

*joining up
journeys*

SPT

partnership minute

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of meeting

20 April 2007

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 20 April 2007.

Present:	East Ayrshire	Councillor Eric Ross
	East Renfrewshire	Councillor Alan Lafferty
	Glasgow	Councillor Irene Graham
	Glasgow	Councillor Jim McNally
	Glasgow	Councillor John Mason
	Glasgow	Councillor Alan Stewart
	Glasgow	Councillor Alistair Watson (Chair)
	Inverclyde	Councillor Eric Forbes
	North Lanarkshire	Councillor David Fagan
	North Lanarkshire	Councillor Barry McCulloch
	Renfrewshire	Councillor John McDowell
	South Lanarkshire	Councillor Davie McLachlan
	West Dunbartonshire	Councillor Linda McColl
	Appointed Member	Thomas Hart
	Appointed Member	Alan Malcolm
	Appointed Member	Niall McGrogan
	Appointed Member	Gavin Scott
	Appointed Member	Alan Wilson
Apologies:	North Ayrshire	Sam Taylor
	South Ayrshire	Margaret Toner
	Appointed member	Liz Connelly
	Appointed member	Bill Ure
Attending:	Valerie Davidson, Secretary; Ron Culley, Chief Executive; Gordon Maclennan, Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Support) and John Halliday, Assistant Chief Executive (Transport & Strategy).	

1. Councillor John McDowell

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Chair paid tribute to Councillor John McDowell, the longest serving member on SPT and ex Provost of Renfrewshire Council, who was due to retire at this year's local government elections.

The Chair highlighted the numerous committees on which Councillor McDowell had served and the various initiatives he had been involved in through his constituency work.

On behalf of the Partnership, the Chair thanked Councillor McDowell for his contribution to the work of the Partnership and previous Passenger Transport Authority and presented him with a watercolour of Paisley Abbey in recognition of this.

Councillor McDowell replied in suitable terms.

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2. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 23 February and special meeting of 16 March 2007 (issued) were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. Committee minutes

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

- (1) Personnel Committee of 12 March 2007;
- (2) Operations Committee of 16 March 2007;
- (3) Audit and Standards Committee of 29 March 2007;
- (4) Strategy & Programmes Committee of 30 March 2007; and
- (5) Chair's Committees of 26 and 30 March 2007.

4. Dispensation note to Regional Transport Partnerships from the Standards Commission

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 14 March 2007 by the Secretary,

- (1) reminding members
 - (a) that the Partnership had a Code of Conduct which was applicable to all members and which set out how members were expected to conduct the business of the Partnership; and
 - (b) that the Partnership had agreed previously that non-elected members could not exercise votes on matters considered by the Partnership;
- (2) appending a dispensation note from The Standards Commission for Scotland which permitted non-councillor members, in certain circumstances and subject to appropriate conditions and qualifications, to participate in Partnership business dealing with matters in which they might otherwise require to declare an interest or withdraw from the discussion;
- (3) explaining that, although the dispensation note allowed non-elected members to participate, it did not amend the right to vote; and
- (4) informing members that the Partnership's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders would be amended in due course to incorporate the dispensation.

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5. Property strategy review

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 April 2007 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Services),

- (1) advising members that, as part of taking forward the long term strategy for the Subway and the Regional Transport Strategy, a review of the organisation's property holdings was required to assist in the development of an integrated strategy aimed at delivering an improved customer experience and providing appropriate accommodation to enhance the operational benefits associated with these strategies;
- (2) intimating
 - (a) that the historical development of the Subway, combined with changes in local government over several decades, had led to a lack of investment in the infrastructure above ground which had led to a minimalist approach being taken towards repairs;
 - (b) that this had resulted in some of the station buildings experiencing increasing signs of neglect which had been accelerated by the lack of a planned maintenance/ refurbishment strategy;
 - (c) that many of the Subway stations were in emerging regeneration areas where significant development proposals offered an opportunity to explore methods to enhance and re-model the stations and surrounding land area to unlock a more integrated development; and
 - (d) that re-development would deliver better customer facilities and release property related added value revenue opportunities, such as commercial leasing;
- (3) explaining
 - (a) that the long term revenue generated from such activities would contribute to funding statutory enhancements such as DDA regulations, way finding, lighting and refurbishment of the internal station chamber ambience and reconfiguring ticket offices;
 - (b) that the unlocking of the development potential would require a comprehensive long term property strategy having regard to operational requirements but utilising the interconnection of the transport modes to increase the density levels of development above ground; and
 - (c) that working with partners and within the local plan review process to maximise the development of SPT's land was required and, to assist the in-house property team create the property strategy, the appointment of a property and planning consultancy was recommended; and
- (4) informing members that the development of a property strategy would be presented to a future Partnership meeting for formal approval and implementation.

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After consideration, the Partnership

- (i) approved the development of a property strategy for SPT premises to be presented to a future Partnership meeting; and
- (ii) noted that property consultants would be appointed to support the review at a cost of approximately £40,000.

6. Glasgow Airport Rail Link (Phase II) - Appointment of contractor for temporary football pitches and facilities

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 20 March 2007 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Transport and Strategy), the Partnership

- (1) approved
 - (a) the award of a contract to Souters Sports Ltd. in the sum of £1,208,714 for GARL Phase II formation of temporary football pitches and facilities, conditional on planning permission being granted by Renfrewshire Council; and
 - (b) the option to purchase prefabricated changing and storage units in the sum of £273,300; and
- (2) noted that this was a re-measurable contract and the final cost would reflect the actual quantities rather than the design quantities and thus might vary due to the nature of the work.

