

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee

29 November 2013

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 29 November 2013

Present Councillors Kaye Harmon (Chair), Jim Coleman, John Cairney (substitute), Gilbert Davidson, Margaret Devine (substitute), David Fagan, Pauline McKeever, Denis McKenna and Paul Welsh and appointed members Anne Faulds, Anne Follin, Tom Hart, Jim McNally and Alan Malcolm.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)/Secretary; Valerie A Bowen, Senior Committee Officer; Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations); Neil Wylie, Director of Finance and HR; Charlie Hoskins, Director of Projects and Gordon Dickson, Bus Development Manager.

Also attending John Yellowlees, ScotRail.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors John Bruce, Bill Grant, Eddie Devine, Brian McGinley (substitute) and Chris Thompson and appointed member Gavin Scott.

2. Declaration of interest in terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000

Anne Follin declared an interest in item no 9 in respect of the Fastlink project as she had been sub contracted by AECOM to assist in the planning application work relating to the project.

3. Minute of previous meeting

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The minute of the meeting of 11 October 2013 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minute with regard to page 4, paragraph 10, the Chief Executive informed members that the Chair of the Partnership had written to the Minister for Transport and Veteran Affairs on 12 November 2013 requesting clarity in a number of areas whilst at the same time making suggestions on improvements to the EGIP scheme as currently planned. An acknowledgment letter from the ministerial correspondence unit was received by SPT on 21 November 2013.

The Committee agreed that a copy of the Chair's letter be issued to all members.

4. Revenue monitoring report as at 12 October 2013 (period 7)

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 12 November 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the Partnership had approved a revenue budget for 2013/2014 of £38.418m;
- (2) intimating 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; and

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- (3) appending
 - (a) a summary of the major forecast variances which now identified a forecast positive outturn for the current financial year of £408,000, having taken account of all SPT service priorities across the revenue and capital programmes; and
 - (b) the revenue monitoring report for the period to 12 October 2013 (period 7).

5. Capital programme monitoring report and proposed amendments as at 12 October 2013 (period 7)

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 29 November 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the 2013/2014 capital programme of £45.725m had been approved by the Partnership on 15 February 2013 against known capital grant and other sources of funding;
- (2) advising members that actual expenditure as at 12 October 2013 (period 7) totalled £18.329m compared to a planned spend position of £21.735m;
- (3) providing a detailed financial analysis of individual projects contained within the programme, split by department;
- (4) intimating that no amendments to the programme were proposed at this time; and
- (5) requesting that the committee note
 - (a) the financial performance of the 2013/14 capital programme as at Period 7; and
 - (b) that further work to quantify and manage risks, advance savings and re-phase existing projects was being undertaken to balance spend against budget.

6. Treasury Management mid-year review report 2013/2014

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 14 November 2013 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 2013/2014; and
- (3) concluding that, during the first half of 2013/2014, SPT had operated within the Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Treasury Policy Statement and annual Treasury Management Strategy.

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7. Rail update in SPT area

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 October 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing information on strategic rail issues in the SPT area, in particular the West of Scotland Rail Forum (WoSRF), the ScotRail and Caledonian Sleeper Franchises, the Scottish Stations Fund, High Speed Rail, Community Rail Partnerships, timetable improvements/changes, fares and Dalmarnock station refurbishment together with other relevant projects/initiatives; and
- (2) confirming that, through the WoSRF and other opportunities, SPT continued to engage actively with rail industry partners to deliver an improved rail network in the west of Scotland and improved integration across modes.

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

8. Dalmarnock Rail Station redevelopment – progress update

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 13 November 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing members with an update on the development of the Dalmarnock Rail Station project; and
- (2) informing members
 - (a) that the new footbridge had been lifted into place in September 2013;
 - (b) that the works to complete the project, primarily on platform 1, were scheduled to be completed by the end of November 2013; and
 - (c) that the official opening ceremony would take place on 6 December 2013 and would be attended by members and senior officers from SPT.

9. Fastlink: Progress update

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With reference to the minute of 14 June 2013 (page 5, paragraph 11) when the committee had been provided with a Fastlink update covering progress to that date in delivery of the Fastlink Core Route, there was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 8 November 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) intimating
 - (a) that development and delivery of the Fastlink core route was progressing well;
 - (b) that traffic management proposals, essential to the efficient operation of Fastlink in the city centre, continue to be assessed by GCC alongside wider City Centre plans;
 - (c) that development of the Fastlink extension from New South Glasgow Hospitals to Braehead/Renfrew was progressing well; and

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- (d) that development of plans for the Fastlink sQP, including industry consultation, was well underway; and
- (2) informing members that, in terms of funding,
- (a) SPT continued to seek additional funding for the Fastlink project through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) process which would support delivery of eligible elements of the project including Real Time Passenger Information, CCTV, halt infrastructure and intelligent signalling systems;
 - (b) a budget of £15 million had been approved by the Partnership for the development of the Fastlink core route, including the City Centre, in 2013/14 and included some carry-over from 2012/13 which would allow the main Fastlink works to commence during 2013/14 as per the infrastructure delivery programme; and
 - (c) SPT had committed additional funding of £150,000 in 2013/14 to support the further development of the Braehead/Renfrew extension.

10. Park and Ride update

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 6 November 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) reminding members that, as part of a co-ordinated programme of development in partnership with constituent councils and industry partners, SPT had developed a comprehensive network of Park and Ride (P&R) locations in the SPT area;
- (2) explaining
 - (a) that, although for many years P&R was developed mainly through the opportunity to convert disused railway property adjacent to stations, development of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) had enabled the co-ordinated strategic planning and delivery of P&R to be set in the context of land-use and the wider transport network and a P&R Action Plan to be developed; and
 - (b) that although a key outcome of this was that the focus for investment was mainly on large rail and bus sites on strategic routes with the radial routes into Glasgow being the primary consideration, it did not discount consideration of non-regional, local, P&R projects that could contribute to the collective, strategic initiative by serving not only Glasgow but other key trip attractors;
- (3) intimating that since 2008, SPT had invested circa £10.5m to deliver (in partnership with constituent Councils, Transport Scotland, ScotRail and Network Rail) more than 3,000 new P&R spaces across 20 sites within the SPT area, including the delivery of approximately 1,500 spaces during the 2009-10 accelerated programme when £5m advanced funding had been provided by the Scottish Government for this purpose. This had assisted in delivering the 13% rise in rail patronage in the west of Scotland over the past 5 years;

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- (4) informing members that, to support the planning process and ensure that P&R development was targeted correctly at both the RTS and Transport Outcome Report priorities, together with travellers' needs, SPT had carried out a programme of user surveys which had confirmed that the facilities were meeting their objectives; and
- (5) concluding that development and delivery of P&R remained part of SPT's commitment to the objectives of the RTS, and further development work and delivery of new projects were currently in progress.

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