

*joining up
journeys*

SPT

partnership minute

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of meeting

18 April 2008

held in Consort House, Glasgow

contact officers:

Valerie A Bowen phone: 0141 333 3130

Kirsten Clubb phone: 0141 333 3576

Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held in Consort House, Glasgow, on 18 April 2008.

Present:	Argyll and Bute	Duncan MacIntyre
	East Ayrshire	Bobby McDill
	East Renfrewshire	Eddie Phillips
	Glasgow	Douglas Hay
	Glasgow	Willie O'Rourke (Deputy)
	Glasgow	George Roberts
	Glasgow	Alistair Watson (Chair)
	Inverclyde	David Wilson
	North Lanarkshire	David Fagan
	North Lanarkshire	Robert Burrows
	North Lanarkshire	Kaye Harmon
	South Ayrshire	Bill McIntosh
	South Lanarkshire	Eileen Logan
	West Dunbartonshire	William Hendrie
	Appointed member	Tom Hart
	Appointed member	Alan Malcolm
	Appointed member	Niall McGrogan
	Appointed member	Gavin Scott

Apologies:	Glasgow	Tommy Morrison
	Glasgow	Ruth Simpson
	North Ayrshire	John Reid
	Renfrewshire	Marie McGurk
	Renfrewshire	Ian Nicolson (Deputy)
	South Lanarkshire	David McLachlan
	South Lanarkshire	Chris Thompson
	Appointed member	Liz Connolly
	Appointed member	Bill Ure

Attending: Valerie Davidson, Secretary; Ron Culley, Chief Executive; Gordon MacLennan, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations); Rodney Mortimer, Director of Policy & Strategy, Eric Stewart, Director of Bus Operations and Bob Wylie, Director of Communications.

1. Death of Gwyneth Dunwoody

The Chair referred with sadness to the death of Ms Gwyneth Dunwoody, MP for Crew and Nantwich and Chair of the House of Common's Transport Committee. He informed

18 April 2008

members that Ms Dunwoody was a champion of transport and an immense supporter of the Partnership's predecessor Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority and would be greatly missed. He advised that on behalf of the Partnership he would send a note of condolences to her constituents.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 15 February and special meeting of 28 March 2008 (issued) were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. Committee minutes

The minutes (issued) of the undernoted committees were noted, subject to "P" paragraphs contained therein which were approved:-

- (a) Chair's Committees of 29 February and 7 April 2008;
- (b) Operations Committee of 14 March 2008;
- (c) Strategy and Programmes Committee of 28 March 2008, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Roberts in the list of those attending; and
- (d) Audit and Standards Committee of 28 March 2008.

Arising from the Chair's minute of 7 April 2008 (page 1 paragraph 4) Councillor Fagan informed members that North Lanarkshire Council would be writing to the National Planning Directorate requesting that the Ravenscraig Metropolitan Development be included as a national priority in the National Planning Framework 2. He advised that the council would welcome SPT's support on the matter. The Partnership noted the position and agreed that a further response from SPT would be submitted to the National Planning Framework Directorate highlighting the omission of Ravenscraig from the list of key regeneration areas mentioned in the National Planning Framework.

4. Membership update

Mrs Davidson informed the Partnership that she had been advised by Glasgow City Council of a change to their substitute representation on the Partnership. She explained that Councillor Alex Glass had been appointed to replace Councillor George Ryan. The Partnership noted the position.

5. Proposed final Capital Budget 2008/09 to 2010/11

[Click here to view report](#)

With reference to the minute of 15 February 2008 (page 7, paragraph 13) when the Partnership had

18 April 2008

- (1) approved a provisional capital plan and budget for the three year period commencing 1 April 2008;
- (2) noted
 - (a) that general capital funding of £25m had been confirmed by the Scottish Government for each of the financial years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11,
 - (b) that whilst this level of funding was welcomed, it was not sufficient to meet the aspirations of SPT and its constituent partner councils; and
 - (c) that, as a result, it was essential in the assessment of projects that consideration was given to the strategic fit with SPT's objectives as detailed in the approved RTS as well as the readiness for delivery; and
- (3) agreed that a final budget be presented to a future meeting of the Partnership to take account of the available funding and any movements between the current year and 2008/2009,

there was submitted a report (issued) of 2 April 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support),