7. Croy Interlink bus services - future arrangements

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There was considered a report (issued) of 3 April 2007 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Transport and Strategy)

- (1) reminding members that for several years, the Scottish Executive had supported bus services that connected rail services at Croy station (Croy Interlink services) which, in parallel with the Croy Park and Ride development due to be completed in late 2009, was seen as relieving pressure on parking at Croy station;
- (2) advising members of the details of the five year agreement that had been reached with the Scottish Executive in 2002 and adjustments made to the services to meet public requirements in that time;
- (3) proposing
 - (a) that in relation to the continuation of services between April and September 2007, SPT ensure the continuation of the services from its available funds, eg the earmarked fund for rail, at a cost of approximately £150,000; and

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- (b) that in relation to services between September 2007 and late 2009 when the Park and Ride development was due to be completed, a tendering exercise take place to determine options for continuing with the current services or a predominantly peak service beyond 2007, and a report be submitted to a future Partnership meeting.

After consideration and having heard Mr Halliday in further explanation, the Partnership approved the proposals at (3) above.

8. British Airports Authority - Competition Commission

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 April 2007 by the Chief Executive

- (1) intimating
 - (a) that the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) had announced recently that it intended to refer the British Airports Authority (BAA) in general, and Glasgow and Edinburgh airports in particular, to the Competition Commission to cause an investigation into the supply of airport services by BAA within the UK as it had concluded that BAA's high regional market shares in the south-east of England and the central belt of Scotland restricted competition;
 - (b) that there had been increasing competition between airlines in recent years driven by the entry and rapid growth of low cost carriers whose activities had been assisted by the EU's liberalisation of air space; and
 - (c) that the OFT had argued that in the central belt of Scotland, BAA's ownership of Edinburgh and Glasgow airports prevented, restricted or distorted competition between the two airports as there were high barriers to entry and the airports were not subject to detailed price regulation;
- (2) informing members
 - (a) that the OFT considered that Prestwick airport, the only independent competitor in the region, had had some positive competitive effect on Glasgow airport; and
 - (b) that BAA had welcomed the opportunity to engage with the Competition Commission; and
- (3) recommending that, as SPT had been invited to advise the Competition Commission of its attitude towards BAA's dominance of the market in central Scotland post election 2007, the Partnership invite a presentation by BAA, and seek the views of those who might hold opposing views, prior to forming a response.

After consideration and having heard Mr Culley in answer to members' questions, the Partnership approved the recommendation at (3) above.

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9. Travel planning update

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 10 April 2007 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Transport and Strategy),

- (1) reminding members
 - (a) that the Scottish Executive had awarded SPT £170,000 per annum for the financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08 to encourage the development of travel plans; and
 - (b) that the funding had enabled SPT to employ three travel plan officers whose role was to work primarily with local authorities and Health Boards to produce travel plans which aimed to reduce single occupancy car use by encouraging employees to use more sustainable options;
- (2) informing members that a travel plan pocket guide (a copy of which was attached to the report) had been developed for SPT employees and would be launched formally in May to coincide with the provision of new cycle shelters at Broomloan depot; and
- (3) outlining various initiatives which were proposed or taking place to promote travel planning and other sustainable transport initiatives.

10. The Commonwealth Games

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 3 April 2007 by the Chief Executive,

- (1) reminding members that Glasgow City Council was bidding to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games in competition with Abuja, Nigeria;
- (2) intimating
 - (a) that the Scottish Executive and Glasgow City Council were responsible for funding the games at a cost of £288 million, £57.6 million of which would be provided by the council;
 - (b) that a bid document would be submitted on 9 May 2007 and a final decision would be taken on 9 November 2007; and
 - (c) that the main economic benefits would arise from the opportunity to change the external perception of the west of Scotland by way of providing the opportunity to redevelop a large swathe of the east end of Glasgow where the games village would be sited, improve national sporting and recreational facilities and a legacy of better transport facilities; and
- (3) informing members
 - (a) that as visits were proposed by the Games Evaluation Committee and the Commonwealth Games Federation Executive in June and August, respectively, it was

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essential that there was a mood of optimism by the general public about holding the games in the west of Scotland;

- (b) that SPT intended to play its part in making the public aware of the bid by decorating the exterior of the middle carriage of each Subway train with a vinyl coating printed with the Games marketing material; and
- (c) that SPT was determined to implement those aspects of the Regional Transport Strategy that affected the regeneration of the east end of the city of Glasgow and, by extension, supported the Commonwealth Games.

11. Police services agreement with British Transport Police

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 2 April 2007 by the Chief Executive informing members of a successful pilot scheme that had been carried out during the first three months of 2007 whereby British Transport Police had provided two officers for the day to day policing of the Subway, the Partnership

- (1) agreed to suspend its Standing Orders relating to competitive tendering;
- (2) approved the award of a contract to British Transport Police for the provision of policing services on the Subway for a four year period in the sum of £317,024, based on current salary costs per officer and assuming annual salary increases not exceeding 3% during the contract period; and
- (3) noted that the figure did not include uniform, recruitment or training costs which would be payable in addition.

12. Conferences

The Partnership

- (1) considered attendance at the undernoted conferences
 - (a) "Rail 2007 – Developing our rail network" to be held in Birmingham on 17 May 2007; and
 - (b) "Confederation of Passenger Transport UK" to be held in Auchterarder from 24 – 26 September 2007; and
- (2) agreed
 - (a) that the Chair or his nominee be authorised to attend "Rail 2007 – Developing our rail network" ;and
 - (b) that the Chair and one other member be authorised to attend "Confederation of Passenger Transport UK" .

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13. Register of Tenders

The Partnership noted that the Register of Tenders listing contracts awarded from 1 January to 31 March 2007 was available for inspection after the meeting.

14. Valedictory

As it was the last Partnership meeting before the elections, the Chair thanked all members and staff for their help and support over the past four years.

