



Transport Scotland: Councilor Information Sheet

Who are we:

Transport Scotland is an Agency of the Scottish Government, directly accountable to Scottish Ministers. It oversees the Government's transport responsibilities which include the operation and improvement of the trunk road, ferry, inland waterway and railway networks; some air passenger facilities and routes; national concessionary travel schemes and the provision of travel information services. It also assists Ministers in prioritising future transport policy and investments and promoting sustainable transport and road safety.

Transport Scotland's role in the planning process is to engage with Planning Authorities to support sustainable placemaking and facilitate sustainable economic growth.

Development Planning

In a development planning context, Transport Scotland is primarily interested in the trunk road and rail network. Transport Scotland engages with Planning Authorities both to ensure development plans are fully co-ordinated with Scottish Government's transport strategies and infrastructure proposals, and, to provide expert advice on how to undertake proportionate transport appraisal of development plans.

Transport appraisal provides an understanding of the implications of land use changes for the transport network and identifies any transport infrastructure that may be needed to deliver development. Where changes to the strategic transport network are identified, Transport Scotland approval is needed for them to be included in plans. This should result in more certainty for developers and allow planning applications to be decided more efficiently. Transport Scotland also makes its land use and transport models and data available to Planning Authorities.

Development Management

For some developments, Transport Scotland, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, is a statutory consultee and must be consulted before granting planning permission. These are for developments either near to a trunk road, or where they are likely to result in an increase the volume of traffic or type of traffic entering or leaving a trunk road that require changes to the layout of or altering access to trunk roads.

Transport Scotland offers pre-application advice on whether any development specific assessment of the trunk road network needs to be undertaken by the developer. Such assessment provides a detailed understanding of the transport issues associated with the development and will be audited by Transport Scotland. If any changes to the trunk road are required as a result of development these need to be approved by Transport Scotland. It is often recommended that consents are granted with conditions relating to the agreed trunk road changes to ensure they are delivered at the right time.

Links to website and web based guidance:

Further guidance in relation to: Transport Scotland's roles and responsibilities, development near trunk roads, and transport appraisal guidance, can be found on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/>