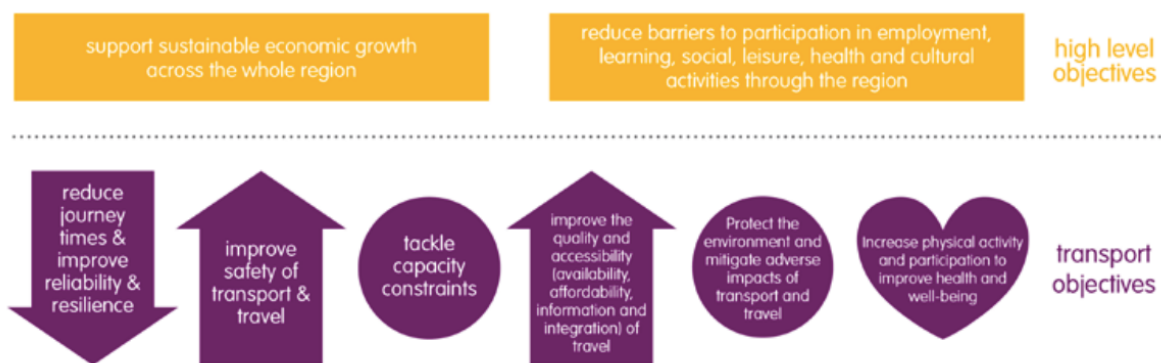
8. Updating transport Objectives

HITRANS RTS 2018 OBJECTIVES

HITRANS updated Regional Transport Strategy (2018), sets out a vision **to deliver connectivity across the region which enables sustainable economic growth and helps communities to actively participate in economic and social activities.**

The RTS objectives were also updated as set out below. They were underpinned by two high level objectives which were to;

- Support sustainable economic growth across the whole region
- Reduce barriers to participation in employment, learning, social, leisure, health and cultural activities throughout the region



PHASE 1 – BOARD MEMBER / ADVISOR INPUT TO SHAPE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

To help develop strategic objectives for the updated Regional Transport Strategy, HITRANS have invited each Board Member and advisor to answer three key questions that will help inform these objectives.

1. What are the three key issues facing your area / area of interest? Not specific to transport, but thinking about the population and the economy etc.
2. Give the three best examples of where transport / transport provision or transport projects are enabling progress towards these issues; what determinants are making these succeed?
3. Give the three strongest examples of where transport is a barrier in progressing towards these issues; be specific or as general as you feel necessary.

A summary of the responses will be presented and discussed at the Partnership meeting on 17th September.

Next Steps

Following input from Members at the Partnership meeting on 17th September, officers will then engage with Transport Scotland and each Local Authority partner to help finalise the scope of the RTS update. Where it is deemed necessary, Officers may engage some external support to help in the preparation of specific elements of the updated Strategy and Delivery Plan including the collation of baseline information, undertaking of Impact assessments and arranging of workshops. Officers are cognisant of the impact which the Strategic Transport Projects Review may have on the updated Regional Transport Strategy but regular reports will be provided throughout the process and where appropriate additional

meetings will be arranged to ensure the input of Members, advisors and other key stakeholder is captured at each stage of the update.

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment –The Delivery Plan will be updated as part of the overall RTS update. This will ensure that it reflects both current priorities and the objectives of the updated RTS.

Policy

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work will help refresh policies and objectives for HITRANS that are relevant to the framework within which the Partnership operates.

Financial

Impact – Positive

Budget line and value – As set out in the report, an initial allocation of £20,000 has been identified in the 21/22 Business Plan to support the Regional Transport Strategy Update.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment –

Recommendation

Members are invited to;

