

## Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

### Minute of Operations Committee meeting

**30 October 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 30 October 2009

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<b>Present</b>	Councillors Davie McLachlan (Chair), Tom Barr (deputy), Bill Grant, William Hendrie, Tommy Morrison, Eddie Phillips and Alistair Watson and appointed member Tom Hart.
<b>Apologies</b>	Councillors David Fagan, Kaye Harmon, Alan Moir, Bobby McDill, Marie McGurk, John Reid, Chris Thompson and David Wilson and appointed members Ronnie Mellis and Bill Ure.
<b>Attending</b>	Valerie A Bowen, Senior Clerk; Eric Stewart, Director, Bus Operations and Neil Wylie, Director of Finance.
<b>Also Attending</b>	Councillors Archie Graham and George Roberts and John Yellowlees, First ScotRail.

### 1. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 4 September 2009 (issued) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

### 2. Declaration of interest

The committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Public transport services monitoring report

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 21 October 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 Mr Stewart in further explanation, the committee noted the contents of the report.

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

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 October 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 inform members of the current funding position for the subsidised local bus budget for 2009/2010, 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. Proposed award of new subsidised service contracts**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 21 October 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations),

- (1) informing members that various temporary contracts had been put in place to operate for the period from 26 October 2009 to 6 February 2010, in order to fill significant gaps in service provision, as a result of the withdrawal of commercial services by First Glasgow;
- (2) outlining tenders received
  - (a) for the award of long term replacement services for these temporary contracts; and
  - (b) for the award of a subsidised local bus service to service the Maxim/Eurocentral development; and
- (3) recommending the award of appropriate contracts.

After discussion,, the committee agreed

- (i) that a Chair's Committee consider the award of contract LS039 South Knightswood – Gartnavel Hospital (services 184 and 284) once confirmation of an alternative, cheaper tender had been received: and
- (ii) to award the remaining contracts as undernoted:-

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Contract amount</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
LS040 Stobhill – Buchanan Street, Glasgow (service 128)	First Glasgow (No.1) Ltd	£56,250	Lowest compliant tender. Contract effective from 7 February 2010 to 16 July 2011.

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<b>Contract</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Contract amount</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
LS041 Gartcosh – Glasgow Fort (service 133)	WJC Buses	£195,000	Lowest tender, based on an optional timetable. Contract effective from 7 February 2010 to 16 July 2011.
LS042 Paisley Road West - Govanhill, Glasgow (service 122)	First Glasgow (No 1) Ltd	£118,125	Lowest compliant tender. Contract effective from 7 February 2010 to 16 July 2011. Although the tender exceeded the guideline criteria, it was necessary for the provision of a local bus service in the west Pollokshields area.
LS043 Knightswood – Maryhill, Glasgow (service 194)	First Glasgow (No 1) Ltd	£56,250	Lowest compliant tender. Contract effective from 7 February 2010 to 16 July 2011.
LS011T Coatbridge, Sunnyside Station – Eurocentral - Strathclyde Business Park	Colchri Ltd	£640 per week (cost to SPT)	Lowest compliant tender. Temporary contract effective from 30 November 2009. Funded equally by SPT, North Lanarkshire Council and Maxim/Eurocentral. Performance to be reported to a future committee.

**6. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contract**

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With reference to the minute of 4 September 2009 (page 2, paragraph 4) when the committee had agreed that contract LS023A Morningside to Wishaw be awarded to Irvine's Coaches at a cost of £95,680 for the contract period, based on an option which provided similar journeys to those sought by SPT incorporated within Irvine's' recently

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introduced commercial X2 Cleland – Wishaw – Glasgow service, there was submitted a report (issued) of 13 October 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations),

- (1) informing members that Irvine's Coaches had withdrawn service X2 before the formal contract had been concluded;
- (2) recommending that, following a re-assessment of all previous tenders submitted, a contract be awarded to the second lowest tenderer Stuart's Coaches, at a cost of £99,840 for contract LS023A Morningside to Wishaw for the period from 2 November 2009 to 14 July 2012; and
- (3) highlighting
  - (a) that although the increase in the annual cost to SPT equated to an additional £1,560, Stuart's Coaches would provide a compliant low floor vehicle on the service; and
  - (b) that although the tender exceeded the guideline criteria, the service would provide a basic service to the people of Morningside.

After consideration, the committee approved the recommendation at (2) above.

## **7. Award of temporary subsidised local subsidised local bus service contract**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 October 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) advising members of the withdrawal of two Monday to Friday journeys on the 904 limited-stop express service operating between East Kilbride and Edinburgh from 2 October 2009;
- (2) explaining
  - (a) that current guidelines had been conceived to facilitate public transport access to essential services at local centres and did not address support for long distance travel; and
  - (b) that due to the impact that the withdrawal of this service would have on regular users, SPT had arranged a temporary replacement to allow members the opportunity to determine whether or not such a service should be eligible; and
- (3) informing members that a contract had been awarded to the lowest tenderer Scottish Citylink Coaches, at a cost of £500 per week from 5 October 2009 to 16 July 2010, in order that a review of the policy surrounding such services could be carried out and to assess the impact of the Caledonian Express (Glasgow – Edinburgh) rail service which would commence in December 2009.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (i) the terms of the report; and

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- (ii) that a report would be submitted to the next committee providing information on the usage of the service and detailing all issues associated with such services.

## **8. Proposed renewal of subsidised local bus service contract**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 October 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) detailing tenders received for the renewal of contract LS022A Helensburgh/Vale of Leven to Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley (service 340).

