

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of meeting

15 December 2023

held at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow and via Video Conference

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow and via Video Conference* at 10am on 15 December 2023

- Present** Councillors Stephen Dornan (Chair), Alex Allison, Ken Andrew, *Maureen Devlin, Michael McPake, *Malcolm Mitchell, Alan Moir, Owen O'Donnell, *Jim Paterson, Donald Reid, Roza Salih, *William Sinclair, *Adam Smith, David Wilson and appointed members Greg Beecroft, Anne Follin, George Hazel, Ed McGrachan and *Andrew Walters
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director; Lesley Aird, Director of Finance & Corporate Support; Richard Robinson, Director of Transport Operations; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery; Dave Fielder, Head of Subway Projects; Andrea Thompson, Head of Corporate Communications; Jim Griffin, Senior Solicitor and Amy Sullivan, Solicitor

Chair's Remarks

Partnership Standing Order No 14 requires the agreement of the Partnership to record meetings. The Chair re-iterated to the Partnership that the meeting would be recorded and potentially viewed multiple times. The Partnership members noted this.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Christy Mearns, Holly Bruce (Substitute) and appointed member Kirsty Orr.

2. Declaration of interest in terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000

Cllr Moir declared an interest citing his employment with Scotrail and as a member of ASLEF, the trade union.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 29 September 2023 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. Committee Minutes

The minutes (issued) of the undernoted committees were noted and approved as an accurate record:

- (a) Operations Committee of 3 November 2023;
- (b) Personnel Committee of 3 November 2023;
- (c) Strategy & Programmes Committee of 24 November 2023; with specific reference to:

Item 5: the Partnership approved the increased grant funding to projects previously considered and recommended at the meeting, but which exceeded the authority of the Committee;

Item 3: members sought and received further clarification relating to the recent Scotzeb funding application decision, noting that further consideration was being given to how best plan and fund the next stage of the decarbonisation of the SPT fleet and that SPT had sought further details on the decision not to fund the SPT bid;

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Item 8(v) relating to the Bus Task Force: members were advised it was understood that this group would not continue, and that Mr Kiloh had written to Transport Scotland for an update on the Bus Task Force Report;

(d) Audit & Standards Committee of 24 November 2023.

5. Progress on Corporate Plan Delivery

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 November 2023 by the Chief Executive providing the Partnership with an update on delivery of the Corporate Plan.

After hearing Mrs Davidson confirm to the members that a further report will be presented to the Partnership at its meeting on 15 March 2024 as part of the budget process aligning future years budgets with corporate plan delivery aspirations, and hearing from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions on the Smart ZoneCard project confirming that decisions on the project and ZoneCard ticket pricing were matters for the ZoneCard Forum to determine, the Partnership noted the contents of the Report.

6. Subway Modernisation – Progress Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report and approved (issued) of 5 December 2023 by the Director of Transport Operations updating the Partnership on the progress to date on the Subway Modernisation programme, and seeking agreement to note:

- (i) the continued progress made on all Subway Modernisation and improvement works since the last update in June 2023;
- (ii) ongoing progress on the MSA contract including the completion of in-tunnel signalling testing, and also ongoing progress on fault free running of trains, all driving towards new fleet introduction to passenger service (CPX) in December 2023;
- (iii) continued challenges towards performance improvement on the TSSSA contract;
- (iv) progress made on operational readiness and delay mitigation actions including exiting infrastructure and fleet maintenance improvements;
- (v) that the modernisation programme remains within the overall budget and available funding; and
- (vi) that a further report on progress will be presented the Partnership in June 2024.

In support of the report, Mr Robinson gave a presentation highlighting that two of the new trains had commenced passenger service since the report had been submitted, together with further details relating to ongoing testing, and continuing workstreams including tunnel lining, installation of new cabling, platform and depot works and progress regarding Organisational Change and Employee Relations.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mrs Davidson, Mr Robinson and Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, specifically relating to:

- (i) the aspirations of longer operational hours and the difficulty of achieving this prior to completion of physical works;

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- (ii) confirmation that such aspirations were being built into the assumed operational model; and
- (iii) the spend profile to date and that remaining for the remainder of the programme,

the Partnership congratulated all members of the team for the successful introduction of the trains into passenger service and noted the details of the report and supporting presentation.

7. Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy & Delivery Plan

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 December 2023 by the Chief Executive updating the Partnership on the progress of current stages of the development of the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy & Delivery Plan (SRBS) and preparations for the recommended option(s) to be taken forward together with an update on activities to enhance improvements in bus services across the region.

After considerable discussion and hearing from Mrs Davidson, Mr Kiloh and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions highlighting:

- (i) the proposed consultation process together with the plans for engagement with MSPs/MPs to ensure all parties were fully appraised on the process, risks, costs and challenges;
- (ii) how SPT was proposing to address rural transport needs in the recommendations; and
- (iii) raising concerns that some of the information circulating as a solution(s) was not supported by a business case, and SPT will continue to build its recommendations on evidence and data,

thereafter the Partnership noted the contents of the report and that a further report would be considered in the Spring of 2024.

8. Regional Transport Strategy – Transport Governance Workstream

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 December 2023 by the Chief Executive recommending the Partnership's approval of the proposed process and timeline for undertaking the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) Transport Governance workstream.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mrs Davidson and Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, specifically highlighting:

- (i) the complexity of current transport governance arrangements; and
- (ii) noting SPT's desire to work in partnership with the other bodies involved,

the Partnership welcomed the report, the initiative to commence a review and approved the process and timeline as detailed in the report.

9. Gritting and Snow Clearing Services – award of contract

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 29 November 2023 by the Director of Transport Operations recommending the Partnership approve the award of a contract for Gritting and Snow Clearing Services at bus stations and interchanges and Subway stations.

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After hearing from Mr Robinson, the Partnership agreed to award a contract to Cardwell Nurseries for a period of 5 years with a forecast value of £1,104,619.

Chair's Closing Remarks

It being Councillor McPake's last meeting, the Chair thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Partnership.