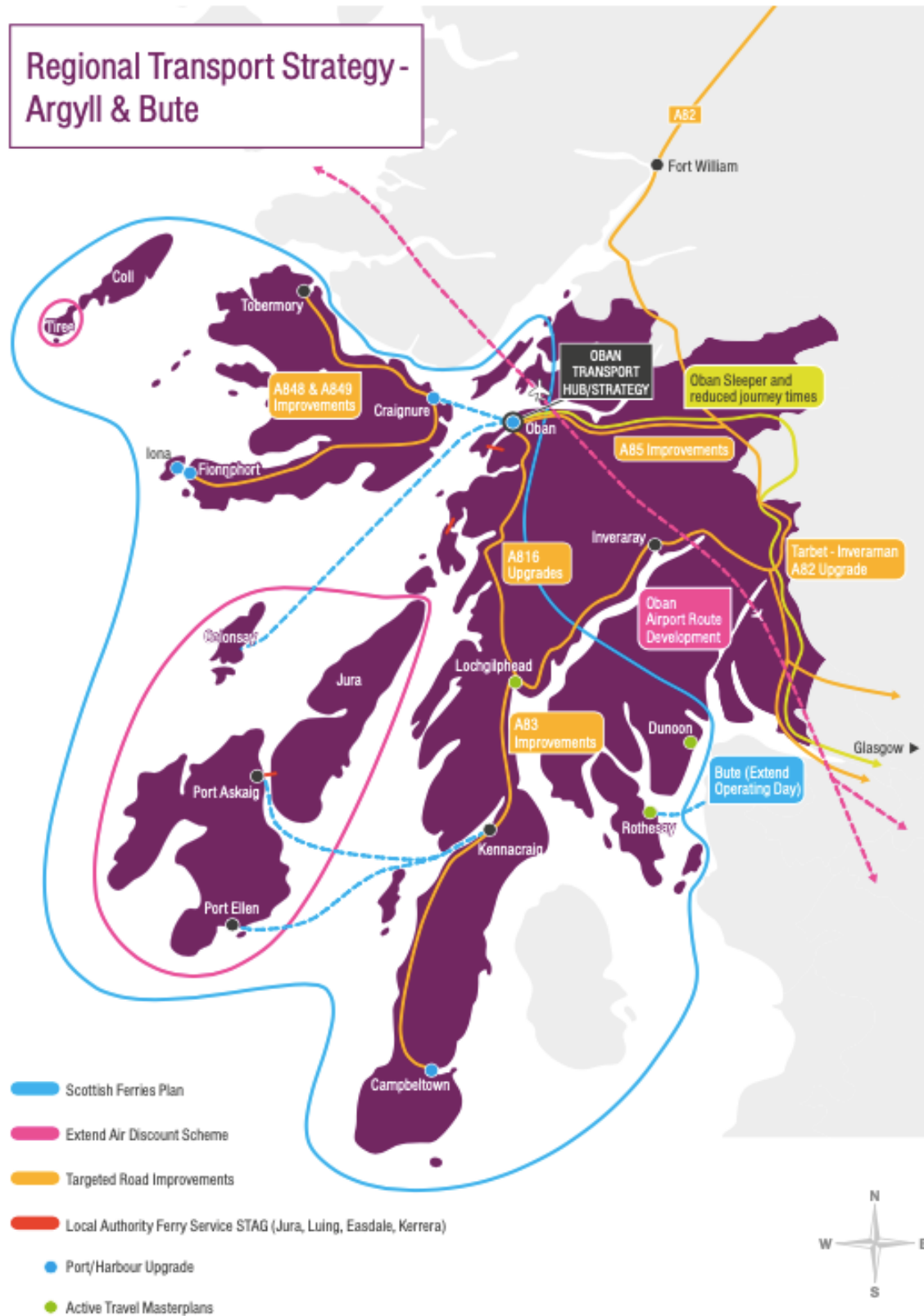
1. note the report
2. Members are invited to provide comment on the proposed scope of the Regional Transport Strategy and any parallel work at a local, regional, or national level that HITRANS should be cognisant of in preparing the RTS.
3. Approve the funding to support the development and preparation of the draft strategy

