

## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of Operations Committee**

**16 August 2013**

held in Consort House, Glasgow

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## Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Operations Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow on 16 August 2013

**Present** Councillors Denis McKenna (Chair), Malcolm Balfour; Tony Buchanan, Jim Coleman, Bill Grant, Kaye Harmon, Chris Kelly, Robert G MacIntyre, Hamish Stewart and David Wilson.

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

### 1. Councillor Bobby Lawson

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, the Chair referred with sadness to the death of Councillor Bobby Lawson who, for a short period, had been one of South Lanarkshire Council's representatives on the Partnership. The committee then observed a period of silence as a mark of respect.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Alan Moir and Bobby McDill and appointed member Niall McGrogan.

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

Councillor Hamish Stewart declared an interest in item number 12 as he was a board member on the Rural Development Trust.

### 4. Minute of previous meeting

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The minute of the meeting of 31 May 2013 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

### 5. Public transport services monitoring report

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 7 August 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing the committee of the latest trends in the number of passengers carried and the reliability of services directly operated and supported by the Partnership and on ScotRail services in the SPT area; and
- (2) providing information on the current status of SPT's bus action plan for the continuing improvement of bus service delivery within the region, together with regulating and fleet profile statistics.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation, the committee noted the terms of the report.

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**6. Subsidised local bus service contract recommendations – financial implications**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 August 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) advising the committee of the financial implications of members' possible decisions relating to further items on the agenda.

After discussion, the committee

- (1) noted the report in relation to the financial implications of awarding any contracts; and
- (2) agreed to give due consideration to the implications when making decisions on those contracts.

**7. Temporary contracts awarded under delegated powers**

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 24 July 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) appending a list of temporary contracts awarded under delegated powers since the beginning of June 2013;
- (2) intimating
  - (a) that two of these were as a result of service gaps created when Riverside Transport ceased trading; and
  - (b) that the absence of advance details of additional ferry sailings had required urgent action to put in place bus connections on the Isle of Arran for early morning and late evening sailings; and
- (3) advising members that the tendering process would continue to ensure that the contracts were replaced on a long term basis.

**8. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts**

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 7 August 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) detailing changes to local bus service contracts, the committee noted the amendments as detailed below:-

Contract	Amendment	Cost
Contract 8812D Helensburgh - Coulport (service 316)	Withdrawal of a Sunday morning journey	Reduction of £75 per week to the cost of the contract
Contracts LS089 and W051T Kilmacolm - Johnstone Station (service 1) Hawkhead – Royal Alexandra Hospital – Brediland (service 10)	Cancellation of contracts with effect from 2 June 2013 when Riverside Transport ceased trading	Temporary contracts awarded under delegated powers (see para 7)

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Contract	Amendment	Cost
Contract 9600A Kilmacolm - Johnstone Station (service 301)	Withdrawal of a Monday to Saturday morning journey with effect from 28 June 2013	Increased MyBus availability
Contract LS045A Paisley – Clydebank (service 300)	minor alterations to the route and timetable, and renumbering of service 300 to 757 with effect from the contract commencement date of 14 July 2013	No cost
Contract 9593C Hamilton - Silvertonhill (service 230)	Provision of Monday to Saturday, early morning, and early evening journeys between Silvertonhill and Hamilton as service 230 with effect from 13 January 2013	Additional cost of £24,960 per annum (gross cost contract - fares collected offset costs)
Balfron - Aberfoyle - Drymen - Glasgow/Stirling (Services C10, C11 and C13)	Cancellation of cross boundary service by Stirling Council	Saving to SPT of £20,318 per annum

**9. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 August 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing information on the tenders received for subsidised local bus service contracts; and
- (2) recommending the award of appropriate contracts.

After discussion, the committee

- (a) agreed to the award of the following contracts:-
  - (i) contract 2876D Cumbernauld Local (services 343/346) to JD Coaches at a cost of £125,000 for the contract period 29 September 2013 to 11 July 2015;
  - (ii) contract LS080E Glasgow - Parkhead - Carmyle - Halfway (services 64/164)/ Newton Farm - Cambuslang - Parkhead (service 364) to Glasgow Citybus at a cost of £242,541 for the contract period 29 September to 16 July 2016; and
  - (iii) contract W053 Carluke Local (Service 47)/ Lanark Local (Service 135) to Stuarts Coaches at a cost of £86,250 for the contract period 29 September 2013 to 11 July 2015; and
- (b) noted that the award of the contracts was subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for EU advertised public sector contracts.

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**10. Requests for subsidised local bus services**

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 7 August 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) advising members of various requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services and recommending action in respect of each request.