- (i) informing members
 - (A) that the development of the capital plan and budget required to take account of the reality of the available funding including the implications of large scale projects spanning more than one financial year which could impact on the planning of other projects; and
 - (B) that, as a result, it was SPT's intention to promote actively projects totalling marginally more than the available funding in any one year, thus ensuring that all available grant was maximised and not at risk by slippage occurring in projects;
- (ii) reminding members that three levels of categorisation had been identified:-

category 1	those projects for which approval was being sought to incur expenditure in year one of the three year plan and were ready for delivery and other ongoing projects which had been committed in previous years
category 2	those projects which required further development work to ensure smooth delivery and which had been prioritised to do so, and
category 3	those projects which required further development or were planned to be delivered in future years.
- (iii) appending
 - (A) a detailed list of all projects contained in the draft programme;

18 April 2008

- (B) a detailed list of various amendments to the programme totalling £20.127m, including movement of GARL to category 2, year end movements, revised budget submissions arising from the refinement of information available on a new project; and
 - (C) a summary of the draft programme along with known and anticipated funding for 2008/09;
- (iv) explaining
- (A) that SPT was planning on a funding level of general capital of £21.311, following the return of capital grants of £3.689 from 2007/08 to the other RTPs;
 - (B) that approval was also being sought at this stage for category 2 and category 3 projects, subject to further funding becoming available and the projects commencing to delivery stage;
 - (C) that the bus action plan in category 2 would be moved into category 1 once the information on strategic fit and delivery became available; and
 - (D) that the full impact of the recent decision regarding GARL delivery was being assessed which might result in adjustments to the total plan;
- (v) highlighting that the overall impact of these changes had shown a proposed capital budget for 2008/09 of £22.547m, against net funding of £21.311m (following capital swaps); and
- (vi) recommending that the Partnership
- (I) endorse the final capital investment plan for 2008/09 of £22.547m (category 1);
 - (II) agree that movements between the categories could occur subject to funding becoming available and the projects progressing to deliverable status;
 - (III) approve in principle the capital budget for 2009/10 and 2010/2011, noting that final annual budgets for these years would be submitted at relevant stages; and
 - (IV) authorised the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) to sign the necessary grant award letters in support of local authority delivered projects.

After considerable discussion and having heard Mrs Davidson and Mr Culley in further explanation and Mr Mortimer in answer to members' questions, the committee

- (AA) approved the recommendations at (vi) above; and
- (BB) noted a request from Councillor McDill that South Lanarkshire Council should include improvements to the A71 within their Route Action Plans.

18 April 2008

6. Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2008/09

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 31 March 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support),

- (1) reminding members
 - (a) that on 1 April 2006, SPT took control of the management of its cash balances whilst Glasgow City Council remained responsible for managing SPT's historic debt; and
 - (b) that, in compliance with the prudential code, SPT had adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Treasury Management in Public Services Code which required the submission of an annual Treasury Management Strategy for approval;
- (2) appending
 - (a) a list of treasury management practices adopted by SPT (appendix 1)
 - (b) SPT's revised Treasury Management Agreement with Glasgow City Council (appendix 2);
 - (c) SPT's current counterparty list; (appendix 3);
 - (d) SPT's prudential indicators which were relevant for the purposes of setting an integrated treasury management strategy (appendix 4); and
 - (e) SPT's current treasury management policy statement which was still relevant today even though 5 years had passed since its initial approval (appendix 5);
- (3) detailing the proposed treasury management strategy for SPT for the financial year 2008/09 under the following headings:-
 - Treasury limits in force which would limit the treasury risk and activities of the Partnership;
 - Prudential indicators;
 - The current treasury position;
 - The borrowing requirement;
 - Prospects for interest rates;
 - Major economic factors;
 - Borrowing strategy
 - Investment strategy; and
 - Loan debt re-scheduling; and
- (4) requesting that the Partnership approve
 - (a) the Treasury Management Strategy for 2008/09; and

18 April 2008

- (b) the counterparty list as detailed in appendix 3 of the report.

After consideration, the Partnership approved the requests at (4) above and otherwise noted the terms of the report.

