

Minute of Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee

13 February 2015

held in Consort House, Glasgow

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Minute of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow on 13 February 2015

Present Councillors Kaye Harmon (Chair), John Bruce, Jim Coleman, Eileen Logan, Robert MacIntyre and Alan Moir.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Treasurer/Secretary; Kirsten Clubb, Committee Support Officer; and Martin Breen, Planning and Projects Officer.

Also Attending: Councillor Charlie Gilbert.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Hazel Sorrell, Bobby McDill, Nan McFarlane and David Wilson.

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

The Joint Committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

3. Minute of previous meeting

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The minute of the meeting of 7 November 2014 was submitted and approved as a correct record

Arising from the minute, with regard to page 2, paragraph 9,

- (1) Mrs Davidson advised that although she had received no formal response from Transport Scotland regarding the issues previously raised in relation to the National Bus Scheme, there had since been the announcement of confirmation of a funding agreement with the bus operators that covered the next two financial years. In addition, she explained that a briefing note had been prepared which had been tabled at the meeting today provided a summary of all concessionary travel schemes and discounted travel benefits which existed throughout Scotland; and
- (2) Councillor Bruce thanked Mrs Davidson for the briefing note outlining the fare concession and re-imburement specifically relating to the Arran ferry.

4. Membership update

Mrs Davidson informed the Joint Committee that Argyll and Bute Council had intimated a change to its representation. She explained that Councillor Robert MacIntyre had been appointed to replace Councillor John Semple with Councillor Richard Trail continuing to remain as his substitute. The Joint Committee noted the position.

5. Proposed revenue budget for financial year 2015/2016 and update on 2014/2015 scheme costs

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 28 January 2015 by the Treasurer

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- (1) reminding members
 - (a) of the various changes which had been made to the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the Scheme, and
 - (b) that the Joint Committee had approved a revenue budget for 2014/2015 of £4.328m, funded by £4.258m requisition and a £0.07 draw on reserves;
- (2) explaining
 - (a) that although it had been anticipated that an increase in Local Authority requisitions would be required in 2014/2015, the successful implementation of the various prior year measures had ensured that no increases from funding authorities were required; and
 - (b) that this approach, which had been agreed by all funding parties ensured that the programme of reserves reduction, whilst increasing Local Authority contributions to a level in line with scheme costs, could be phased over a longer period than the originally anticipated three year programme;
- (3) advising members that as at 31 March 2014, the residual local scheme held reserves of £1.620m;
- (4) enclosing as an appendix to the report, a proposed revenue budget for 2015/2016 of £4.482m which reflected:-
 - forecast patronage in line with scheme trends; and
 - revised operator reimbursement levels, net of forecast fares increases based on 2014/2015 actuals;
- (5) informing members
 - (a) that the proposals were designed to maintain the overall scheme within levels affordable to local authorities and to continue to utilise reserves prudently in support of the scheme; and
 - (b) that the budget was in line with the tiered approach endorsed in 2011/2012 for the immediate 3 year period following, and updated in subsequent years to take account of the funding capacity of the 12 member authorities; and
- (6) recommending that the Joint Committee approve
 - (a) a proposed budget of £4.482m for the financial year 2015/2016; and
 - (b) the utilisation of £0.224 m of reserves in line with the proposed requisition from the 12 member authorities.

After discussion, the Joint Committee approved the recommendations at (6) above.

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6. Status report on performance of Travel Card Unit

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 26 January 2015 by the Treasurer/Secretary,

- (1) informing members of the performance of SPT's Travel Card Unit;
- (2) appending a table detailing National Entitlement Card cardholder volumes for the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme (SCTS) area as at 22 February 2015; and
- (3) providing details of the number of applications, incoming calls and calls answered by the Unit for 2014/2015, including comparison figures for previous years.