

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee meeting

2 November 2007

held at: Consort House, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow, on 2 November 2007

- Present** Councillors Davie McLachlan (Chair), David Fagan, Douglas Hay, Kaye Harmon, William Hendrie, Bill McIntosh, Tommy Morrison, Eddie Phillips, Chris Thompson, David Wilson and Alistair Watson and appointed members Tom Hart and Bill Ure.
- Apologies** Councillors Bobby McDill and Tommy Morrison.
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)/Secretary; Gordon MacLennan, Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Services); Eric Stewart, Director of Bus Operations and Neil Wylie, Director of Finance.

1. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 14 September 2007 was submitted and approved.

2. Public transport services monitoring report

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 October 2007 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Services) informing the committee of the latest trends in the number of passengers carried and the reliability of ScotRail services in the SPT area and services supported by the Partnership.

After considerable discussion and having heard Mr MacLennan in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the contents of the report.

3. Subsidised local bus service recommendations – financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 25 October 2007 by the Chief Financial Officer advising the committee of the financial impact of members' possible decisions relating to the remaining items on the agenda.

After consideration, the committee noted the report in relation to the financial impact of awarding any contracts and managing the award of contracts within the constraints of the existing budgets and agreed to have regard to them when making decisions on these matters.

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4. Changes to subsidised local bus services

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 24 October 2007 by the Chief Executive on proposed changes to subsidised local bus services, the committee noted

- (1) that the timetable for contract 4199 Harthill – Bellshill (service 35) would be revised as detailed in the report to accommodate workers finishing shifts in Newhouse Industrial Estate at 2330 hours from 28 October 2007; and
- (2) that the timetable for contract 4897 Lanark Local (service 135) had been revised as detailed in the report in the High Street area of Lanark from 1 October 2007.

5. Christmas and New Year 2007/2008: public transport arrangements

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 October 2007 by the Chief Executive advising the committee of proposed arrangements for the Christmas and New Year holiday period 2007/2008 for subsidised bus, ferry and Subway services within the Partnership's area.

After consideration, the committee

- (1) noted the proposed service levels to be operated; and
- (2) agreed to the adjustment of service levels on subsidised services where appropriate during the festive season and that any necessary adjustments to contract payments be made.

6. Revisions to subsidised bus service 331 (Greenock Town Centre – Branchton): contract 7913F

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With reference to the minute of the Partnership of 21 April 2006 (page 9, paragraph 15) when the Partnership had

- (1) considered a report which had highlighted the various problems that the operator Slaemuir Coaches, had been experiencing on contract 7913F Greenock/ Pennyfern/ Overton/Branchton (service 331) in safely negotiating Forfar Road due to the presence of parked cars on both sides of the road;
- (2) noted
 - (a) that it was believed that the problems had arisen since conversion of these services at contract renewal date in July 2005 to DDA-compliant vehicles which were slightly larger than the previous vehicle type; and
 - (b) that a programme of works proposed by Inverclyde Council was already underway at various locations to attempt to address the parking issues; and
- (3) agreed

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- (a) that the operator could use a non-compliant vehicle on the contract on a temporary basis to permit the service to continue; and
- (b) that following the completion of all work by Inverclyde Council, a further report would be submitted to the Partnership to confirm if this had enabled resumption of use of the DDA vehicle or whether an alternative course of action involving re-routing of the service might require to be considered,

there was submitted a report (issued) of 26 October 2007 by the Chief Executive,

- (i) informing members that although the appropriate traffic calming measures by Inverclyde Council were now in place on Forfar Road to accommodate the use of DDA-compliant vehicles, Slaemuir Coaches were still experiencing operational problems as a result of the revised road layout and speed cushions which had been installed in the area;
- (ii) advising members that following various site visits by SPT, Slaemuir Coaches, Strathclyde Police and Inverclyde Council, it had been agreed that the council would undertake additional work in Forfar Road to resolve the issues arising from the traffic calming measures and that the use of a non-DDA bus be permitted in the interim to permit the service to continue;
- (iii) explaining that although SPT had recently written to Inverclyde Council to ascertain progress on the proposed remedial work, no firm timescale had been given for the works to take place; and
- (iv) recommending that, as these issues in Forfar Road were disadvantageous to all passengers on service 331 by preventing the use of a DDA-compliant vehicle, the route be revised with effect from 2 December 2007 to terminate at the nearby turning circle on Branchton Road until the necessary work in Forfar Road had been completed.

After discussion, the committee approved the recommendation at (iv) above.

7. Subsidised bus service 329 (Glasgow City Centre – Stobhill Hospital) contract 3164D

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With reference to the minute of 19 January 2007 (page 4 paragraph 8) when the committee had agreed that contract 3164D Glasgow City Centre – Stobhill Hospital (service 329) be awarded to Henderson Travel on the basis that a DDA compliant vehicle be used on the route, there was submitted a report (issued) of 24 November 2007 by the Chief Executive,

- (1) informing members that, in Robroyston, existing traffic claming measures posed operational problems for low floor vehicles as a result of the speed cushions which had been installed in the area;
- (2) highlighting that although SPT had been in several discussions with Glasgow City Council to address the issue in order that remedial works could be carried out

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before the contract start date of 15 July 2007, no such programme of works had taken place; and

- (3) explaining that in view of this situation, there was no alternative but to defer the introduction of the new buses and continue to operate the route with step-entrance buses until the traffic calming measures were suitably adapted.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart advise members that Glasgow City Council had now intimated that the remedial works were programmed to take place at the beginning of 2008, the committee noted the current position.

8. Changes to bus service 13 (Hamilton – Strathaven –East Kilbride): contract 4846K

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With reference to the minute of 16 March 2007 (page 1 paragraph 2) when the committee had agreed that contract 4846K East Kilbride - Strathaven - Hamilton (service 13) be awarded to Henderson Travel at a cost of £44,928 for the contract period, equivalent to £14,976 per annum,

there was submitted a report (issued) of 26 October 2007 by the Chief Executive,

- (1) informing members that contract 4846K East Kilbride – Strathaven - Hamilton (service 13) had been cancelled with effect from 28 July 2007, following Henderson Travel's decision to provide the service without subsidy, resulting in an annual saving to SPT of £14,976; and
- (2) that Henderson Travel had also notified SPT that although it would provide the entire evening service without subsidy the last journey from Hamilton would terminate at Strathaven, due to the low passenger usage and instances of occasional vandalism with effect from 21 November 2007.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the terms of the report; and
- (b) agreed, due to the low patronage and vandalism problem, not to replace the 2351 hours journey from Strathaven to East Kilbride.

9. Requests for subsidised local bus services

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 October 2007 by the Chief Executive advising members of various requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services.

After discussion, the committee agreed not to take any further action in respect of the requests outlined in the report.

10. Sunday rail services

The Chair advised members that First ScotRail would be introducing additional train services including extra Sunday services in the run-up to Christmas. He explained that

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the expansion of the winter timetable would see Sunday trains stopping at Larkhall, Merryton and Chatelherault in Lanarkshire. Members noted the position.