

## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee**

**23 August 2013**

held in Consort House, Glasgow

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## Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow, on 23 August 2013

**Present** Councillors Kaye Harmon (Chair), Jim Coleman, Margaret Devine (substitute), David Fagan, Pauline McKeever, Denis McKenna, Chris Thompson and Paul Welsh and appointed members Anne Follin, Tom Hart, Alan Malcolm, Jim McNally and Gavin Scott.

**Attending** Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)/Secretary; Valerie A Bowen, Senior Committee Officer; Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance and HR; Charlie Hoskins, Director of Projects; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy and Planning and Gordon Dickson, Bus Development Manager.

**Also attending** Councillor Gilbert Davidson and John Yellowlees, ScotRail.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors John Bruce, Eddie Devine and Bill Grant and appointed member Ann Faulds.

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

The committee noted the following declarations of interest:-

- (1) Anne Follin declared an interest in item no 4 in respect of the Fastlink project as she had been sub contracted by AECOM to assist in the planning application work relating to the project; and
- (2) Alan Malcolm declared an interest in item number 7 as he was a Director on the Board of Cycling Scotland.

### 3. Minute of previous meeting

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The minute of the meeting of 14 June 2013 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Thereon, Messrs Hoskins and Dickson provided updates on the Dalmarnock Rail Station project and Fastlink, respectively.

### 4. Revenue monitoring report as at 20 July 2013 (period 4)

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**P\*** There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 August 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the Partnership had approved a revenue budget for 2013/2014 of £38.418m;
- (2) intimating that significant variances had occurred across departmental budgets as SPT continued to drive through the savings programme together with a strong cost control on all budget heads;
- (3) informing members

23 August 2013

- (a) that, as there was currently a shortfall of available capital funding to meet the non-subway and local authority projects, considerable attention had been given as to how this could be addressed within the available revenue resources;
  - (b) that total movements of £1.825m had been identified and it was proposed to utilise £1.5m of this to support the non-subway capital plan; and
  - (c) that this would require the staff freeze to continue, continued strong control of overtime costs and delivery of savings across supplies and services;
- (4) that savings of £225k had been captured from recent electricity and insurance tendering arrangements and these factors, together with additional interest generated on revenue balances, would allow the £1.5m to be allocated to the capital plan; and
- (5) appending
- (a) a summary of the major forecast variances which now identified a forecast positive outturn for the current financial year of £325,000, having taken account of all SPT service priorities across the revenue and capital programmes; and
  - (b) the revenue monitoring report for the period to 20 July 2013 (period 4).

After consideration the committee

- \*(i) agreed to recommend to the Partnership the proposed revenue contribution to capital; and
- (ii) otherwise noted the terms of the report.

**5. Capital programme monitoring report and proposed amendments as at 20 July 2013 (period 4)**

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**P\*** There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 8 August 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the 2013/2014 capital programme of £45.725m had been approved by the Partnership on 15 February 2013 against known capital grant and other sources of funding;
- (2) advising members that actual expenditure as at 20 July 2013 (period 4) totalled £6.352m compared to a planned spend position of £7.1m;
- (3) providing a detailed financial analysis of individual projects contained within the programme, split by department;
- (4) appending proposed amendments to the capital programme, together with reasons for the adjustments listed against each project, which gave a revised projected outturn figure of £47.408m; and
- (5) requesting that the committee

23 August 2013

- (a) note
  - (i) the financial performance of the 2013/14 capital programme as at Period 4; and
  - (ii) that further work to quantify and manage risks, advance savings and re-phase existing projects was being undertaken to balance spend against budget;
- (b) approve
  - (i) the proposed amendments to the 2013/2014 capital programme as detailed in appendix 2 to the report; and
  - (ii) the award of grant funding up to the value of £160,000 to the local authorities and other identified bodies as detailed in the report;
- \*(c) agree to recommend to the Partnership the award of grant funding over the value, or cumulative award value, of £160,000 to the local authorities and other identified bodies as detailed in the report; and
- (d) authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) to sign the grant funding letters to expedite all of the projects.

## 6. **Proposal for a Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill – SPT response to consultation**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 July 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing members
  - (a) that Iain Gray MSP was undertaking a consultation on his proposal for a Private Member's Bill on Bus Regulation in Scotland, with a view to presenting the Bill before the Scottish Parliament later this year; and
  - (b) that Mr Gray believed that current regulatory arrangements for bus were failing people and communities across Scotland and that the Scottish Parliament should make changes to remedy this situation, including through regulation;
- (2) outlining the key themes of his proposals;
- (3) appending SPT's proposed response;
- (4) explaining that while supportive of the principle behind the proposed Bill, SPT's response highlighted potential issues with some of the proposals and emphasised potential alternative solutions which could achieve significant improvements for bus in Scotland; and
- (5) recommending that the Partnership approve SPT's proposed response to the consultation.

After considerable discussion, the committee approved the response, subject to an amendment to the text in the response to question 4.

23 August 2013

## 7. **Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2013**

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With reference to the minute of 23 March 2013 (page 4, paragraph 9) when the committee had considered and noted a report on SPT's three year cycling strategy and investment plan which had sought to contribute to the Scottish Government Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS), there was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 24 June 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) intimating
  - (a) that Transport Scotland had published a refreshed CAPS 2013 following a period of consultation, which aimed to help achieve its shared vision of 10% of everyday journeys being taken by bike by 2020; and
  - (b) that SPT had responded to the CAPS 2013 consultation and the points raised had been taken on board within the refreshed document;
- (2) outlining the key recommendations contained in CAPS 2013;
- (3) advising members that SPT supported the key recommendations and actions of the CAPS 2013 refresh and would continue to work closely with Transport Scotland and constituent councils to help deliver the strategy and SPT's three-year Cycling Strategy and Investment Plan which was complementary to both the CAPS 2013 refresh and Sustrans objectives; and
- (4) informing members that SPT welcomed the acknowledgement that cycling needs should be built into future development and that cross-portfolio working was critical to the successful delivery of the CAPS 2013 vision.

## 8. **Community and Healthcare Transport: Update**

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 26 July 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) informing the Committee of the outcomes and implications for SPT of the following recently published reports:
  - (a) The outcomes of the Scottish Parliament Infrastructure & Capital Investment Committee Inquiry on Community Transport; and
  - (b) The recommendations of the Healthcare Transport Short Life Working Group, chaired by the Scottish Government;
- (2) intimating that there were clear synergies across the Community Transport and health and social care transport sectors and SPT's expertise and infrastructure provided an opportunity for considerable integration and improved efficiency;
- (3) explaining that, whilst the outcomes noted in both reports were broadly welcomed, it was important that these translated to real change on the ground, sooner rather than later;
- (4) advising members that SPT would monitor closely the impacts of both work streams; and

23 August 2013

- (5) highlighting the fact that, whilst SPT had strongly pursued opportunities better to integrate its services with other organisations, there remained examples of organisations operating in isolation and pursuing their own solutions.

**9. Subway Existing Train Bogies – Proposed award of contract for short term life extension repairs and modifications**

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 8 August 2013 on tenders received for the repair and modifications to existing Subway train bogies, the committee agreed that a contract for this work be awarded to Wabtec Rail Scotland to a total value of £271,960 (excluding VAT).