

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of meeting

17 August 2012

held in Consort House, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held in Consort House, Glasgow on 17 August 2012

Present Councillors George Redmond (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, John Bruce, Tony Buchanan, Jim Coleman, Kaye Harmon, Michael Holmes, Chris Kelly, Alan Moir, Robert G MacIntyre, Bobby McDill, Pauline McKeever, Denis McKenna, Paul Welsh, David Wilson and appointed members Tom Hart, Alan Malcolm, Niall McGrogan and Gavin Scott.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)/ Secretary; Valerie A Bowen, Senior Clerk; Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive and Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations).

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Maureen Burke (Substitute), David Fagan, Bill Grant, Bobby Lawson, Patrick McGlinchey, Chris Thompson and appointed member Bill Ure.

2. Declaration of interest in terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000

The Partnership noted that there were no declarations of interest.

3. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 22 June 2012 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. Committee minutes

The minutes (issued) of the undernoted committees were noted:-

- (1) Operations Committee of 29 June 2012; and
- (2) Strategy and Programmes Committee of 29 June 2012.

5. Recruitment of Appointed Members

Mrs Davidson

- (1) reminded members
 - (a) that the Partnership consisted of 20 elected members and between 7 and 9 non-elected (appointed) members; and
 - (b) that, following the expiry of the terms of office of 2 appointed members on 31 March 2012, there were only 5 appointed members on the Partnership; and

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- (2) informing members
 - (a) that the vacancies had been advertised in The Herald with a closing date of 17 August 2012; and
 - (b) that a Recruitment Committee of between five and seven members required to be established to short list candidates and conduct interviews.

The Partnership agreed, following nominations on proposed representation on the committee, membership of between five and seven members to be drawn from the following group:-

The Chair & Vice-Chairs
Malcolm Balfour
Kaye Harmon
Alan Malcolm
Alan Moir and
David Wilson

6. Data Protection Policy
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There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 July 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) intimating that the Data Protection Act 1998 required SPT to collect, process, hold and destroy personal and confidential information securely and responsibly;
- (2) appending a copy of a draft Data Protection Policy which would help ensure compliance under the Act by SPT; and
- (3) requesting approval of the draft Policy.

After consideration, the Partnership approved SPT's draft Data Protection Policy.

7. Scottish Government and Regional Transport Partnerships – Establishment of Joint Working Group
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There was submitted a report (issued) of 30 July 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing the Partnership of the establishment of an officer level working group between the Scottish Government and Regional Transport Partnerships to progress opportunities for RTPs to assist further the Scottish Government in delivering the National Transport Strategy;
- (2) appending the Terms of Reference of the group, together with timescales for the work programme which would conclude in December 2012; and
- (3) advising members that SPT would be represented by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) and the Business Improvement Manager.

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After consideration, the Partnership noted the terms of the report and that further updates would be provided.

8. Subway ticketing and fares proposals 2012/2013

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 August 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) reminding members that Subway fares had remained largely unchanged since January 2009 despite general inflationary pressures and increases in the overall cost of public transport, including operating costs;
- (2) intimating
 - (a) that it was important that fares were set appropriately in order to help minimise the subsidy requirement in line with the Subway modernisation business case; and
 - (b) that it was recognised also that Subway patronage and revenues might be impacted upon by the current economic climate and that whilst the impact of these factors was difficult to predict, it was vital that the Subway ticketing and fares offered had the flexibility to stimulate required growth;
- (3) informing members that, following a review of Subway ticketing and fares in comparison to local bus and rail products, it had been found that the proposed new fare structure for the Subway was competitively priced in relation to other modes of transport; and
- (4) recommending approval of a general increase of around 9% with effect from Monday, 10 September, 2012 as undernoted:-

Subway Fares	Adult (existing) & Proposed	Child	*Concession
Single	(£1.20) - £1.40	(£0.60) - £0.70	£0.80
Return	(£2.40) - £2.60	(£1.20) - £1.30	£1.20
Discovery (unlimited travel for one day)	(£3.50) - £3.80	n/a	n/a
10 Journey Ticket	(£11.00) - £12.00	(£5.50) - £6.00	n/a
20 Journey Ticket	(£20.00) - £22.00	(£10.00) - £11.00	n/a
7 Day Ticket	(£15.00) - £16.00	(£7.50) - £8.00	n/a
Park and Ride	£5.00	n/a	n/a

* Concessionary fare is set by the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee

After considerable discussion and having heard Mr Stewart explain that future introduction of smartcard ticketing on the Subway would offer increased flexibility and allow ticketing and fares to be aligned better with passenger requirements, Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Moir, moved approval of the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Balfour, seconded by Councillor McDill, moved as an amendment that the increase to fares be phased in between now and the introduction of smartcard ticketing.

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On a vote being taken by a show of hands, 4 members voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion which was accordingly declared to be carried.

9. Supported services fare change proposals

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 August 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) outlining the background to SPT's subsidised services and the arrangement in place to determine fare levels;
- (2) informing members of recent developments which bus operators had cited as impacting negatively on financial performance and which had implications for the viability of sections of the local bus network;
- (3) intimating
 - (a) that there was evidence of contraction of bus services in the SPT area, leading to a growing need for additional supported services which were socially necessary but not commercially viable; and
 - (b) that budget pressures remained and SPT continued to face on-going challenges to fund the replacement services;
- (4) highlighting the fact that since the last fares increase on SPT subsidised bus and ferry services approximately 18 months ago, there had been significant fuel cost increases together with reductions in Bus Service Operators Grant and Concessionary Travel payments to bus operators and it was likely that these factors were now being reflected in the higher tender prices that were being submitted for bus service contracts;
- (5) recommending that, in order for SPT to remain in a position to be able to support a maximum number of socially necessary services where needed, the following increases be approved:-
 - (a) raise the maximum permitted farescale by an average of 5%;
 - (b) raise the minimum fare on MyBus services from £2.00 - £2.50; and
 - (c) raise Gourock-Kilcreggan fares as undernoted:-

	Existing fare	Proposed fare	*Concession
Adult single fare	£2.35	£2.50	£0.80
Adult return fare	£4.60	£4.80	£1.20
Adult 10 journey fare	£15.75	£16.50	n/a
Child single fare	£1.20	£1.30	n/a
Child return fare	£2.30	£2.40	n/a
Child 10 journey fare	£9.00	£9.50	n/a
			n/a

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After consideration and having heard Mr Stewart in answer to members' questions, the Partnership approved the recommendations at (5) above.

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10. Register of Tenders

The Partnership noted that the Register of Tenders listing contracts awarded from 1 January to 31 March 2012 was available for inspection after the meeting.