

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee

16 November 2012

held in Consort House, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow, on 16 November 2012

Present Councillor David Fagan (Chair), Denis McKenna, George Redmond, James Scanlon (substitute) and Paul Welsh and appointed members Tom Hart, Alan Malcolm and Gavin Scott.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)/ Secretary; Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance & HR; Charlie Hoskins, Director of Projects; Gordon Dickson, Head of Transport Planning and Economics and Bill McDowell, Technical Project Co-ordinator.

1. Death of Councillor John Reid

Prior to commencement of the meeting, the Chair referred with sadness to the death of Councillor John Reid who had been one of North Ayrshire Council's representatives on the Partnership until May 2012. He advised that Councillor Reid had been a well liked member of the Partnership and would be sadly missed. The committee then observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

2. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors John Bruce, John Cairney (substitute) Jim Coleman, Bill Grant, Bobby Lawson, Pauline McKeever and Chris Thompson and appointed members Alan Malcolm and Gavin Scott.

3. 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.

4. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 14 September 2012 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minute with regard to page 4, paragraph 10, Mr Hoskins advised members that following the first meeting of the West of Scotland Rail Forum the following month a report providing an update on EGIP and the franchise process would be submitted to the next Strategy and Programmes Committee.

5. Revenue monitoring report as at 13 October 2012, period 7

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With reference to the minute of 14 September 2012 (page 1, paragraph 4) when the committee had noted

- (1) the revenue monitoring position for the period to 18 August 2012 (period 5); and
- (2) that an underspend of £644,000 was forecast,

there was submitted a report (issued) of 31 October 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

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- (a) reminding members that the Partnership had approved a revenue budget for 2012/2013 of £38.418m;
- (b) appending the revenue monitoring report for the period to 13 October 2012 (period 7);
- (c) informing members that since the forecasted underspend, additional savings had been captured in employee costs and increased income recognised, resulting in a net forecast underspend of £2,375,000; and
- (d) explaining
 - (i) that it was proposed to utilise savings of £2,000,00 as a contribution to the Subway Modernisation fund in line with the programme detailed in the Subway Modernisation Business Case which minimised the risk to the funding partners in future years of increased requisition levels to support future years borrowing; and
 - (ii) that if approved, this would result in a net forecast underspend of £375,000.

After consideration and having heard Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, the committee

- (A) noted the projected outturn position as at period 7; and
- (B) approved the proposed contribution to the Subway Modernisation fund as outlined at (d) above.

6. Capital programme monitoring report and proposed amendments as at 13 October 2012 period 7

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P* There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 November 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the 2012/2013 capital programme of £37.920m had been approved by the Partnership on 30 March 2012 against known capital funding of £21.692m;
- (2) advising members that actual expenditure as at 13 October 2012 (period 7) totalled £8.970m compared to a planned spend position of £14.479m;
- (3) providing a detailed financial analysis of individual projects contained within the programme, split by department which indicated a risk to spend potential of minus £8.434m (£3.553m Subway modernisation and £4.901m other capital projects);
- (4) appending proposed amendments to the capital programme, together with reasons for the adjustments listed against each project, which gave a revised projected outturn figure of £42,218m and
- (5) recommending that the committee
 - (a) note
 - (i) the financial performance of the 2012/2013 capital programme as at 13 October 2012 (period 7);

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- (ii) the results of the risk assessment exercise as detailed in the report; and
 - (iii) that further work to manage risks, advance savings and re-phase existing projects was being undertaken to balance spend against budget;
- (b) approve
- (i) the proposed amendments to the 2012/2013 capital programme as detailed in appendix 2 to the report; and
 - (ii) the award of grant funding up to the value of £160,000 to the local authorities and other identified bodies as detailed in the report;
- *(c) agree to recommend to the Partnership the award of grant funding over the value, or cumulative award value of £160,000 to the local authorities and other identified bodies as detailed in the report; and
- (d) authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) to sign the grant funding letters to expedite all of the projects.

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

7. Treasury Management mid-year review report 2012/2013

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 1 November 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) informing members that, in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Treasury Management in Public Services Code and SPT's Financial Regulations, a mid year report required to be produced to present an overview of treasury activities undertaken in the first half of the year;
- (2) summarising the Treasury Management performance for the first six months of the financial year 2012/2013; and
- (3) concluding that, during the first half of 2012/2013, the investment strategy and prudential indicators had been complied with and investment income was exceeding budget.

8. Active and sustainable travel update

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 2 November 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing detail on travel planning and sustainable travel projects and initiatives being taken forward by SPT and its partners during 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 and the beneficial impacts of those investments;
- (2) informing members that SPT continued to work with partners to ensure co-ordination of investment and integration with other modes which had included recent discussions with SUSTRANS regarding the coordinating investment from their 'Community Links' initiatives which was funded and supported by Scottish Government;

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- (3) explaining that although there was currently little data on the impacts of investment in active travel across Scotland, a number of councils in the West of Scotland were introducing cycle counters on main routes and gathering data on use; and
- (4) concluding that SPT would work with its constituent councils, Sustrans and the Scottish Government to improve the monitoring of active travel projects and seek opportunities for coordinated funding.

9. Local bus services for a prosperous Glasgow

Mr Dickson and Mr McDowell gave a presentation entitled “Local bus services for a prosperous Glasgow” which

- (1) highlighted challenges and opportunities to improve the public transport network in Glasgow city centre;
- (2) outlined several major developments emerging which were intended to stimulate growth and change in the city; and
- (3) provided suggestions for a more efficient bus network, including improvements to the quality, capacity and performance of bus facilities, increased priority and reliability and reduced bus density on streets.

After discussion and having heard Messrs Dickson and McDowell in answer to members' questions, the committee thanked them for their informative presentation.