

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee meeting

4 November 2011

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 4 November 2011

Present Councillors Denis McKenna (Chair), Harry Curran, Gilbert Davidson, Bill Grant, William Hendrie, Alan Moir, Bobby McDill, Bill Perrie, Eddie Phillips and David Wilson and appointed members Tom Hart, Ronnie Mellis and Bill Ure.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Secretary; Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations); Neil Wylie, Director of Finance & HR and Alex Scott, Bus Contract Manager.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Jonathan Findlay and David Fagan.

2. Declaration of interest

The committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

3. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 2 September 2011 (issued) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. Public transport services monitoring report

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 October 2011 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 five point bus action plan for the continuing improvement of bus service delivery within the region, together with regulating and fleet profile statistics.

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Thereon, Mrs Davidson advised members that although Mr Yellowlee, First ScotRail had submitted his apologies, he had e mailed his comments in relation to the First ScotRail services in the report. This had highlighted the fact that following the relocation of Stena Line to Port Ryan, there would be three more trains daily commencing 12 December between Ayr and Girvan, including a 09.37 from Girvan for off peak travellers to Ayr, together with new direct service from Glasgow to Stranraer at 09.41 and a Stranraer-Glasgow service at 19.08.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in answer to members' questions the committee noted the contents of the report.

5. Subsidised local bus service contract recommendations – financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 20 October 2011 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 these implications when making decisions on these contracts.

6. Homologation of local subsidised local bus contract W010T2 Wishaw – Airdrie/Monklands Hospital and LS88T2 Hamilton – Coatshill/East Kilbride local

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 26 October 2011 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) advising of action which had been taken by SPT in order to maintain socially necessary services as a result of recent changes to the bus network.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the committee

(1) noted

(a) that contract W010T2 Wishaw – Airdrie/Monklands Hospital (service 248) had been awarded to Henderson Travel at a cost of £500 per week from 7 September 2011 to 29 January 2012, in order that tender prices could be invited for a new long term contract to commence from 30 January 2012; and

(b) that contract LS88T2 Hamilton – Coatshill/East Kilbride local (services 230 & M1) had been awarded to First Glasgow, based on the use of two SPT vehicles, at a cost of £380 per week from 18 September 2011 to 7 January 2012, in order that long term arrangements could be made for future provision of the services; and

(2) agreed that, where relevant, the number of passengers per journey be included in future committee reports.

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7. Award of subsidised local bus service contract 5645P

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With reference to the minute of 2 September 2011 (page 2, paragraph 6) when the committee had noted that contract 5645T Royal Alexandra Hospital – Paisley (service 169) had been awarded to Arriva Scotland West at a cost of £247 per week from 17 July to 19 November 2011, in order that tender prices could be invited for a new long term contract to commence from 20 November 2011, there was submitted and approved a report of 26 October 2011 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) recommending that the committee

- (1) agree to the award of contract 5645P Paisley Cross to Royal Alexandra Hospital (service 60) to Arriva Scotland West at a cost of £28,632 for the contract period 20 November 2011 to 12 July 2014, which represented a saving of £2,056 per annum on the current temporary arrangements; and
- (2) note that formal award of the above contract was subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for public sector contracts.

8. Proposed renewal of Demand Responsive Transport contract 6443B

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 26 October 2011 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) outlining the temporary arrangements which had been put in place to ensure continuity of service for contract 6443A East Ayrshire DRT (service 500 MyBus Rural), following SPT's termination of the contract from 1 July 2011, due to a number of contractual failings by the operator;
- (2) providing information on tenders received for a replacement contract to operate from 14 November 2011 to 13 July 2013 which was the scheduled end date for the original contract;
- (3) informing members that tenderers had been required to submit prices for the contract on a 'gross cost' basis under which all passenger revenue would revert to SPT and offset the contract costs;
- (4) explaining
 - (a) that Shuttle Buses, the sole tenderer, had also submitted an optional tender to operate the contract for a further year until 12 July 2014 at a total cost of £148,950; and
 - (b) that the contract extension would allow the end date of the contract to align with the end date of existing contract 9596C Kilmarnock DRT which also provided service 500 MyBus Rural, offering an opportunity to combine both contracts at a later date; and
- (5) recommending that the committee

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- (a) agree that contract 6443B East Ayrshire DRT (service 500 MyBus Rural) be awarded to Shuttle Buses based on the extended contract option at a cost of £148,950 for the contract period 14 November 2011 to 12 July 2014; and
- (b) note
 - (i) that formal award of the above contract was subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for public sector contracts; and
 - (ii) that SPT's conditions of contract allowed recovery of all cost from any operator removed from a contract which had been terminated before the scheduled end date.

9. Award of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) contract 9603A

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 October 2011 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) detailing tenders received for the award of contract 9603A Lanarkshire DRT;
- (2) informing members that the tendering exercise had been based on an option whereby the vehicles required for the operation of the service would be purchased by SPT and supplied to the respective operators on a full repairing basis or the operator supplying the vehicle;
- (3) highlighting that tenderers had been required to submit prices for the contract on a 'gross cost' basis under which all passenger revenue would revert to SPT and offset the contract costs; and
- (4) recommending the award of the appropriate contract.

