

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee meeting

26 March 2010

held in Consort House, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held in Glasgow on 26 March 2010

- Present** Councillors David Fagan (Chair), Robert Burrows, Jonathan Findlay, Archie Graham, Ian Gray, Denis McKenna, James McNally, Duncan MacIntyre and George Roberts and appointed members John Boyle, Alan Malcolm and Gavin Scott.
- Apologies** Councillors Bill Grant, Eddie Phillips and appointed member Liz Connolly.
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)/Secretary; Gordon MacLennan, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations); Charlie Hoskins, Director of Projects and Neil Wylie, Director of Finance.

1. Declaration of interest

The committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

2. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 29 January 2010 (issued) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minute with regard to

- (1) page 3, paragraph 4, Mrs Davidson updated members on the "conversion of diesel buses" project. She advised that, at this stage, two Henderson Travel buses were now in the process of being converted; and
- (2) page 5, paragraph 8, Mrs Davidson advised members that Park and Ride statistics for all First Scotrail stations had recently become available from Transport Scotland and would be reported to the next Operations Committee.

3. Revenue budget monitoring as at 27 February 2010

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 March 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the Partnership had approved a revenue budget for 2009/2010 of £47.642m;
- (2) appending the revenue monitoring report for the period to 27 February 2010 (period 12);
- (3) informing members that, based on the information to date, an underspend of £185,000 was forecast; and
- (4) outlining the main reasons for the underspend.

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After consideration and having heard Mrs Davidson in further explanation of the report and in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the projected outturn position on the information available at the end of period 12.

4. Capital programme monitoring and proposed amendments and additions as at 27 February 2010

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The Chair advised members that it would be appropriate for a revised report to be considered by committee, taking into account all of the changes which inevitably took place towards the end of the financial year. Thereon, there was submitted a revised report (tabled) of 11 March 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) providing a financial analysis of the capital programme budget and actual spend as at 27 February 2010 (period 12) in summary by service and in detail by project, which highlighted an actual spend to date of £17.334m compared to a planned spend position by the end of period 12 of £22.160m;
- (2) advising members
 - (a) that, although there remained a specific risk in 2009/10 with regard to the delivery of buses which had been procured on a spend to save basis, this was being reviewed on a daily basis in conjunction with the supplier;
 - (b) that the Scottish Government had provided an additional £1m general funding in support of SPT's drive to purchase buses as a spend to save initiative; and
 - (c) that, in addition, Clyde Gateway had provided a funding contribution of £170,000 for GRIP3 works relating to the Dalmarnock Rail Station project;
- (3) appending a list of various proposed amendments to the capital programme which, if approved, would result in a projected underspend of £0.933m for 2009/2010;
- (4) explaining
 - (a) that the projected underspend which was within the SPT 10% tolerance level would be carried forward into 2010/11, thereby increasing the funding available for that year by £0.680m; and
 - (b) that the situation would be managed and reported to committee throughout 2010/11 to ensure the outturn against available budget was balanced, whilst also being able to take any opportunity for potential additional funding which might become available; and
- (5) recommending that the committee
 - (a) note the delivery and financial performance of the 2009/2010 capital programme as at period 12; and

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- (b) approve
 - (i) the amendments to the 2009/2010 capital programme as detailed in the report to reflect project delivery projections and the requirement to manage the programme to within available funding constraints; and
 - (ii) the amendments to the 2010/11 capital programme, due to the continuation of a number of projects into that financial year and the underspend being carried forward from 2009/10.

After discussion, the committee approved the recommendations at (5) above.

5. Croy Station Park and Ride project – change to the proposed award of construction contract

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With reference to the minute of the Partnership of 26 February 2010 (page 8, paragraph 16) when the Partnership had

- (1) considered a report on tenders received for the construction of Croy Rail Station Park and Ride; and
- (2) agreed to award the contract to Barr Holdings Ltd in the sum of £1,850,523,

there was submitted a report (issued) of 11 March 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (a) advising members
 - (i) that during the statutory contract standstill period, Barr Holdings Ltd had advised that they were unable to stand by their tender price; and
 - (ii) that the lateness of the notification from the contractor, following the conclusion of the tender assessment which had involved in depth clarifications, onward reporting to the Partnership and publication of the full tender results, was extremely disappointing and a letter had been sent to the contractor expressing this view;
- (b) informing members that immediately on receipt of the information from Barr Holdings Ltd, SPT had moved swiftly and had engaged with the next highest score tenderer in accordance with the already completed assessment;
- (c) recommending that the committee now award the contract for the construction of Croy Station Park and Ride to RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd in the sum of £2,507,032.97;
- (d) explaining
 - (i) that some minor design modifications of the emergency exit and culvert crossing had been made in line with the final version of the development

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agreement between North Lanarkshire Council and SPT and the final version of the planning conditions; and

- (ii) that as these modifications would be undertaken in line with the tendered rates and contract conditions for the works, the final contract sum would be adjusted to incorporate these minor variations; and
- (e) indicating
- (i) that the development/licence agreement for the construction period and a lease agreement for the operation and maintenance of the new car park had been agreed in principle; and
 - (ii) that the section 75 agreement which accompanied the planning application had recently been approved by North Lanarkshire Council, thereby concluding the outstanding matters related to planning permission.