7. 'A Catalyst for Change' the Regional Transport Strategy for the west of Scotland 2008 - 2021

[Click here to view report](#)

With reference to the minute of the Partnership of 15 February 2008 (page 12, paragraph 18) when the Partnership, had

- (1) noted a response from the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Growth John Swinney, MSP which outlined further requirements by the Scottish Government, in order that the RTS could be approved by Scottish Ministers and become a statutory document; and
- (2) agreed, that as a result of the response
 - (a) officers undertake a redraft of the RTS in accordance with the Cabinet Secretary's request;
 - (b) further advice from the Scottish Government on format, timescales and supplementary guidance be sought;
 - (c) a three year Delivery Plan be prepared using the RTS Target Programme as its basis which would be SPT's overall contribution to the Government's national outcomes; and
 - (d) member councils be engaged in developing both the revised strategy and the delivery;

there was submitted a report (issued) of 1 April 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support),

- (i) appending the redrafted RTS document;
- (ii) informing members that the redrafted document was aligned to national outcomes and presented 17 strategic priorities for SPT, taking forward the previously approved RTS outcomes of
 - Improved connectivity
 - Access for all
 - Reduced emissions; and
 - Attractive, seamless reliable travel
- (iii) advising members that although SPT would address each of the 17 strategic priorities, it was proposed that the particular focus for the first delivery plan would be to:-

18 April 2008

- Plan and provide a “step change” for bus services, standards and infrastructure;
 - Revitalise the Subway network;
 - Improve cross-city and cross-region links on strategic corridors;
 - Improve access to services including healthcare and education;
 - Plan for the provision of transport for the Commonwealth Games 2014, tourism and major events; and
 - Improve sustainable connectivity for business and freight;
- (iv) explaining
- (a) that work was underway with SPT and an officer group from constituent councils to complete the assessment of interventions for the Delivery Plan, taking account of the contents of the 12 Transport Outcome reports already prepared for each council, the SPT Capital programme and RTS Action Plans eg Bus Park and Ride etc; and
- (b) that a draft Delivery Plan would be presented to the Strategy and Programmes Committee for approval at its meeting on 16 May 2008; and
- (v) recommending approval of the redrafted RTS, for submission to Scottish Government.

After discussion and having heard Mrs Davidson in further explanation, the Partnership

- (A) approved the document, subject to the minor amendments made at the meeting; and
- (B) arising from comments made at the meeting, agreed that the Chair should write to Network Rail regarding the high level of litter at station platforms in Glasgow Central Station.

8. Award of Contracts

[Click here to view report](#)

After consideration of various reports (issued) by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) and Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support), the Partnership dealt with the following contracts as follows-

	Contract	Contractor	Amount	Decision
(a)	Subway Modernisation project (phase 1) appointment of consultant	-	-	Report withdrawn, in order that further tenders could be invited.
(b)	Increase to the current value of the	Balva	£305,796 (increase)	Agreed to increase the overall value of the contract

18 April 2008

rail block and sleeper resin injection and replacement contract

from £1,065,405 to £1,528,983 in order that track maintenance could continue at the current level; and

Noted that the increase in the overall value of the contract included also an increase in spend on the current contract price of £157,782. The additional spend was necessary to maintain track integrity and safety in line with commitments to HMRI.

(c)	Network voice and mobile managed service contract award	Carillion	£900,623 (Maximum value)	Approved Best value tender. Contract for a minimum period of 3 years.
(d)	Subway – manufacture and installation of automatic train wash	NEU International	£304,681	Approved the best value tender, including additional expenditure of £18,000 for supplementary brushes if required. Contract subject to satisfactory requirements of the mandatory standstill period of public sector contracts. Agreed in principle expenditure of £400,000 - £450,000 for the civil engineering element of the project and that a report on the outcome of the tendering process for that element be submitted to a future Partnership meeting.

9. Smarter Choices, Smarter Places

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 25 March 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support),



18 April 2008

- (1) outlining the background to the launch of the Scottish Government's 'Smarter Choices, Smarter Places' project which offered local authorities an opportunity to access funding to undertake intense activity on sustainable travel interventions, particularly those involving behaviour change;
- (2) detailing the objectives of the project and the criteria for the selection of bids;
- (3) advising members
 - (a) that interested local authorities had until the 30 April 2008 to submit an outline bid to the Scottish Government; and
 - (b) that shortlisted authorities would then be invited to submit a more detailed bid by 9 July 2008, with the final selection of the successful applicants being made by the end of July 2008;
- (4) highlighting
 - (a) that although the Scottish Government budget would be dependent on the number of local authorities participating and the nature of their proposals, a maximum of £4m would be available each year for the whole project with around an additional £1.5 - £2m per annum available in capital in years two and three for walking and cycling infrastructure;
 - (b) that the Scottish Government would fund year one of the project, with local authorities expected to match fund years two and three; and
 - (c) that local authorities would not be able to use funding from any other Scottish Government funded body as their contribution to match funding;
- (5) explaining that although the Scottish Government intended to run the project for five years in order to plan and monitor the schemes properly, at this point funding beyond 2010/11 could not be guaranteed; and
- (6) informing members
 - (a) that SPT had written to its constituent authorities to establish their interest in this project; and
 - (b) had advised that it could work with them in the development of their bids and the implementation of initiatives.

