

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee meeting

23 January 2009

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 23 January 2009

- Present** Councillors David McLachlan (Chair), Charlie Gilbert (deputy), Alex Glass (deputy), Bill Grant, William Hendrie, Bobby McDill, Tommy Morrison, John Murray (deputy), Alistair Watson, David Wilson and appointed members Tom Hart, Ronnie Mellis and Bill Ure.
- Apologies** Councillors David Fagan, Archie Graham, Marie McGurk, Eddie Phillips and Chris Thompson.
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Secretary; Gordon Maclennan, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations); Eric Stewart, Director, Bus Operations and Neil Wylie, Director of Finance.
- Also Attending** John Yellowlees, First ScotRail.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed appointed member Ronnie Mellis to his first meeting of the Operations Committee.

2. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 31 October 2008 (issued) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. Public transport services monitoring report

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 23 January 2009 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, together with regulating and fleet profile statistics.

After discussion and having heard Messrs Maclennan and Stewart in further explanation of the report and Mr Yellowlees in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the contents of the report.

23 January 2009

4. Subsidised local bus recommendations – financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 January 2009 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 in further explanation, 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.

5. Award of contracts

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 14 January 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), the committee agreed to award the undernoted contracts for the renewal of subsidised local bus services:-

Contract	Operator	Contract Amount	Equivalent Annual Cost	Remarks
Contracts 0902C Bankhead – Glasgow (service 7) and	} } } } First Glasgow	£201,995	£59,120.49	41 month contract
Contract 3699D Govan – Mount Florida (service 121)	} (package) } Ref 14243 } }			
Contract 0915A Toryglen – Croftfoot (service M2)	First Glasgow	£26,753	£8,917.67	3 year contract. Lowest compliant tender.
Contract 2876A1 Cumbernauld Town Centre (services 343 & 346)	First Glasgow	£177,388	£59,129.33	3 year contract. Lowest compliant tender and based on the vehicle being supplied by SPT.
Contract 4489E Cambuslang – East Greenlees/Halfway – Parkhead (services 108 & 308)	First Glasgow	£192,139	£64,046.33	3 year contract. Sole tender.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Operations Committee

23 January 2009

Contract	Operator	Contract Amount	Equivalent Annual Cost	Remarks
Contracts 4945G1 Carlisle – Law – Hamilton (service 243)	Irvine's Coaches Ltd	£86,400	£28,800	3 year contract. Optional tender with minor timetable changes and based on the vehicle being supplied by SPT.
Contracts 5627E Bishopton – Linburn – Erskine (services 520 & 521)	Flosshaul Ltd	£209,000	£69,666.67	3 year contract. Lowest compliant tender.
Contract 5664C Paisley – Foxbar (service 63)	Flosshaul Ltd	£87,800	£29,666.67	3 year contract. Lowest compliant tender.
Contract 6269H Hayhill – Moorfield – Forehill (service 302)	Western Buses Ltd	£38,406	£12,802	3 year contract. Sole tender.
Contract 6951D Ayr – Dalmellington (service 52)	Western Buses Ltd	£51,248	£17,082.67	3 year contract. Sole tender. Award of this contract would maintain important evening links between rural communities in South and East Ayrshire with nominal cost increase.
Contract 8812B Helensburgh – Rhu – Coupar (service 316)	Garelochhead Minibuses & Coaches Ltd	£53,500	£17,833.33	3 year contract. Lowest compliant tender.

23 January 2009

6. Award of temporary subsidised local bus service contracts LS018T and LS010T

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 January 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing members of the award of two temporary local bus service contracts, in order to secure evening and Sunday provision as a result of recent withdrawal of services by First Glasgow; and
- (2) advising members that tenders would be invited for longer term contracts for consideration at a future Operations Committee.

After consideration and having heard Mr Stewart in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the award of the following temporary contracts to First Glasgow at a package cost of £1,179 per week from 4 January to 28 March 2009:-

- (a) LS018T Glasgow City Centre – Silverburn Shopping Centre (service 3); and
- (b) LS019T Glasgow – Buchanan Bus Station – Bargeddie (service 213).

