

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee

18 February 2022

held on a hybrid basis by Video Conference and at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow

Contact:

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Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held on a hybrid basis by Video Conference and at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow on 18 February 2022

- Present** Councillors Alan Moir (Chair), Martin Bartos, Maureen Devlin (until Agenda Item 13), Jim Fletcher, Cathy Johnston (Substitute), Anna Richardson, David Shearer (until Agenda Item 13), David Wilson and appointed members Anne Follin, George Hazel, Ed McGrachan (until Agenda Item 13) and Andrew Walters.
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance & Corporate Support (until Agenda Item 12); Antony Smith, Director of Subway; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery; Michael Nimmo, Ticketing Commercial Team Leader, Andrea Thompson, Media & Public Affairs Manager and Tom Flanagan, Strategic Advisor, Projects.

The Partnership agreed at its meeting of 12 March 2021, following consideration of Standing Order No 14, for the recording of Committee and Partnership meetings, and that such recordings would be made available together with the minute of meetings.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Cochrane, Goldie and Roberts.

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

Cllr Moir declared an interest in Agenda Item 8, advising of his employment with Scotrail and as a member of ASLEF, the trade union. Appointed member George Hazel advised that he was currently engaged in a piece of transport related consultancy work with North Ayrshire Council.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 26 November 2021, having been considered at the Partnership meeting of 17 December 2021, was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. Revenue Monitoring Report as at Period 10, ending 1 January 2022 and updated Financial Forecast for Financial Year 2021/22

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2022 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support advising members of the net revenue position as at the end of period 10, 1 January 2022 and providing an updated financial forecast for the current financial year, stating the assumptions made regarding income and expenditure levels.

After having heard from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, specifically relating to the underlying reasons contributing to the positive variance, the Committee considered the report and:

- (i) noted the forecast outturn at this stage;
 - (ii) noted that significant uncertainties remain in relation to the recovery of public transport; and
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- (iii) approved the transfer of the final year end underspend to the Strategic Bus Fund and the General Fund to provide financial resilience to SPT for future financial years.

5. Revenue Budget for 2022/23 – Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2022 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support providing members with an update on preparations to present a balanced revenue budget for 2022/23 to the 18 March 2022 Partnership, and asking the members to consider the risks and challenges being faced at this stage.

After having heard from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, particularly related to the level of reserves and the need to reassess the adequacy of these; the priorities of continuing support and investment in public transport including supported bus services; ticketing technologies for the future; and notwithstanding that the final Local Government Settlement remains outstanding, the Committee considered the report and recommended the Partnership approve:

- (i) the draft revenue budget for 2022/23 of £36.281m, subject to refinements as discussed;
- (ii) requisitions totalling £35.632m, a 0.42% reduction compared to 2021/22, noting that this may be amended to reflect any change in the local government settlement formula;
- (iii) an increase to Subway fares effective from January 2023 as outlined in section 4 of the report;
- (iv) the update to the Reserves Policy in Appendix 3a of the report; and
- (v) noted the current and projected reserve balances as detailed in Appendix 3b of the report.

P 6. Capital Programme Monitoring and Proposed Amendments Report as at 1 January 2022, Period 1

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support:

- (i) providing a progress update on the 2021/22 capital programme;
- (ii) seeking approval for proposed amendments to the 2021/22 capital programme; and
- (iii) seeking approval to Grant Fund as detailed in section 6(b) and 6(c) of the report.

After having heard from Mr Wylie, specifically highlighting that the Partnership will shortly receive a more detailed report on SPT's contribution to the Motherwell Station Upgrade Project, the Committee considered the report and:

- (i) approved the proposed amendments to the 2021/22 capital programme as per Appendix 2 of the report;
 - (i) agreed to Grant Fund or to vary existing Grant Fund letters to the Local Authorities or other bodies for those awards up to the value of £200,000 and authorise that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements;
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- (ii) agreed to recommend to the Partnership meeting of 18 March 2022 approval to Grant Fund or to vary existing Grant Fund letters to the Local Authorities or other bodies for those awards over a cumulative value of £200,000;
- (iii) noted the financial performance of the 2021/22 capital programme as at Period 10; and
- (iv) noted that further work to quantify and manage risk, advance savings and re-phase existing projects is being undertaken to balance spend against budget.