After consideration, the Partnership noted the terms of the report.

10. Declaration of interest

Gordon Maclennan, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) declared an interest in the immediately following item due to his relationship with Allied Vehicles.



18 April 2008

11. Acquisition of adaptable buses

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 April 2008 by the Director of Bus Operations,

- (1) reminding members of the commitment in SPT's RTS to improve the quality of bus provision under the 'Step Change for Buses' and integrated transport action plans;
- (2) informing members that a key element in delivering these action plans was the procurement of smaller more flexible and efficient vehicles, yet state of the art in terms of emissions and DDA compliance;
- (3) detailing tenders received for the supply of 19 adaptable buses to operate Demand Responsive, Dial-a-Bus and supported local bus services;
- (4) enclosing as an appendix to the report, a table of proposed subsidised bus service contracts where SPT supplied the vehicle to the operator on a full repairing lease, thereby reducing revenue support for those services;
- (5) explaining that purchase of the vehicles would develop the SPT customer focussed provision of services within the West of Scotland and reduce the strain on the revenue budget for the provision of subsidised bus services; and
- (6) recommending, that subject to detailed minor adjustments,
 - (a) 15 vehicles be procured from Allied Vehicles at a cost of £1,205,775; and
 - (b) 4 vehicles be procured from Optare at a cost of £359,200.

After discussion and having heard Mr Culley in further explanation and Mr Stewart in answer to members' questions, the Partnership approved the recommendation at (6) above.

12. ScotRail Franchise extension

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 April 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support),

- (1) reminding members that First Group trading as First ScotRail had been awarded the ScotRail franchise in 2004 for a seven year period, with an option to extend this by three years;
- (2) informing members
 - (a) that Transport Scotland had announced on 3 April 2008 that FirstGroup's contract to operate the franchise had been extended, in line with that option, by three years to 2014; and
 - (b) that SPT and other stakeholders had not been consulted prior to the announcement on the proposals to extend the contract;

18 April 2008

- (3) explaining
 - (a) that the Minister for Transport had stated that the extension would bring significant benefits to passengers across Scotland, including extending express services between Glasgow and Edinburgh, additional early morning services from Gourock, Ayr and Kilmarnock, allowing for better onward connections to London and connections for the Commonwealth Games; and
 - (b) that although these proposals were to be welcomed, it was difficult for SPT officers to comment on the implications for travellers in the SPT area without fuller details;
- (4) advising members
 - (a) that SPT had invested in the rail network during the current franchise, with a commitment to provide revenue funding for several schemes until the end of the franchise in 2011; and
 - (b) that if it was proposed that the burden of those schemes was left with SPT for the extension period, there could potentially be a material financial impact on the Partnership over the remainder of the franchise period; and
- (5) recommending that the Chair and SPT officers engage in communications with the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland to ascertain the full impact on passengers and SPT of the franchise extension.

After discussion and having heard

- (i) various members express their disappointment on the lack of consultation from Transport Scotland;
- (ii) Mrs Davidson advise members that she had received verbal assurance from Transport Scotland that they would cover SPT's revenue costs beyond 2011; and
- (iii) Mr Culley advise members that members' concerns would be raised with John Ewing Head of Transport Group, Scottish Government who would be attending the Strategy and Programmes Committee on 16 May 2008,

the Partnership approved the recommendation at (5) above.

13. Conference; "The Future of Rail"- London -18 & 19 June 2008

The Partnership agreed that the Chair plus one other member should attend the "The Future of Rail" conference to be held in London from 18 – 19 June 2008.

18 April 2008

14. Media report

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 7 April 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support),

- (1) enclosing a report provided by the media monitoring company Pressdata summarising the media coverage on SPT's activities during the months of December 2007 and January and February 2008;
- (2) explaining that, although there might be perceptions that SPT's media coverage was overwhelmingly critical, the actual measurement for the last three months available had shown a high beneficial and factual content.

After discussion and having heard the Chair commend Mr Wylie for the significant improvements which he had made in the promotion of SPT to the media, the Partnership noted the terms of the report.

15. Register of Tenders

The Partnership noted that the Register of Tenders listing contracts awarded from 1 October to 31 December 2007 was available for inspection after the meeting.

