

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee meeting

29 January 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 29 January 2010

- Present** Councillors David Fagan (Chair), Ian Gray, Davie McLachlan, James McNally, Duncan MacIntyre, Eddie Phillips and George Roberts and appointed members John Boyle, Liz Connolly, Alan Malcolm and Gavin Scott.
- Apologies** Councillors Archie Graham, Robert Burrows, Bill Grant, John Reid and Alistair Watson.
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)/Secretary and Charlie Hoskins, Director of Projects.

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 13 November 2009 (issued) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. Revenue budget monitoring as at 2 January 2010

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 21 January 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 2 January 2010 (period 10);
- (3) informing members that, based on the information to date, an underspend of £70,000 was forecast; and
- (4) outlining the main reasons for the underspend.

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 10.

4. Capital programme monitoring and proposed amendments and additions as at 2 January 2010

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 20 January 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

29 January 2010

- (1) providing a financial analysis of the capital programme budget and actual spend as at 2 January 2010 (period 10) in summary by service and in detail by project, which highlighted an actual spend to date of £10.640m compared to a planned spend position by the end of period 10 of £21.270m;
- (2) advising members
 - (a) that a risk analysis of the programme had indicated that between £1m and £3m of spend risk existed;
 - (b) that various factors had been taken into account when conducting the assessment, including potential programme slippage due to unresolved legal issues, any significant procurement activities still to be completed, the impact of the recent adverse weather conditions on the ability to implement physical works due to lack of resources or unsuitable ground conditions; and
 - (c) that the risk review would continue throughout the remainder of the financial year to ensure any other potential risks were managed and mitigated in the programme;
- (3) appending a list of various proposed amendments to the capital programme which, if approved, would result in a projected 2009/2010 year end spend of £28,863m. This would represent a revised projected overspend of £1.395m;
- (4) highlighting that, included within the proposed amendments was a recommendation from a recent Operations Committee for the approval of £1.484m to be accelerated from 2010/11 to the 2009/10 capital programme for the acquisition of up to 20 buses to provide Demand Responsive Transport services and those of some partners who contributed towards the delivery of SPT's Regional Transport Strategy; and
- (5) recommending that the committee
 - (a) note
 - (i) the delivery and financial performance of the 2009/2010 SPT capital programme as at period 10; and
 - (ii) the results of the risk assessment exercise as detailed in the report; and
 - (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;
 - (ii) the grant funding of £0.093m to First ScotRail from the 2009/10 capital programme for the provision of passenger shelters at the heavy rail platforms at Partick Station; and

29 January 2010

- (iii) the grant funding of £0.2m to First ScotRail from the 2009/2010 capital programme for the provision of Bridgeton station enhancements.

After discussion and having heard Mr Hoskins advise members that approval was also required to grant fund South Lanarkshire Council £550,000 from the 2009/2010 capital programme for Hamilton West Park and Ride project, the committee

- (A) approved the recommendations at (5)(b) above, including the grant funding of £550,000 to South Lanarkshire Council;
- (B) authorised the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) to sign the grant funding letters to expedite the projects; and
- (C) agreed that further information be provided on the "conversion of diesel buses" project at the next meeting.

5. Regional Transport Strategy Monitoring Report 2008/2009

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 18 December 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that "A Catalyst for Change", the statutory Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for the west of Scotland 2008-2021 had been approved by the Scottish Government in June 2008;
- (2) informing members that the Transport Scotland Act 2005 required RTPs to monitor annually their respective RTS to gauge progress towards outcomes and targets;
- (3) appending SPT's draft RTS monitoring report for 2008/2009 which highlighted the significant progress SPT and its partners had made towards delivering the RTS; and
- (4) explaining
 - (a) that achieving RTS outcomes would be dependant on future funding and partnership working with the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland, constituent authorities and other public and private sector partners;
 - (b) that SPT would continue to use the RTS and the RTS Delivery Plan Framework to guide interventions which would impact positively on the transport network in the West of Scotland; and
 - (c) that officers would continue to work in partnership with constituent authorities, the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan Authority and other relevant public and private sector partners to help ensure continuing delivery of the RTS.