Report by: Neil MacRae

Designation: Partnership Manager

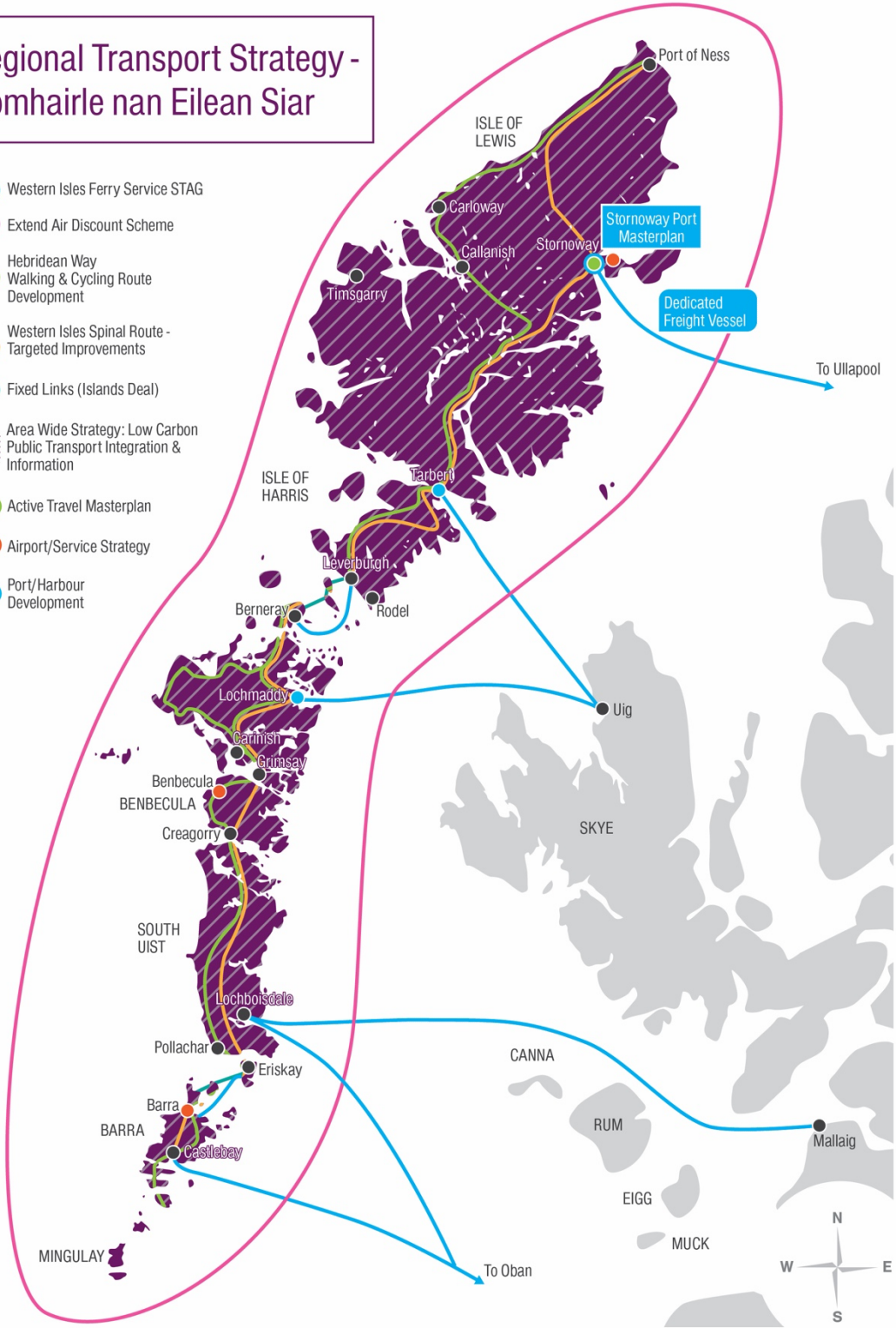
Date: 6th September 2021

Appendix 1: RTS 2018 Update - Delivery Plan Priorities by Local Authority Area

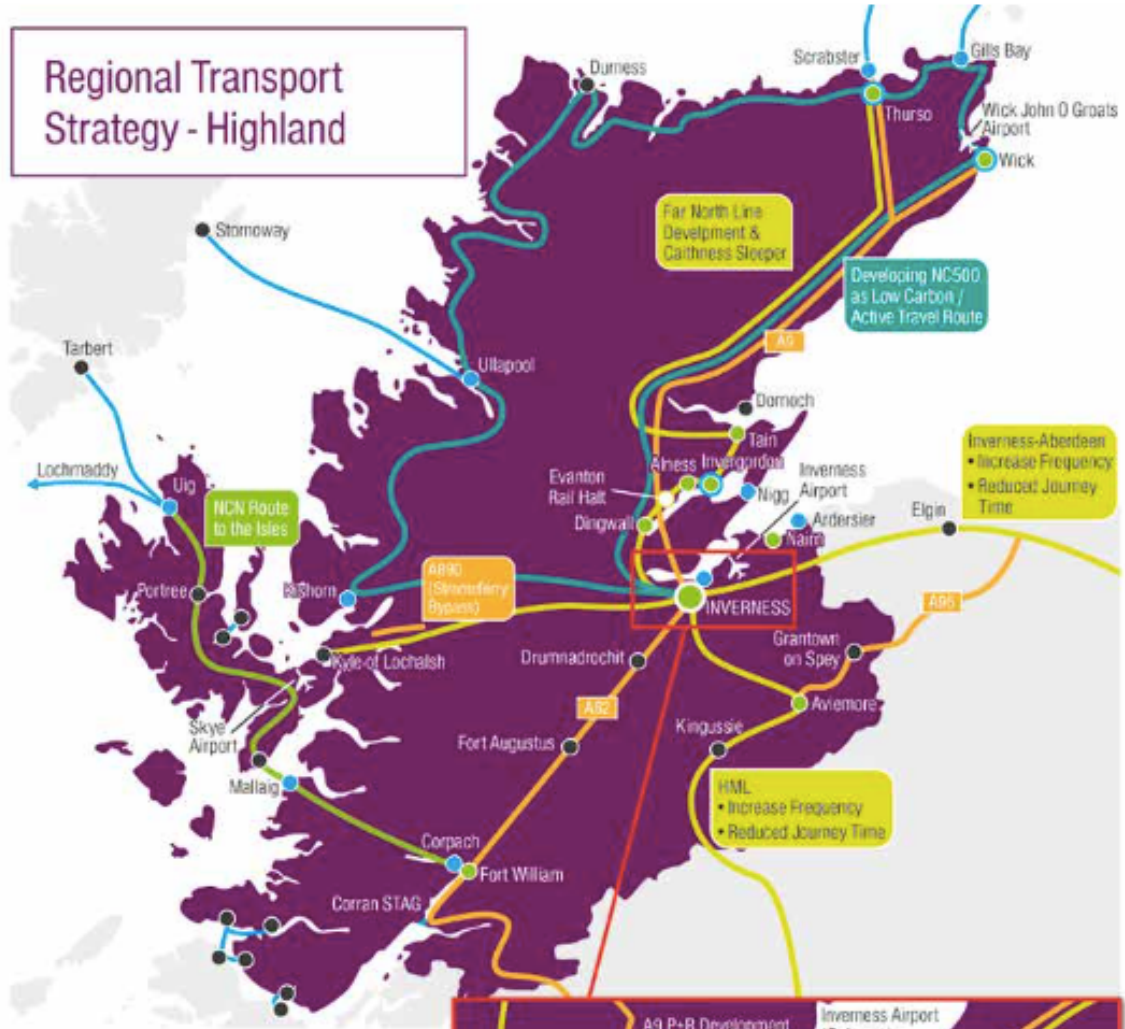


Regional Transport Strategy - Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

-  Western Isles Ferry Service STAG
-  Extend Air Discount Scheme
-  Hebridean Way Walking & Cycling Route Development
-  Western Isles Spinal Route - Targeted Improvements
-  Fixed Links (Islands Deal)
-  Area Wide Strategy: Low Carbon Public Transport Integration & Information
-  Active Travel Masterplan
-  Airport/Service Strategy
-  Port/Harbour Development



Regional Transport Strategy - Highland



- Active Travel Masterplan
- & ● Port/Harbour Development
- Targeted Road Improvements
- Inverness Active Travel Improvements & Bus Statutory Quality Partnership



