

## Corporate Scotland and Infrastructure Implementation Group

Monday 26 February 2007, Scottish Tourism Forum offices, Edinburgh

### *Present*

Alan Rankin, CE, Scottish Tourism Forum (Chair)  
Penny George, Scottish Executive (Secretariat)  
Andrew Macartney, Scottish Executive  
Janet Hood, BII  
Marjory Rodger, Confederation of Passenger Transport  
John Loudon, Lindsays  
Kirsten Foubister, Scottish Executive  
Julie Hepburn, Federation of Small Businesses  
Barry Laurie, McCabes  
Ian Kelly, Graham and Sibbald  
Riddell Graham, VisitScotland  
Steve Hunt, SNH  
David Smythe, Association of Scottish Self Caterers  
Jeanette Wilson, BHHPA

### *Key Points:*

- General agreement that there is a lot of duplication of effort between the various sub-sectors represented on the group, particularly in response to consultations. This group could therefore facilitate the co-ordination of consultation responses, as well as feeding issues generally to the Executive for discussion.
- In order to facilitate this, everyone present agreed that they were happy for their contact details to be shared around the group. Penny George to circulate these.
- Agreed that the subject area for this group could be further broken down into 4 sub-sections, and that one person would take responsibility for each of those four.
- These four sub-sections and their representatives will be:
  - Planning (Ian Kelly)
  - Regulation (Janet Hood)
  - Transport (Marjory Rodgers to contribute on road and rail aspects, but not an expert on air transport)
  - Business Development (John Loudon)
- The key issues that were referred to during the meeting under each category included:

#### **1. Transport**

- a. Infrastructure: Strategic Projects Review - ability to make a tourism input
- b. An effective integrated multimodal network is required to support growth with both the home and international markets. Without this tourism will suffocate in areas and starve in others
- c. Funding for an Access Development Fund to support a broader range of transport routes into Scotland by road, rail, ferry and air

- d. Better consultation with the tourism industry as to the priorities of major infrastructural projects.
- e. Higher weighting of tourism issues within the STAG\* process [\*Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance]
- f. Urgent review of road upgrade programmes, including such roads as dueling improvements to the A9 to international standards, improvements to the A86, A82 and M74 to Dumfries and Galloway.
- g. Priority given to a high speed rail link with key locations in England.
- h. The urgent approval from the provision of a second major Fife link road bridge crossing – or tunnel.
- i. Investment in train services and rolling stock, particularly on the Inverness route.
- j. Investment in more creative use of concessionary travel schemes to support sustainable tourism throughout the year and across Scotland.
- k. Invest in smart ticketing schemes along with integrated cross modal ticketing.
- l. Greater resource given to the promotion and linking of Traveline Scotland's website across public and private websites.
- m. Investment in the R and D to more environmentally friendly fuels.

## **2. Planning**

- a. The People not the System issue – lack of private sector experience in the system Speeding up
- b. Development Plans – presumption in favour
- c. Speeding up Development Control – too many in the system
- d. The consistency issue – across local authorities
- e. Effective integration of Planning and Economic Development – get on the same agenda
- f. Effective integration of Planning and Transportation – is transport spending supporting tourism growth?
- g. The joined up thinking issue – 'silos' e.g. wind farm impact on tourist
- h. Social Affordable Housing – system in a mess with lack of cross-sectoral needs

## **3. Legislation**

- a. Licensing
- b. Fire
- c. H&S
- d. Employment
- e. Food and hygiene
- f. General

## **4. Economic Development**

- a. Alignment of VS, SE and HIE
- b. Policy and direction of SE and HIE
- c. Business support mechanisms
- d. Skills and training
- e. Business start-up support

**Issues to be addressed by the group:**

1. Representation of group: SE, HIE, CoSLA, SLAED, SOLAR and private sector to be further explored
2. Statement of intent from new government
3. Communication channels between government and industry
4. Concerted joint voice from private sector
5. Shared briefings to private sector
6. Tracking of new legislation and where it impacts
7. Reporting from group to monitoring group: format and frequency
8. Linkage through ATPs
9. Forming of subgroups to drive forward each 'specialist' area