

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee

15 March 2013

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 15 March 2013**

Present	Councillors Denis McKenna (Chair), Tony Buchanan, Malcolm Balfour, Kaye Harmon, Chris Kelly, Alan Moir, Hamish Stewart, George Redmond and David Wilson and Appointed Member Bill Ure.
Attending	Valerie Davidson, Secretary/Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support); Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive and Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations).
Also attending	John Yellowlees, ScotRail

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Bill Grant, and Bobby McDill and Appointed Member Niall McGrogan.

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 25 January 2013 was submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor David Wilson on the list of those attending.

4. First Glasgow Network Consultation

Mr Stewart gave a presentation which

- (1) detailed the background to proposed changes to the bus network by First Glasgow;
- (2) informed members of the action taken by SPT to engage with First Glasgow before the network changes were registered;
- (3) advised members that SPT had submitted a formal response to First Glasgow's consultation welcoming the new approach of consultation but also expressing concerns at the perceived gaps in the network that the proposals could bring; and
- (4) outlined the advantages and other implications of the forthcoming changes.

After discussion, the committee thanked Mr Stewart for his informative presentation.

5. Public transport services monitoring report

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 March 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

15 March 2013

- (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 and having heard Messrs Stewart and Yellowlees in further explanation, the committee noted the terms of the report.

6. Subsidised local bus service contract recommendations – financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 March 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) advising the committee of the financial implications of recommendations in further items on the agenda which if approved could result in reducing the costs charged to the bus budget in 2013/2014 by £74,000;
- (2) informing members
 - (a) that the budget was subject to the vagaries of the commercial market, operator behaviour and subject to significant fluctuations during each financial year; and
 - (b) that whilst the current proposals could be accommodated this was particularly relevant at this stage, given the well published network changes which had yet to be finalised; and
- (3) explaining
 - (a) that SPT had previously given a commitment, that within resources available, it would act to ensure communities were not left without a service; and
 - (b) that therefore it might be necessary to arrange temporary contracts as a result of the pending changes which may have an impact on the subsidised bus budget.

After discussion, the committee

- (a) noted the report in relation to the financial implications of awarding any contracts; and
- (b) agreed to give due consideration to the implications when making decisions on those contracts.

7. Temporary and long-term contracts awarded under delegated powers

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Reference was made to the minute of 25 January 2013 (page 3 paragraph 8) when the committee had agreed following recent changes to the commercial network and to accommodate gaps in service, that officers be delegated to make the necessary awards for the following long term contracts, which would be submitted to the next committee for homologation:-

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Operations Committee

15 March 2013

- contract 0906D Greenfield - Rutherglen - Castlemilk (service 46);
- contract 4974D Halfway - Cambuslang - East Kilbride (service 172);
- contract 4980D Rutherglen - Fernhill (service 14); and
- contract LS045A Paisley - Clydebank (service 300),

Thereon, there was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 6 March 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) informing members of the award of the above long term contracts and also certain other temporary contracts as detailed in the report,.

8. Proposed renewal of a subsidised local bus service contract

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 5 March 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) on a sole tender received for the renewal of a local subsidised bus service contract between Kilmarnock and Troon via Dundonald and Muirhead, the committee

- (1) agreed to award contract 6917F Kilmarnock – Dundonald – Muirhead – Troon (service 110) to Stagecoach Western Buses at a cost of £106,371 for the contract period 14 July 2013 to 16 July 2016; and
- (2) noted that formal award of the above contract was subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for EU advertised public sector contracts.

9. Proposed renewal of MyBus contracts

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 7 March 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing information on tenders received for the renewal of various MyBus contracts;
- (2) informing members
 - (a) 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 lease basis or the operator supplying the vehicle; and
 - (b) that in the tender invitations all contracts included elements of timetabled local bus services, in order to maximise use of the vehicles;
- (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;
- (4) intimating that it was recommended to award the five year contract option in which the vehicles were supplied by SPT, which would achieve significant cost savings to the revenue budget;

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Operations Committee

15 March 2013

- (5) advising member that award of the contracts would require 8 buses to be purchased at an approximate cost of £720,000 from the 2013/2014 capital budget;
- (6) explaining
- (a) that to manage risk of continuity of service in the event of any vehicles purchased by SPT not being delivered timeously, tender prices had also been obtained for temporary contracts to commence on 14 July 2013, with the operator providing the vehicle until the SPT supplied vehicles were in place; and
- (b) that should it be necessary to activate these contracts, the cost of the corresponding full-period contract would be adjusted on a pro-rata basis; and
- (7) recommending the award of appropriate contracts.

