

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee

22 March 2013

held in Consort House, Glasgow

contact officers:

Valerie A Bowen phone: 0141 333 3130

Kirsten Clubb phone: 0141 333 3576

Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow, on 22 March 2013

Present Councillors Kaye Harmon (Chair), Eddie Devine, Bill Grant, Denis McKenna, George Redmond, Fariha Thomas (substitute) and Paul Welsh and appointed members Anne Follin, Tom Hart, Alan Malcolm, Jim McNally, Susan Nicol and Gavin Scott.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support); Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations); Neil Wylie, Director of Finance and HR and Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy and Planning.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors John Bruce, Jim Coleman, David Fagan and Pauline McKeever and appointed member Ann Faulds.

2. 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.

3. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 1 February 2013 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. Revenue monitoring report as at 2 February 2013 (period 11)

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 6 March 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the Partnership had approved a revenue budget for 2012/2013 of £38.418m;
- (2) informing members that significant variances had occurred across departmental budgets as SPT continued to drive through the savings programme together with a strong cost control on all budget heads;
- (3) appending
 - (a) a summary of the major forecast variances which had identified a forecast positive outturn for the current financial year of £260,000; and
 - (b) the revenue monitoring report for the period to 2 February 2013 (period 11); and
- (4) explaining
 - (a) that any positive outturn would be utilised as part of SPT's overall funding and reserves strategy to safeguard frontline services, support capital works (non-Subway related) and funding of Subway modernisation; and

22 March 2013

- (b) that this approach would minimise the risk to the funding partners in future years of increased requisition levels and would support future years borrowing.

5. Capital programme monitoring report and proposed amendments as at 2 February 2013 (period 11)

[Click here to view report](#)

P* There was submitted a report (issued) of 28 February 2013 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 grant and other sources of funding;
- (2) advising members that actual expenditure as at 2 February 2013 (period 11) totalled £19.874m compared to a planned spend position of £27.686m;
- (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 £1.731m (£0.472m Subway modernisation and £1.259m 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 £37.675m; and
- (5) requesting that the committee
 - (a) note
 - (i) the financial performance of the 2012/2013 capital programme as at period 11;
 - (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 Mrs Davidson and Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, the committee approved the recommendations at (5) above.

22 March 2013

6. Treasury Management Strategy 2013/2014

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 6 March 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) outlining the background to SPT's treasury management processes;
- (2) appending SPT's
 - (a) proposed counterparty list;
 - (b) permitted investment types; and
 - (c) Treasury Management Policy Statement
- (3) detailing the proposed treasury management strategy for SPT for the financial year 2013/2014 under the following headings:-
 - capital plans and the prudential indicators;
 - current treasury position;
 - treasury indicators which would limit the treasury risk and activities of SPT;
 - prospects for interest rates;
 - borrowing strategy;
 - policy on borrowing in advance of need;
 - investment strategy;
 - creditworthiness policy; and
 - policy on use of external service providers; and
- (4) recommending that the committee
 - (a) approve the Treasury Strategy for 2013/14;
 - (b) approve SPT's prudential indicators as detailed in the report, subject to confirmation from government of support for future borrowing; and
 - (c) approve the counterparty list detailed in Appendix 1.

After consideration and having heard Mrs Davidson and Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, the committee approved the recommendations at (4) above.

7. Delivering a step change in bus policy – Progress update

Mr Stewart gave a presentation entitled "Delivering a step-change in bus policy" which

- (1) provided members with information in relation to SPT's investment in bus related projects over the past 5 years, Statutory Quality Partnerships, Fastlink and the current market conditions;
- (2) highlighted SPT's comparatively low funding for bus service provision per head of population;

22 March 2013

- (3) reminded members of SPT's current policy status with particular reference to the RTS strategic priority 'A step change for Bus' and SPT's 10 Point Plan; and
- (4) outlined a proposed bus policy framework which would be presented to the Partnership at its meeting in June.

After discussion, and having heard Mr Stewart in answer to members' questions, the committee thanked him for his informative presentation.

8. Community Rail Partnerships

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 27 February 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) informing members of proposals by the Scottish Government to facilitate the establishment of Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) across Scotland in the belief that such bodies could form a bridge between the railway and local communities by bringing together a wide range of interests along a rail corridor;
- (2) intimating that Transport Scotland had emphasised that any such CRP should be complementary to other initiatives, such as ScotRail's 'Adopt a Station' initiative, which encouraged community-focused organisations to utilise vacant accommodation available on the rail network;
- (3) appending a copy of the draft application form which interested parties were required to complete in order to create a CRP in Scotland;
- (4) explaining that, as SPT was one of the agencies which must formally support any CRP in its area prior to it being established, it would have a key role to play and significant influence on the development of proposals in its area; and
- (5) advising members that SPT's officers would continue to liaise with all relevant bodies to ensure that any benefits aspired to by CRP proposers could be delivered in a cohesive and accountable manner.

9. Active travel – Cycling strategy and investment

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 February 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing members
 - (a) that SPT's cycling strategy and investment proposals had been developed in partnership with constituent councils and Sustrans to assist in reducing air pollution and carbon emissions through encouraging a shift away from the private car, tackling congestion and helping people to live more active, healthier lives; and
 - (b) that the Scottish Government's target of 10% of all journeys being made by cycling by 2020 had provided the impetus for organisations like SPT, councils and Sustrans to increase delivery of cycling initiatives;

22 March 2013

- (2) intimating
- (a) that SPT, with partner councils, had invested over £2m in cycling improvements over the last 3 years and there was evidence that this was making a positive impact;
 - (b) that SPT worked closely with Sustrans to ensure that investment across the west of Scotland was sharply focussed, co-ordinated and ensured best value from the resources available;
 - (c) that following discussions with councils and Sustrans, it had become apparent that there were opportunities to develop stronger partnership working around a set of shared objectives with an emphasis on increasing the number of commuting and short trips by cycle and, to this end, officers had recently liaised with councils, Transport Scotland, Sustrans, NHS Boards and Cycling Scotland to seek views on a refreshed programme for the west of Scotland based around these objectives;
 - (d) approving a Cycling Programme for the next three financial years, in line with SPT's overall capital programme, which sought to contribute to the Scottish Government Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS), and build on the earlier RTS Walking and Cycling Action Plan and Sustrans objectives, and
 - (e) that Sustrans had a Community Links fund which SPT, councils and other bodies had applied to for match funding to take forward walking and cycling initiatives and projects and that decisions on these bids were due soon; and
- (3) advising members that delivery of the programme was dependent on future funding from the Scottish Government being made available.

After consideration and having heard Mr Kiloh in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the terms of the report.