Regional Transport Strategy – Moray

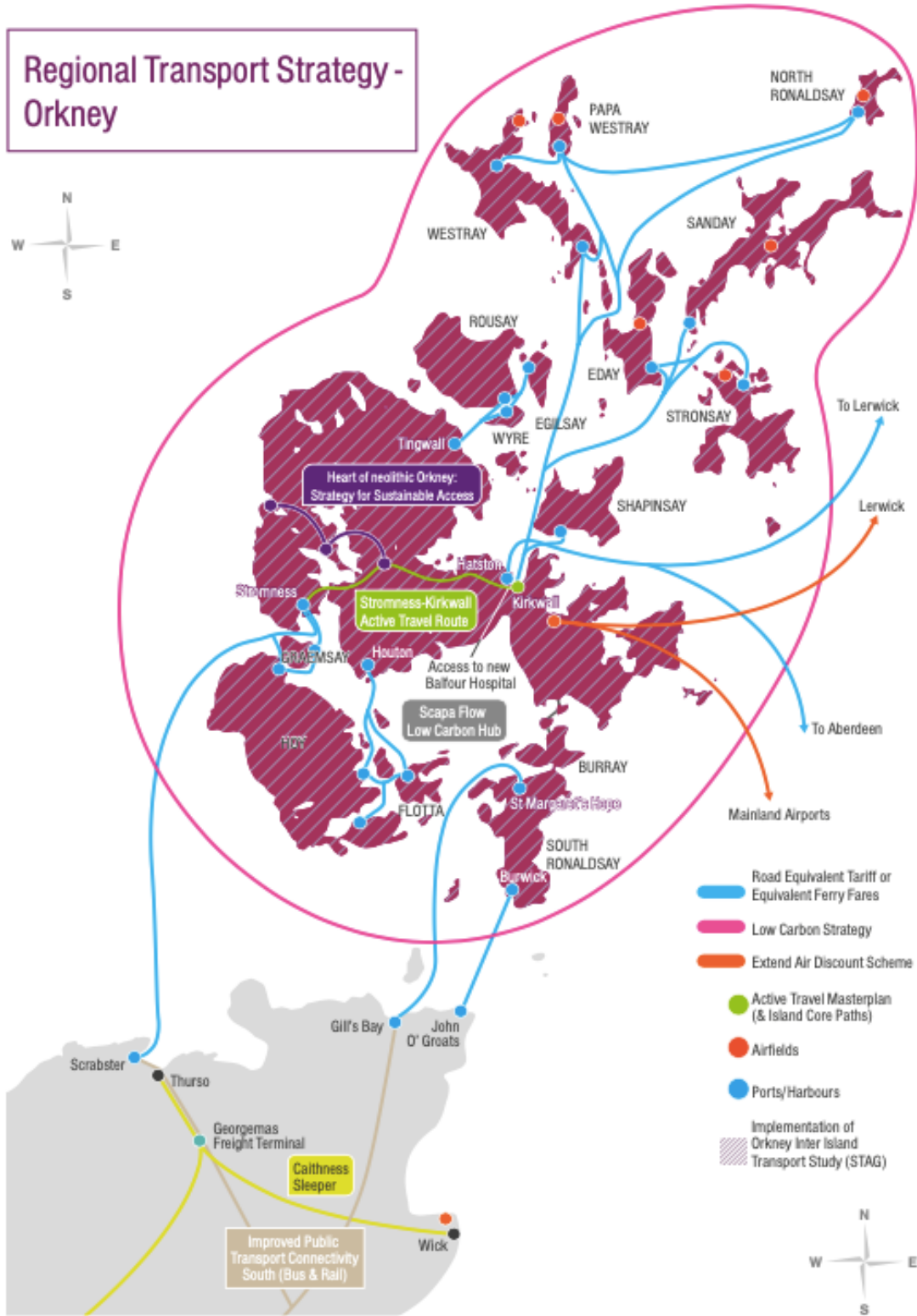


● Active Travel Masterplan

Public Transport Development & Integration
Moray Dial a ride



Regional Transport Strategy - Orkney



- Road Equivalent Tariff or Equivalent Ferry Fares
- Low Carbon Strategy
- Extend Air Discount Scheme
- Active Travel Masterplan (& Island Core Paths)
- Airfields
- Ports/Harbours
- Implementation of Orkney Inter Island Transport Study (STAG)