7. Cessation of trading by Jay Coach Travel Ltd

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 January 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing members
 - (a) that Jay Coach Travel Ltd who operated 2 local bus services contracts on behalf of SPT and a number of home-to-school transport contracts in East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire arranged by SPT on behalf of the respective councils, had intimated to SPT that they would cease trading after close of operations on 29 December 2008; and
 - (b) that although the company had telephoned SPT to advise of their position, SPT were still waiting on formal clarification from them;
- (2) explaining that the process of replacing Jay Coach Travel Ltd on the contracts involved had been achieved successfully, with no dislocation of service to the public;
- (3) advising members that the following temporary contracts had been awarded until tenders could be invited for longer term contracts for consideration at a future Operations Committee:-
 - (a) contract 2857B East Dunbartonshire Ring'n'Ride service to Glasgow Citybus at a cost of £3430 per week; and
 - (b) contract 2876 Cumbernauld – Seafar/Wardpark (service 343/346) to First Glasgow at a cost of £1824 per week; and

23 January 2009

- (4) outlining the action taken by SPT in its agency role on a number of contracts in the East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire areas which provided home-to-school transport.

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

- (i) the terms of the report: and
- (ii) that efforts would be made to recover from the company any additional costs incurred by SPT.

8. Arrangements achieved for provision of subsidised school/local bus service contract from Dalmellington Primary School/Doon Academy – Burnton and Rankinston

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 15 January 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing members
 - (a) that tenders had been invited in 2008 to renew existing school/local contract Dalmellington Primary School/Doon Academy – Burnton and Rankinston (service 52A) for a three year period with effect from July 2008; and
 - (b) that this contract had not been awarded as the lowest tender price received exceeded SPT guidelines for a service of this nature and represented an unacceptable cost increase over the previous contract;
- (2) explaining that in order to obtain a more acceptable price, the contract had been re-advertised with the local element removed, ie schools only and the contract period extended to 5 years;
- (3) advising members
 - (a) that following consideration of tenders received, an agreement had been reached with the operator who had submitted the lowest tender to register the school journeys as a local service in order to maintain the previous local service provision; and
 - (b) that contract 6886H Dalmellington Primary School/Doon Academy – Burnton and Rankinston (service 52A) had been awarded to Smiths Coaches, Patna at a cost to SPT of £69,785 for the contract period which was equivalent to £13,957 per annum, with East Ayrshire Council funding £30,927 per annum for the school element of the contract; and
- (4) intimating that although the contract had been operating since July 2008, the necessity of obtaining approval from East Ayrshire Council for their contribution

23 January 2009

to the contract had delayed submission of award to the Operations Committee for homologation.

9. Requests for subsidised local bus services

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 January 2009 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 subsidised local bus service requests at paragraphs (a) and (c) - (g) of the report; and
- (2) approved the recommendations in respect of the undernoted request: -

Request

Decision

Provision of an evening and Sunday bus service linking Pather to Wishaw, Coltness, Cleland and Parkside.

The committee agreed that tenders be invited.

(Item b)

10. Conferences

The committee agreed

- (a) that the Chair and Vice-Chairs be authorised to attend the conference entitled "Time for High Speed Rail" to be held in London on 25 March 2009; and
- (b) that the Chair or substitute be authorised to attend the 58th UITP World Congress and Mobility and City Transport Exhibition to be held in Vienna on 7-11 June 2009.

11. Rail timetable alterations 2009 - 2010

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 January 2009 by Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that as part of their Rail Franchise commitments, First ScotRail hosted a bi-annual timetabling conference to inform the Regional Transport Partnerships of any alterations to the contracted timetable;
- (2) outlining proposals by First ScotRail for alterations to local rail services programmed to commence in 2009/10;
- (3) informing members that the proposed alterations to local rail services provided a stopping service at Bellshill, and not Uddingston as was the original and welcomed suggestion, plus a reduction of service at Cambuslang;

23 January 2009

- (4) advising members
 - (a) that whilst service improvements were welcomed, SPT did not consider Bellshill as the most effective stop for the Caledonian Express due to its limited facilities for parking, lack of scope for future enhancement and access to the station; and
 - (b) that a stop at Uddingston would have resolved all three of these issues; and
- (5) concluding that SPT would continue dialogue with Transport Scotland to seek an amendment to these proposed train timetable alterations to the more strategically effective stop at Uddingston and examine in detail why it was necessary to limit the stops at Cambuslang.

After discussion and having heard Mrs Davidson in further explanation and various members express their concerns at the lack of consultation on timetabling issues by Transport Scotland, the committee

- (i) noted the terms of the report;
- (ii) agreed
 - (A) that representation should be made to the rail authorities seeking an amendment to ensure that the Glasgow – Edinburgh via Shotts service stopped at Uddingston instead of Bellshill;
 - (B) that if this was not acceptable, Network Rail be requested to share the modelling data which demonstrated that a stop at Uddingston would disrupt the west coast main line patterns; and
 - (C) that the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) would raise East Ayrshire Council's concerns regarding the hourly timetable for the Glasgow – Kilmarnock rail line at her next meeting with the Chief Executive of Transport Scotland.