**11. Community transport projects: grant funding**

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

- (1) providing a brief summary of the following community transport projects which had been awarded grant funding during the period 1 October 2012 to 30 June 2013:-
  - Access to Employment Ayr;
  - British Red Cross Society;
  - Coalfield Community Transport;
  - Community Transport Glasgow;
  - Getting Better Together;
  - Glasgow City Hospital Evening Visitor Service;
  - NATA (North Area Transport Association);
  - Royal Voluntary Service;
  - South West Community Transport; and
  - Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire - CamGlen NHS Patient Volunteer Car Project;
- (2) appending a table detailing the amount of grant funding awarded to each of the projects; and
- (3) recommending that the committee
  - (a) approve the award of grant funding of £105,000 to Community Transport Glasgow for delivery of Community Transport services in Glasgow; and
  - (b) authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) to sign the necessary grant funding letter.

After discussion, the committee approved the recommendation at (3) above.

**12. Provision of vehicles to community transport operators**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 August 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) reminding members
  - (a) that the committee, at its meeting on 2 November 2012, had agreed a programme for the gradual renewal of the fleet of buses which SPT had purchased and provided to contractors on a lease basis for the delivery of local bus service contracts; and
  - (b) that, where practical, vehicles retired under this renewal programme would be provided to suitable community transport operators under the auspices of the West

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of Scotland Community Transport Network, established by SPT and launched in March of this year;

- (2) intimating
  - (a) that the vehicles would offer the community transport sector the opportunity to obtain low-floor accessible vehicles which were currently unaffordable to the majority of the sector; and
  - (b) that consideration had also been given to allocating vehicles to those local authority areas in which there was currently little or no community transport presence and where the provision of a vehicle could act as a catalyst to kick start its development;
- (3) appending a table which contained the proposals for the allocation of the vehicles to community transport operators;
- (4) outlining the terms and conditions to which community transport operators would be required to adhere, with the proviso that where any operator failed to adhere to the Network Quality Framework, or was found to be not utilising the vehicle(s) to benefit the communities it served, any vehicle(s) involved would revert to SPT;
- (5) explaining
  - (a) that, in the longer term, SPT would wish to continue to build on the infrastructure and expertise of the community transport sector and saw an opportunity to work with Community Transport Glasgow (CTG), which had recently established a vehicle maintenance facility with Social Enterprise support and which was well suited to provide the maintenance and support for all the vehicles involved in this initiative;
  - (b) that SPT would investigate what options there might be to create a longer-term staffing solution, such as a Modern Apprentice scheme, which would not only build the sector's capacity to provide suitable maintenance arrangements for its vehicles, but would also create employment opportunities;
  - (c) that this would continue to build the capacity of the sector by strengthening its expertise in maintaining vehicle fleets that would, in the long term, achieve SPT's aims of raising the maintenance standards of the sector as a whole, as well as emphasising SPT's commitment to develop social enterprise models in partnership with the community transport sector and accorded with the Scottish Government's support for the development of Public Social Partnerships between the statutory and third sector; and
  - (d) that, although consideration would be given as to whether or not this could be funded through SPT's budget for community transport, efforts would be made to secure funding from other partners; and
- (6) advising members that the recent Community Transport Report published in July 2013 by the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee of the Scottish Parliament, had highlighted that one of the main issues facing the community transport sector was the replacement of vehicles. SPT's proposals demonstrated its commitment to the community transport sector in the west of Scotland in practical terms.

After consideration and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation, the committee

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- (i) noted that SPT continued to lead the way in the development and support of the community transport sector in Scotland; and
- (ii) agreed
  - (A) that vehicles be provided under appropriate grant conditions to community transport operators as detailed in the report;
  - (B) that SPT specify and support an appropriate maintenance arrangement as an interim measure, but work with CTG to build its capacity to maintain the vehicles in the longer term; and
  - (C) that SPT investigate options to fund jointly a Modern Apprentice scheme, with social enterprise assistance, to assist in long-term training in vehicle maintenance in the community transport sector.

### **13. Braehead Bus Station management proposal**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

### **14. Attendance at CPT Conference**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 19 July 2013 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) providing detail on the 38<sup>th</sup> CPT (Confederation of Passenger Transport UK) annual conference, a major event at which bus strategy issues were discussed by industry partners; and
- (2) recommending that the committee approve attendance of a Vice-Chair at the conference to be held in Crieff on 9 and 10 September 2013 at an estimated cost of £300, excluding travel.

After discussion, the committee agreed

- (a) that Councillor Denis McKenna should attend the above conference; and
- (b) agreed that a full report on findings be submitted to a future meeting of the committee.