29 January 2010

After consideration, the committee approved the RTS monitoring report for 2008/2009 for submission to Scottish Ministers.

6. Regional Transport Strategy: Strategic Environmental Assessment Post Adoption Statement

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 30 November 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that "A Catalyst for Change", the statutory Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for the west of Scotland 2008-2021 approved by the Scottish Government in June 2008 was subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
- (2) informing members that it was a requirement of the Act to produce a Post Adoption Statement for public inspection which set out how the findings of the SEA were taken into account in the development of the final RTS including:-
 - how the findings of the Environment Report had been integrated into the RTS;
 - how comments made during consultation, and which related to the SEA, had been addressed;
 - the reasons for choosing this RTS in light of other reasonable alternatives; and
 - measures to be taken to monitor the environmental effects associated with implementing the RTS; and
- (3) appending SPT's draft RTS Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Post Adoption Statement for approval.

After consideration, the committee approved the RTS Post Adoption Statement for publication.

7. Public Sector Equality Duty: specific duties – SPT consultation response

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 December 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) informing members that the UK Government's Equality Bill had been introduced to the Westminster Parliament in April 2009 and was intended to simplify, strengthen and harmonise current equality legislation, including a new general Equality Duty requiring public authorities to be active in promoting equality, eliminating unlawful conduct and fostering good relations;
- (2) advising members
 - (a) that the Scottish Government was consulting on possible additional "specific duties" to place on Scottish Public Authorities to assist in the

29 January 2010

delivery of the new general Equality Duty by developing a framework that would be strong, proportionate and flexible; and

- (b) that although the deadline for consultation responses was 15 January 2010, SPT had been granted an extension until 5 February 2010 to allow consideration of SPT's response by committee,
- (3) appending a copy of the proposed response for submission to the Scottish Government; and
- (4) concluding
 - (a) that although SPT's response supported the principles underpinning the general Equality Duty outlined in the UK Equality Bill, the response advocated that any specific duties placed on Scottish public authorities to assist the delivery of the general duty should not place excessive demands on them which might adversely impact their capacity to deliver services; and
 - (b) that any specific duties introduced should be firmly based on reasonableness and practicality.

After discussion, the committee approved the response.

8. Rail station car parking policy in Scotland - SPT consultation response

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 13 November 2009 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) informing members
 - (a) that since the devolution of rail powers in 2005/2006, Scottish Ministers had had the opportunity to develop policy and operations across road and rail in a more integrated way; and
 - (b) that a key aspect of realising this opportunity was the development and delivery of a policy which encouraged more efficient use of existing station car parks to facilitate modal shift from road to rail;
- (2) advising members that Transport Scotland had sought the views of SPT and other interested parties on the development and delivery of the Government's policy on station car parking; and
- (3) appending SPT's response to Transport Scotland; and
- (4) summarising the key elements of the response in terms of suppressed demand, station choice and charging regimes.

After discussion and having heard Mrs Davidson advise members that, at a recent Operations Committee, considerable discussion had taken place on station car parking and, consequently, a request had been made to Transport Scotland for Park

29 January 2010

and Ride statistics for all First ScotRail stations within the SPT area to be submitted to committee on a regular basis, the committee noted SPT's response.

9. East Coast main line: Change to Franchise

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 21 January 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that due to National Express Group PLC being unable to meet the terms of the East Coast Main Line (ECML) Rail Franchise, the franchise agreement had been terminated by the Department for Transport and passed to a new Government owned Direct Operating Company with effect from Friday 13 November 2009;
- (2) detailing the background to the transfer of the ECML franchisee, the new arrangements for operation of the franchise and the UK Government's future intentions for the franchise; and
- (3) concluding that the developing ECML situation would be closely monitored by SPT and any lessons learned would be taken into account should any future franchises fail.