After discussion, the committee agreed that contract LS022A Helensburgh/Vale of Leven to Royal Alexandra Hospital (service 340) be awarded to Wilson's of Rhu at a cost of £187,902 for the contract period, subject to ratification and a 90% contribution from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

## **9. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts**

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 21 October 2008 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) detailing recent changes to subsidised local bus service contracts, the committee noted

- (1) that the timetable and route for contract 4946E1 Larkhall – Overton – Wishaw Hospital (service 251) had been extended to operate on Sunday mornings and afternoons for the remainder of the contract period at a cost of £200 per week from 26 July 2009;
- (2) that contracts 4424A South Lanarkshire and 4427 North Lanarkshire Adaptable Buses had been amended to operate outwith their original schedules to accommodate emergency public transport provision at a revised cost of £123,000 per annum from 13 July 2009;
- (3) that the route/timetables of the following contracts had been revised at no additional cost, in order to enhance continuity and provide better coordination on subsidised and commercial journeys:-
  - contract 0915A Toryglen – Croftfoot (service M2) from 26 October 2009;
  - contract 0914D Glasgow Inner Circle (service 89/90) from 25 October 2009;
  - contract LS018 Glasgow City Centre – Silverburn Shopping Centre (service 53) from 25 October;
  - contract LS009 Dumbarton – Tullichewan/Balloch (service 206) from 26 October 2009; and
  - contract 5659C Barrhead – Glasgow (service 303) from 25 October 2009;
- (4) that the route for contract 6941L Sorn - Cumnock – Ayr (service 347) had been revised at no additional cost, following recent bus service changes in the Ayr area from 24 August 2009;
- (5) that the route for contract 6159B Ayr – Girvan (services 358/360) had been revised at no additional cost, following recent bus service changes in the Ayr area from 24 August 2009; and

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- (6) that the route for contracts 4907B/4909A Dumfries – Biggar – Edinburgh (services 1001/101/102) had been revised at no additional cost to improve reliability from 18 October 2009.

**10. Homologation of award of subsidised contract LS032 Giffnock – Thornliebank (service 375)**

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With reference to the minute of 26 June 2009 (page 2 paragraph 4) when the committee had noted that First Glasgow had withdrawn their tender price recommended for the award of contract LS032 Giffnock – Thornliebank (service 375), there was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 9 October 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) informing members that, in view of the expiry of the temporary contract LS032T on 18 July 2009 and in order to maintain the provision of connections between Giffnock, Orchard Park and Thornliebank, contract LS032 Giffnock – Thornliebank (service 375) had been awarded to the remaining bidder, Colchri Ltd, at a revised cost of £195,840 for the three year contract period from 19 July 2009.

**11. Enhanced DRT funding applications: Rural Development Trust and East Dunbartonshire Transport Management Organisation**

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 13 October 2009 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 requests for grant funding of community transport projects provided by the Rural Transport Trust and East Dunbartonshire Transport Management Organisation to be met from the enhanced DRT budget;
- (3) highlighting
  - (a) that the enhanced DRT budget for 2009/2010 was underspent; and
  - (b) that if both funding requests were approved, a small underspend would remain.

After discussion, the committee agreed

- (i) to grant fund the Rural Development Trust in the sum of £49,250 for the current financial year and, subject to future commitment of grant funding, £42,750 in 2010/2011 and £24,000 in 2011/2012; and
- (ii) to grant fund East Dunbartonshire Transport Management Organisation in the sum of £22,979 for the period 1 October 2009 – 31 March 2010 for the provision of the community transport services as detailed in the report.

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## 12. Requests for subsidised local bus services

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 October 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), advising members of various requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services.

After consideration, the committee

- (1) agreed not to take any further action in respect of the local subsidised bus service request at paragraph (c); and
- (2) approved the recommendation in respect of the undernoted requests: -

### Request

### Decision

Provision of a subsidised bus service to the Peel Road Housing Development in Thorntonhall.

(item a)

The committee agreed that, although the subsidised 395 service currently did not have sufficient time to serve this estate, investigations should be made into the siting of additional bus stops on Eaglesham Road in the vicinity of Peel Road, in order to give residents easier access to the bus service.

Improvement to evening subsidised bus service links from Glasgow to Beith.

(item b)

The committee agreed that, although services could not be secured from Glasgow to Beith due to the availability of train services, investigations would be made into altering the timetable of service 125 to improve journeys from Glengarnock rail station.

The committee noted that although the operator had quoted an additional £30 per day to extend the current last journey to Beith, this would be the course of action only if the timetable could not be changed without adversely affecting other services/connections.

Provision of a subsidised bus service from Carnbroe to Coatbridge on a Saturday following the withdrawal of a service by Stepend Travel.

(item d)

The committee agreed that tenders be sought to evaluate the potential cost of providing this journey.

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Provision of additional journeys on service 26 to accommodate shift patterns at Morningside Nursing Home.	The committee agreed that the timetable would be examined with the operator of the service to determine if the request could be accommodated.
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(item e)

Relaxation of the boarding/alighting restriction on the 349 Croy to Kilysth service.	The committee agreed that the restriction on the early morning and early evening journeys on service 349 be removed.
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(Item f)

Provision of a subsidised bus service journey at approximately 0930 hours on service 89 from Springfield Road, Dalmarnock on Sunday mornings.	The committee agreed that, as there were no journeys provided commercially in this direction on Springfield Road prior to 1030 hours on Sundays, tenders be sought to evaluate the potential cost of providing this journey.
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(item g)

### 13. Chair's remarks

The Chair intimated that he had written to First ScotRail expressing his disappointment at their recent publication which had omitted to acknowledge the considerable financial investment and expertise provided by SPT and its local authority partners, North and South Lanarkshire councils, on Park and Ride facilities at Croy and Carluke stations. He advised members that Mr Montgomery, Managing Director, First ScotRail had subsequently spoken to him and apologised for this omission.