After considerable discussion, particularly relating to SPT's general tendering processes and having heard various members express their disappointment in Barr Holdings Ltd and congratulate SPT's officers for their swift approach in resolving the situation, the committee

- (A) approved the recommendation at (c) above; and
- (B) noted that a further 10 day standstill period, in accordance with European tendering requirements, was required prior to the award of contract to RJ McLeod (Contractors) Ltd.

6. Govan Subway Station – Public realm improvement - proposed award of construction contract

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 March 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) detailing tenders received for the construction and implementation of public realm works in the surrounding areas at Govan Subway Station;
- (2) outlining the substantial partnership working with Glasgow City Council and Govan Cross Shopping centre to deliver the project for completion in 2010;
- (3) recommending that a contract be awarded to Land Engineering (Scotland) Ltd in the sum of £552,313.53;
- (4) explaining that in addition to the construction cost, a total of £68,325 (excluding VAT) had been included in the projects cost for professional fees as detailed in the report;
- (5) highlighting the fact that Glasgow City Council had agreed to grant fund the works from the Town Centre Regeneration Fund amounting to £620,638.53; and

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- (6) advising members that the total project costs would be incorporated into the 2010/11 capital programme, together with the associated project specific funding from Glasgow City Council, resulting in no net cost to SPT.

After discussion, the committee approved the recommendation at (3) above, subject to the receipt of an acceptable grant award letter from Glasgow City Council prior to placing the construction contract

7. ScotRail Franchise : Station Investment Plan

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 March 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) detailing ScotRail's Station Investment Plan works and other committed station improvements to be delivered by October 2011;
- (2) intimating that the Station Investment Plan works proposed included the following projects funded by SPT:-
 - part funding of CCTV (now completed) as part of the new Partick Rail Station buildings;
 - funding of the extension to the car park at Dalreoch Rail Station (recently completed);
 - funding of a new car park; and
 - construction of a new 700+ space car park at Croy Rail Station, with a proposed capacity of 329;
- (3) confirming that SPT were also investing considerably in rail improvements in 2010 as shown in the following category 1 projects in SPT's Capital Programme 2010/11:-
 - Dalmarnock Rail Station Design (£250,000);
 - Uddingston Rail Station Park & Ride Design (£45,000);
 - Kilmarnock, Kilmaurs, Dunlop Rail Stations Park & Ride Study (£5,000);
 - Stewarton Rail Station Park & Ride Development (£500,000);
 - Bellshill Rail Station Park & Ride (£550,000);
 - Coatbridge Sunnyside Rail Station Park & Ride Development (£400,000); and
 - Motherwell Rail Station / Bus Interchange Improvements (£60,000).

After discussion the committee noted the terms of the report. Mr Yellowlees also advised members of temporary rail station closures at Drumgelloch for double

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tracking works reopening in December 2010 and Paisley St James for platform reconstruction by Network Rail, reopening on 7 August 2010.

8. SPT's response to proposed changes to the Stranraer-Girvan-Ayr rail service

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 8 March 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) intimating that Transport Scotland had contacted SPT seeking views on a proposed timetable change to the Stranraer – Glasgow rail service;
- (2) advising members that although the proposal sought to achieve a better fit between train times and the Stena ferry timetable from Belfast, the proposed timetable alteration would have resulted in a 4 hour northbound service gap between Girvan, Maybole and Ayr;
- (3) appending a comparison of current timetable provision and the proposed alteration;
- (4) highlighting the fact that Transport Scotland had been informed of SPT's concerns and subsequently the Transport Minister had taken the view that the proposed timetable alteration should not proceed;
- (5) explaining that the retention of the current services addressed both the needs of passengers using the train and the needs of communities served by the Girvan - Stranraer line; and
- (6) informing members that SPT would continue to monitor rail services on the Stranraer line, particularly in light of the announcement on 10 February 2010 by Stena to relocate their terminal from Stranraer to Old House Point ("Port Ryan"), north of Cairnryan where there would be no train connection.