

## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of Operations Committee**

**2 November 2012**

held in Consort House, Glasgow

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**Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport  
Operations Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow on 2 November 2012**

<b>Present</b>	Councillors Denis McKenna (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Tony Buchanan, David Fagan, Bill Grant, Kaye Harmon, Alan Moir, Robert G MacIntyre, Bobby McDill and George Redmond and Appointed Member Niall McGrogan.
<b>Attending</b>	Valerie Davidson, Secretary/Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support); Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) and Neil Wylie, Director of Finance & HR.
<b>Also attending</b>	John Yellowlees, ScotRail

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Chris Kelly and Patrick McGlinchey.

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

The committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minute of previous meeting**

The minute of the meeting of 31 August 2012 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minute with regard to page 7, paragraph 8, Mr Stewart advised members that following the Scottish Government's recent announcement to delay the results of the ferry services review, substantive tenders would be invited for the Arran subsidised bus services.

**4. Public transport services monitoring report**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 25 October 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing the committee of the latest trends in the number of passengers carried and the reliability of services directly operated and supported by the Partnership and on ScotRail services in the SPT area; and
- (2) providing information on the current status of SPT's bus action plan for the continuing improvement of bus service delivery within the region, together with regulating and fleet profile statistics.

After discussion, particularly relating to the impact of the proposed reductions to off peak rail services between Paisley Gilmour Street and Ayr and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation of the report and Mr Yellowlees provide information on the main rail timetable changes which would be introduced in December 2012 and advise members that ScotRail would continue to work closely with Transport Scotland to develop, evaluate and deliver new and enhanced services for the benefits of the passenger, the committee noted the contents of the report.

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**5. Subsidised local bus service contract recommendations – financial implications**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 October 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) advising the committee of the financial implications of members' possible decisions relating to further items on the agenda. After discussion, the committee noted the report in relation to the financial implications of awarding any contracts and agreed to give due consideration to the implications when making decisions on these contracts.

**6. Temporary contracts awarded**

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 15 October 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), the committee noted that following bus network changes by First Glasgow and Riverside Transport as detailed in the appendix to the report, temporary contracts had been awarded and tender prices for long term contracts were being invited.

**7. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 October 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) reminding members of the temporary arrangements which had been put in place following recent changes to the commercial bus network, in order that SPT could assess the market and prepare longer term contracts;
- (2) providing information on the tenders received for new local subsidised bus contracts; and
- (3) recommending the award of appropriate contracts.

After discussion, the committee

- (a) agreed to award package 15592 to First Glasgow for the contract period 4 November 2012 to 11 July 2015, which contained the following contracts:-
  - contract W034 Forgewood – Motherwell – North Lodge (service 245) at a cost of £39,224 and
  - contract W035 Larkhall – Overtown – Wishaw General Hospital (service 251) at a cost of £159,251; and
- (b) noted that formal awards of the above contracts were subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for EU advertised public sector contracts.

**8. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts**

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 24 October 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) detailing changes to subsidised local bus services, the committee noted the amendments as detailed below:-

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<b>Contract</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Effective date</b>
Contract 9596C Grange Estate – Kilmarnock - Southcraig (service 332A/334)	Additional morning peak journey between Southcraig, Wardneuk and Kilmarnock.	Additional cost of £90 per week	2/7/12
Contract 6603Q Kilmarnock - Beith (service 337)	Revision to the timetable which offered additional improved afternoon peak journey opportunities.  Contract now funded wholly through the local bus budget due to the removal of the school element.	None.	23/9/12
Contract 8812D Helensburgh – Coulport (service 316)	Additional Sunday morning journey for a trial period of six months.	Additional cost of £75 per week.	9/12/12
Contract 4946E1 Larkhall – Overtown – Wishaw General Hospital (service 251)	Contract cancelled.  Tenders would be invited for a consolidated contract.	None	9/12/12

## 9. Community transport projects: grant funding

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 October 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

(1) providing a brief summary of the following community transport projects which had been awarded grant funding during the period 1 March to 30 September 2012:-

- British Red Cross Society – community DRT/MyBus and transport escort services in North Ayrshire;
- Community Transport Glasgow;

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- Getting Better Together - community centred health initiative in the Greater Shotts and surrounding areas;
  - Glasgow City Hospital evening visitor service – door to door transport to the six acute hospital sites in the Glasgow and Lanarkshire areas;
  - North Area Transport Association – community transport services in North Glasgow;
  - Retired and senior volunteer programme – voluntary car scheme for patients within the East Renfrewshire Council area;
  - The Rural Development Trust – community transport services in South Lanarkshire; and
  - Coalfield Community Transport – transport links in Skares and Sinclairton;
- (2) appending a table detailing the amount of grant funding awarded to each of the projects; and
- (3) recommending that the committee
- (a) approve
- (i) grant funding of £72,480 to British Red Cross Society for the Community DRT/MyBus service on Arran and transport/escort in North Ayrshire and Arran;
  - (i) grant funding of £23,000 to Getting People Together for the purchase of a people carrier; and
  - (iii) grant funding of £34,397 to Coalfield Community Transport for the Skares/Community DRT Scheme; and
- (b) authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) to sign the necessary grant funding letters.

After discussion and having heard Councillor Fagan commend Alex Scott and his staff for their hard work and efforts in the development of community transport initiatives, the committee approved the recommendation at (4) above.

## 10. Replacement of vehicles

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 24 October 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing members
- (a) that from 2008, SPT had commenced an initiative to purchase buses to be used on local bus service contracts, with the vehicles concerned provided to the successful tenderers on a full repairing lease basis for the lifetime of the respective contracts; and
  - (b) that SPT now owned 95 vehicles and had spent £8.4m;
- (2) advising members that as with any bus service operation, fleet replacement was an issue to be addressed if service reliability and passenger service was to be maintained;

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- (3) intimating that SPT had always made it clear that the buses would be used to the greatest extent possible, to derive the maximum benefit to the public purse from the capital outlay; and
- (4) recommending
  - (a) that in order to maintain the levels of service quality on SPT subsidised services, provision be made in the capital programme to commence a programme of fleet renewal, by replacing existing vehicles with new ones;
  - (b) that vehicles withdrawn from SPT contracts be provided on a full repairing lease basis to community transport groups who were members of the West of Scotland Community Transport Network;
  - (c) that details of any such relocations would be reported to committee within the twice yearly update of community transport activity;
  - (d) that a maintenance and support package be set up in relation to the vehicles concerned; and
  - (e) that a vehicle be provided on a full repairing lease basis to the Rural Development Trust.

#### 11. Requests for subsidised local bus services

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 October 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) advising members of various requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services.

After consideration and having heard Mr Stewart in answer to members' questions, the committee agreed

- (1) not to take any further action in respect of the local subsidised bus service requests at paragraphs (a) – (b), (d) – (e) and (g) – (h); and
- (2) agreed as follows in respect of the undernoted request:-

<b>Request</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Revision to the timetable of supported service X76 for a better connection in Kilmarnock Bus Station for services to Glasgow. (Report item c)	that although discussions were continuing with the operators to amended the Sunday timetable to facilitate better connections, it was not possible to significantly alter the Monday – Saturday timetable without adverse effect upon other services in that area.

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Revision of the timetable of supported service 395 to include an extended route in Uplawmoor and to Barrhead Train Station  
(Report item f)

that the request be continued until the next committee, pending further discussions with Councillor Buchanan.