

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee meeting

5 September 2008

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 5 September 2008

Present	Councillors Davie McLachlan (Chair), Charlie Gilbert (Deputy), Bill Grant (Deputy) and Marie McGurk and appointed members Tom Hart and Bill Ure.
Apologies	Councillors David Fagan, Kaye Harmon, William Hendrie, Bobby McDill, Tommy Morrison, Eddie Philips, Chris Thompson, Alistair Watson and David Wilson.
Attending	Valerie Bowen, Clerk; Gordon Maclennan, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) and Neil Wylie, Director of Finance.
Also Attending	John Yellowlees, First ScotRail.

1. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 27 June 2008 (issued) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

2. Public transport services monitoring report

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 August 2008 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 six point bus action plan for the continuing improvement of bus service delivery within the region.

After considerable discussion and having heard Messers Maclennan and Yellowlees in answer to members' questions, the committee

- (a) noted the contents of the report; and
- (b) agreed
 - (i) that First ScotRail be asked to provide figures on patronage via Gilmour Street rail station, Paisley and on Park and Ride uptake at railway stations; and

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- (ii) that a representative from Network Rail be invited to attend the next meeting.

3. Gourock – Kilgreggan – Helensburgh ferry study

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With reference to the minute of 27 June 2008 (page 1, paragraph 2) when it had been agreed that a report be submitted to this meeting outlining the reasons for the decline in patronage on the Gourock – Kilgreggan – Helensburgh ferry, there was submitted a report (issued) of 28 August 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) appending a summary of a report by Scott Wilson consultants, who had been commissioned to carry out an investigative study; and
- (2) detailing the actions which SPT has taken to support the service.

After discussion, the committee noted the terms of the report.

4. Renfrew/Yoker ferry – options for the future of the river crossing

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With reference to the minute of the Strategy and Programmes Committee of 28 September 2007 (page 10, paragraph 10) when that committee had

- (1) noted that the two ferries which operated the SPT subsidised service on the River Clyde connecting Renfrew to Yoker required to be replaced at a cost of approximately £2m; and
- (2) agreed to accept grant funding in the sum of £30,000 towards a joint project with Scottish Enterprise (Renfrew) to undertake a scoping study of alternative river transport options in support of SPT's review of the Renfrew/Yoker crossing;

there was submitted a report (issued) of 20 August 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (a) informing members that as the study was being carried out into the feasibility of a footbridge to replace the existing Renfrew/Yoker ferry service, SPT simultaneously had carried out its own investigation into the costs involved in continuing with the ferry service;
- (b) advising members
 - (i) that although a footbridge was technically feasible, the capital cost was estimated at between £11m and £15m with an additional operating and maintenance cost estimated at £130,000 per annum; and
 - (ii) that the cost of replacement of the existing ferries and adaptation of the landing ramps on both sides of the river had been estimated at between £700,000 and £1m, in addition to a requirement for an annual subsidy in the region of £400,000.

After considerable discussion and having heard Mr MacLennan in answer to members questions, the committee

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- (A) noted the high cost of constructing a footbridge; and
- (B) agreed that further detailed investigations into procuring a replacement vessel or vessels and associated infrastructure with a view to continuing the current ferry service be carried out.

5. Subsidised local bus recommendations – financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 August 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) advising the committee of the financial implications of members' possible decisions relating to the remaining items on the agenda.

After discussion and having heard Mr Wylie inform members of the current funding position for the subsidised local bus budget for 2008/09, 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. Award of contracts

After consideration of various reports (issued) dated August 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), the committee dealt with the undernoted contracts as follows:-

Agenda Item No	Contract	Operator	Contract Amount	Remarks
Click here to view report 6. Proposed renewal of subsidised local bus service contract Click here to view report	0994D Anniesland – Maryhill (service 130)	First Glasgow (No 1) Ltd	£7,378	Awarded. Pro-rata reduction would be made for late commencement
7. Proposed award of new adaptable bus contract	7243B (Inverclyde area)	Scottish Travel	£168,750	Awarded. Contract period 21 months, start date 20 Oct 2008. Funding split as detailed in the report.
8. Proposed award of temporary contract	3699T1	-	-	Report withdrawn

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7. Requests for subsidised local bus services

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 20 August 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), advising members of various requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services. After discussion, the committee

- (1) agreed not to take any further action in respect of the local subsidised bus service requests at paragraphs (a) and (d) of the report; and
- (2) approved the recommendations in respect of the undernoted requests: -

Request

Decision

Provision of a bus service to serve the new housing estate via the new road between Smithstown and Constarry Road, Cumbernauld.
(Item b)

The committee agreed that the Croy Interlink services (344/345) be re-routed from Smithstone Road, subject to approval from Transport Scotland, with a start date of November 2008

Provision of a bus service in Chapelhall along Lancaster Avenue
(Item c)

The committee agreed that subsidised service no 16 be altered by withdrawing its service to Monklands Hospital grounds thereby allowing a time saving which would permit an extension of the service to Lancaster Avenue.

Provision of a bus service to link Sandyhills with the Shettleston Health Centre and Tesco supermarket
(Item e)

The committee agreed that the route of subsidised service 310 (Glasgow Fort – Shettleston) be modified and extended to provide an hourly daily service at no extra cost.

8. Site visit to Car-Ind, Italy 27 – 29 November 2008.

The committee authorised a visit by the Chair to Car-Ind, Spoleto, Italy on 27 November 2008 to view the production area and see SPT buses come off the production line.