After consideration the committee

- (a) agreed
 - (i) to the award of contract 9603A Lanarkshire DRT to Henderson Travel at a cost of £310,129 for the contract period 9 January 2012 to 13 July 2013; and
 - (ii) to the award of a contract to Bluebird Vehicles Ltd via Scotland Excel for the purchase of two buses at an approximate cost of £160,000, and
- (b) noted that formal award of the contract at (i) above was subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for public sector contracts.

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10. Withdrawal of service 416 Coatbridge Sunnyside – Eurocentral/Maxim – Strathclyde Business Park contract LS011E

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 26 October 2011 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) outlining the background to contract LS011E Coatbridge Sunnyside – Eurocentral/Maxim – Strathclyde Business Park (service 416) which had been awarded to Stuart’s Coaches to operate from 21 January 2011 to 6 July 2012 at a cost of £91,508 per annum and funded by North Lanarkshire Council, SPT and Maxim Office Park;
- (2) informing members
 - (a) that although SPT’s Guideline Criteria maximum subsidy cost per passenger journey was £2.90, the annual passenger usage for the service was running at 3,312 which represented a subsidy cost per passenger journey of £27.63; and
 - (b) that all of that subsidy cost was being borne by the public purse as Maxim Office Park had not paid their share of the subsidy cost for contract LS011E for nearly one year;
- (3) advising members
 - (a) that during the period of the current contract and following a change of ownership of the Maxim Office Park, Arisaig Property Partners LLP, who had been appointed as Asset Manager had taken the position that they were not party to any previous agreement with SPT and North Lanarkshire Council and had to date withheld any further payments to SPT for Maxim’s element of the funding; and
 - (b) that they had also requested further changes to the current timetable of the service, based on information supplied by them;
- (4) highlighting the fact that, despite SPT producing a number of alternative timetable options for consideration by Arisaig Property Partners, no payment had been received;
- (5) explaining that, although they wished to continue to work in partnership with SPT and North Lanarkshire Council, Arisaig Property Partner’s position was that until any new or revised service was secured, which they would contribute to and hoped that public subsidy would continue, they would not agree to pay the outstanding liabilities; and
- (6) recommending that the committee, in order to allow sufficient notice to be given to passengers, agree that contract LS011E be cancelled from 3 December 2011, unless payment of any outstanding amounts was received by SPT before then.

11. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 26 October 2011 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) detailing changes to subsidised local bus services, the committee noted the amendments as detailed below:-

Contract	Amendment	Cost	Effective date
W004 Coatbridge South Circular-Townhead (service 117)	Provision of additional evening journeys	Additional £15 per week (£780 per annum)	20 November 2011
2829H Torrance – Buchanan Bus Station (services 71/71A)	Withdrawal of six return journeys on Sundays (now covered by commercial service)	Reduction in contract price from £21,413 to £19,159 per annum.	17 July 2011
6518D Brodick – Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran (service 323)	Extension of journey to Lagg on non schooldays and Saturdays on trial basis	Additional £20 per journey (£2,440 per annum)	27 March 2011
LS045 Clydebank – Paisley Town Centre and 9592C Nethercraigs – Paisley Town Centre (services 300 and 24)	Changes to subsidised service provision as a result of changes to Arriva's commercial services in the area	None	7 November 2011
LS095T Queenslie – Glasgow City Centre (service 213A)	Amendment to departure time of 0820 journey from Queenslie to 0812	None	29 August 2011

12. Enhanced DRT funding application: Community Transport Glasgow and Getting Better Together

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 October 2011 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) reminding members that SPT managed the grant funding of community transport projects on behalf of its constituent authorities;
- (2) detailing

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- (a) a request from Community Transport Glasgow (CTG) for the use of two SPT vehicles on a lease agreement basis; and
- (b) a request for grant funding in the sum of £25,835 for the Ravenscraig Community Transport Service provided by Getting Better Together (GBT).

After consideration, the committee

- (i) agreed to provide CTG with two SPT Renault LOBus vehicles on a lease agreement basis for a period of three years;
- (ii) approved grant funding of £25,835 to GBT for the Ravenscraig Community Transport Project; and
- (iii) authorised the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) to sign a grant funding letter to GBT.

13. Requests for subsidised local bus services

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 October 2011 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) advising members of various requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services.

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

- (1) agreed not to take any further action in respect of the local subsidised bus service requests at paragraphs (b) – (e); and
- (2) noted the position in respect of the undernoted request: -

Request	Decision
Provision of an evening bus service linking Bishopton and Erskine to allow young people to access Renfrewshire Council sports and leisure facilities in Erskine. (item a)	Agreed that, in order to support communities in the context of the rationalisation of provision of sports facilities within Renfrewshire, potential opportunities with community transport providers should be pursued.