7. Proposed Capital Plan 2022/23 to 2024/25 including the Capital Budget 2022/23

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 February 2022 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support asking the Committee to consider and if appropriate agree to recommend to the Partnership meeting of 18 March 2022 that the Partnership approve:

- (i) the proposed Capital Plan for financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25;
- (ii) the Capital Budget for financial year 2022/23; and
- (iii) to Grant Fund to the Local Authorities or other bodies as per Appendix 4 and authorise that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements.

After having heard from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Partnership meeting of 18 March 2022 approval of:

- (i) the proposed Capital Plan for financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25;
- (ii) the Capital Budget for financial year 2022/23; and
- (iii) to Grant Fund to the Local Authorities or other bodies as per Appendix 4 and authorise that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements.

8. Transport Scotland - Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 - Consultation

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2022 by the Chief Executive informing the Committee of a consultation by Transport Scotland on the draft recommendations of the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2).

After having heard from Mrs Davidson and Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

9. Strategic Transport Projects Review – Draft Recommendation – Clyde Metro

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2022 by the Chief Executive providing an update on the proposed Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) draft recommendation, Clyde Metro.

After extensive discussion, particularly related to the scale of the ambition; the length of time that has been suggested for delivering the overall project; reinforcing the need for robust governance, assessment processes and transport expertise at all stages; and having heard from Mrs Davidson, Mr Wylie and Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

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10. SPT Ticketing Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2022 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support providing members with an update about SPT's recent activities in relation to public transport ticketing and highlighting options being considered for under 22 travel on Subway in the context of the national Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme.

After having heard from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of the report and the proposal to carry out further more detailed analysis of options for under 22 Subway travel, to continue engagement with Transport Scotland on the inclusion of Subway in the Free Travel Scheme and to report to a future committee in 2022/2023.

11. Regional Transport Strategy development – progress update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2022 by the Chief Executive providing members with an update on progress on the development of the new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), with a focus on four key studies being carried out to support that process.

After noting the good progress made on the RTS and having heard from Mr Kiloh and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, specifically related to the options identified from the Transport Act report and the need for robust network data to allow decisions to be taken in meaningful way, the Committee noted:

- (i) the report and summary reports and the intention to hold a member workshop session on the options at a future date;
- (ii) that the full report relating to the Transport Act options would be made available on the SPT website; and
- (iii) that progress on the Road Transport Carbonisation study and the Affordability of Public Transport Fares would be included as part of the RTS update to the 18 March 2022 Partnership meeting.

12. Strategic Issues Update for the SPT area

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2022 by the Chief Executive:

- (i) providing an update on strategic-level issues affecting transport in the west of Scotland;
- (ii) highlighting recent key consultations SPT has responded to; and
- (iii) recommending approval of the draft response to ScotRail's consultation on changes to rail station ticket office opening times.

After having heard from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, particularly relating to whether SPT has been involved to date supporting Glasgow City Council's free transport pilot, the Committee noted the report and approved the response to the ScotRail consultation on ticket office opening hours attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

13. Approval of Framework for Rail Pad Supply

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2022 by the Director of Subway recommending the Committee approve the award of a framework for supply of rail pads to Tiflex Limited.

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After having heard from Mr Smith, the Committee approved the award of a framework to Tiflex Limited for provision of rail pads for a period up to eight years with estimated maximum spend of £600,000 (excl. VAT).

14. Ramp Retaining Wall Improvement Works – award of contract

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2022 by the Director of Subway recommending the Committee approve the award of a contract for ramp retaining wall improvement works to Mackenzie Construction Limited.

After having heard from Mr Smith, the Committee approved the award of a contract to MacKenzie Construction Limited for improvement works to the ramp retaining walls with a contract award of up to £473,386 (excl. VAT) plus a budget allowance for risk and contingency for the scope of works tendered.

Closing Remarks

Cllr Moir, Chair of the Strategy & Programmes Committee, expressed his appreciation to elected members and appointed members past and present for their contributions over the period of office, to SPT staff for their excellent work and robust responses on behalf of the travelling public in the West of Scotland, and also to SPT frontline staff for their continued efforts in delivering services to those who need them.
