

## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of Operations Committee**

**3 November 2023**

held in person at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference

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## **Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference\* on 3 November 2023**

- Present** Councillors David Wilson (Chair), Alex Allison, Ken Andrew\*, Maureen Devlin\* Stephen Dornan, Michael McPake, Alan Moir, Jim Paterson\*, Donald Reid, Roza Salih (from Agenda Item 4), Adam Smith and appointed member Greg Beecroft
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance & Corporate Support; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery; Andrea Thompson, Media & Public Affairs Manager; Jim Griffin, Senior Solicitor/Clerk; Amy Sullivan, Solicitor; Ewan Tait and Megan Moore of ScotRail (for Agenda Item 4)

The Partnership agreed at its meeting of 12 March 2021, following consideration of Standing Order No 14, for the recording of Committee and Partnership meetings, and that such recordings would be made available together with the minute of meetings.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted from Cllr Gordon Currie and appointed members Kirsty Orr and Jenna Dickson.

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

Cllr Moir declared an interest in Agenda Item 4, citing his employment with Scotrail and as a member of ASLEF, the trade union.

### **3. Minute of previous meeting**

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 25 August 2023, having been considered and agreed at the Partnership meeting of 29 September 2023 as a correct record, was duly noted.

### **4. Monitoring report on public transport services & facilities in the SPT area**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted and discussed a report (issued) of 24 October 2023 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support reporting on the operational performance of public transport services and public transport facilities which are delivered directly by the Partnership or by others on behalf of the Partnership; and the provision of public transport services and facilities in the Partnership area more generally.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Wylie, Mrs Davidson, and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, specifically:

- (i) In response to the request from members, additional pre-Covid patronage information had been included;
  - (ii) In relation to subway patronage which was continuing, and additional information relating to the cause of subway disruption was now included;
  - (iii) Supported bus patronage had again increased, illustrating the value of SPT's supported services; and
  - (iv) The MyBus service delivery remained challenging, reflecting a UK-wide position;
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and having heard from Mr Prentice and Ms Moore in relation to ScotRail services and timetable changes highlighting:

- (i) Scotrail patronage had seen an increase following the introduction of the removal of peak fares;
- (ii) that amendments are being made to Scotrail timetables effective from December 2023; and
- (iii) in response specifically to the impact of disrupted services at Ayr Station as a result of a recent property fire, it was agreed that the Chief Executive would write to South Ayrshire Council Chief Executive to seek more information on the plans to ensure that whatever steps were necessary to allow the railway to open fully, and offer support if this was helpful.

Thereafter the Committee noted the contents of the report and the Operations Chair thanked Mr Tait and Ms Moore for attending.

#### **5. Subsidised bus service contract recommendations: financial implications**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 October 2023 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support, advising the Committee of the financial implications of the subsidised bus contract recommendations being considered at the meeting.

After hearing from Mr Wylie and Mr Dickson in response to questions from members, the Committee noted:

- (i) the financial implications of the recommendations relating to the subsidised bus services budget in the papers and gave due consideration to this in the course of the decision making;
- (ii) the projected small positive variance reported which may require to be utilised later in the financial year to support the regional and local network;
- (iii) the impact of the current financial pressures on the subsidised bus budget in the short to medium term, including in the current and future financial years; and
- (iv) that discussions continue with First Glasgow to agree a repayment plan which covers the additional cost of replacement contracts for those terminated in February 2023, and noted that recovery of this additional cost was essential to remain within budget.

#### **6. Applications for grant funding - community transport**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 October 2023 by the Chief Executive requesting the Committee approve grant funding in support of a project delivered by Coalfield Community Transport.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, and a request that consideration be given to a future agenda item to hear more from Community Transport operators, the Committee approved grant funding of up to £75,000 to Coalfield Community Transport, noting that all grants are subject to appropriate governance checks being carried out.

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**7. MyBus Review – Update on Stage 1 Actions**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 October 2023 by the Chief Executive updating the Committee on actions to be taken forward following the completion of Stage 1 of the MyBus review, reminding members that the review report and the Committee had previously agreed a commitment to the future of MyBus as a service.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the progress made in addressing the key actions summarised in section 3 of the report, identified through Stage 1 of the MyBus review.

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

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 October 2023 by the Chief Executive advising the Committee of amendments to subsidised local and MyBus bus service contracts since the last Operations Committee meeting on 25 August 2023.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee noted the amendments to subsidised local bus contracts, in accordance with established corporate governance, financial regulation and contract standing orders.

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

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 October 2023 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee approve the award of subsidised local bus service contracts. This paper affects East Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee approved the award of the subsidised local bus service contracts detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, noting these supported the objectives of the Regional Transport Strategy and SPT's framework for local bus services.

**10. Public Station Wi-Fi Rollout - Award of Contract**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 October 2023 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support recommending the Committee approve the award of a five-year contract for the installation, maintenance and operation of public Wi-Fi at SPT's Subway and Bus Stations (Buchanan, Hamilton, East Kilbride and Greenock) to Westica Communications Ltd with the option to extend for a further five years.

After hearing from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, particularly in relation to customer expectations and the controls required to ensure that wi-fi provision did not contribute to antisocial activities, the Committee approved the award of the contract for the public Wi-Fi to Westica Communications Ltd in the sum of £505,469 over five years, with the option to extend for a further five years.

**11. Award of Infrastructure Cleaning Contract**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 October 2023 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee approve the award of a contract for the cleaning and reporting of defects to bus stops and bus shelters to Confida FM Ltd.

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After hearing from Mr Dickson response to members' questions, the Committee approved the award of the Infrastructure Cleaning Contract over five years to Confida FM Ltd up to a value of £1,987,069.

**12. Award of contract for door maintenance and repairs**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 25 October 2023 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support recommending the Committee approve the award of a five-year contract for a fully managed maintenance and repair of manual and automatic doors to TS-UK Ltd.

After hearing from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Committee approved the contract up to a value of £477,000 for five years with a break clause at three years to TS-UK Ltd to supply fully managed maintenance and repair door contract for manual and automatic doors.

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