After discussion, the committee

- (i) agreed
- (A) to award package 15763 to Henderson Travel which contained the following contracts:-
- contract 9561E Central Lanarkshire DRT, including local services Coatbridge – Moodiesburn (service 132), Salburgh – Monklands Hospital (service 200) and Wishaw Hospital – Holytown (service 248);
 - contract 9581E Three Valleys DRT, including local service Glespin – Hamilton (service X50);
 - contract 9590C Greater Glasgow DRT, including local service Glasgow – Barrhead (service 103;) and
 - contract 9603C Lanarkshire DRT including local services from Croy Station (services 344/344a/349/348/403);
- (B) to award contact 9571F Dumbarton DRT, including local service Silverton - Dumbarton – Brucehill (services 208/218) to Gibson Direct at a cost of £532,577;
- (C) to award contract 9574F Glasgow North West DRT, including local services Linnvale – Clydebank – Duntocher (service 81/81a) to Gibson Direct at a cost of £695,360;
- (D) to award contract 9575E North Ayrshire DRT to Shuttle Buses at a cost of £943,600;
- (E) to award the temporary contracts as detailed in the report which would commence on 14 July 2013 and would remain in place until delivery of the vehicles to be supplied by SPT for operation of the main contracts; and
- (F) to award a contract for the purchase of 8 buses within the parameters of the fleet replacement policy from a supplier who was already on an existing procurement framework; and
- (ii) 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.

15 March 2013

10. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 6 March 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) detailing changes to subsidised local bus services, the committee noted the amendments as detailed below:-

Contract	Amendment	Cost
Contract LS052D Carluke – Lower Braidwood (service 10B)	Delay commencement date of contract from 17 February to 9 April 2013 due to similar journeys being provided on an unsubsidised basis	£2,175 saving
Contract W032T2 Annan/Dumfries/Biggar – Edinburgh (services 100/101/102/103)	Alteration to the route and timetable to improve reliability from 10 February 2013.	None

11. MyBus service - update

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 6 March 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) outlining the geographical areas of growth of the MyBus service and the various factors which contributed to that growth;
- (2) explaining
 - (a) that if the current increase in growth of 19% which had occurred over the last 2 years continued against the backdrop of on-going demographic and social change, the projected number of passenger trips annually on MyBus services could reach 900,000 by 2015/2016; and
 - (b) that as an increase of this magnitude could not be absorbed within the existing vehicle resources, it was estimated that an additional 18 buses could be required, including additional contact centre staff resources;
- (3) informing members
 - (a) that although SPT set itself a target of fulfilling at least 96% of all passenger trip requests on the MyBus service, with year-on-year growth in passenger numbers, it had become increasingly difficult to meet that target; and
 - (b) that in order to achieve the standards set for fulfilment of trip requests, it would be necessary to invite tenders for the introduction of additional vehicle resources to meet that demand;

15 March 2013

- (4) advising members
 - (a) that SPT had been pursuing a more proactive role in fostering the co-ordination and development of the community transport sector which had included investigations into opportunities to develop a Community Transport Public Social Partnership, which was a strategic partnering arrangement, supported by Scottish Government to involve the third sector earlier and more deeply in the design and commissioning of public services; and
 - (b) that one potential project under the Community Transport Public Social Partnership could be the design and delivery of MyBus services to assist SPT in meeting the growing demand; and
- (5) concluding
 - (a) that members would undoubtedly appreciate the challenges involved in SPT continuing to deliver the quality of service currently enjoyed by MyBus customers; and
 - (b) that although officers would review all options to augment current resources at a minimal cost, it was likely that a further paper would be presented to the committee for it to consider the funding of increased vehicle resources where it was necessary, in order to achieve the required level of fulfilment of trip requests.

After discussion, the committee

- (i) agreed
 - (A) to the invitation of tender prices to address issues in those areas as detailed in the report to reduce the incidence of non-fulfilment of trip requests; and
 - (B) that officers would investigate options for the delivery and design of the MyBus service as part of the Community Transport Public Social Partnership Development; and
- (ii) otherwise, noted the terms of the report.

12. Requests for subsidised local bus services

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 February 2013 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 approved the recommendations in respect of the local subsidised bus services requests detailed in the report.

13. Additional report

In terms of Standing Order No 3.2, the committee agreed to consider the following additional item at this stage of the meeting.

15 March 2013

14. Review of Sunday service on Gourock – Kilcreggan ferry

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With reference to the minute of 25 January 2013 (page 6, paragraph 11) when the committee had agreed to a tendering exercise for the provision of a Sunday service on the Gourock – Kilcreggan ferry service, based on the summer 2012 timetable, to operate during the Summer periods for the remainder of the contract; there was submitted a report (issued) of 5 March 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing information on tenders received for the Gourock – Kilcreggan ferry service on the basis of the summer 2012 timetable to cover the Summer 2013 period (31 March until 19 October 2013) and as an option also the summer periods during the remainder of the Monday to Saturday contract (31 March 2013 to 15 October 2015); and
- (2) recommending the award of an appropriate contract.

After discussion, the committee agreed

- (a) to award contract 1924 Gourock – Kilcreggan summer Sunday ferry service to Clyde Marine Service Ltd at a cost of £16,024 for the contract period 31 March 2013 to 19 October 2013; and
- (b) that a further report on the actual passenger usage for the service would be submitted to a future committee.