

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee meeting

9 March 2012

held at: Consort House, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow, on 9 March 2012

Present Councillors Denis McKenna (Chair), Harry Curran, Gilbert Davidson, Bill Grant, Jonathan Findlay, Bobby McDill, Alan Moir, Bill Perrie and David Wilson and appointed members, Ronnie Mellis and Bill Ure.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Secretary; Gordon MacIennan, Chief Executive; Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations); Neil Wylie, Director of Finance & HR and Bryan Tennant, Network and Planning Team Leader.

Also Attending Councillor Duncan MacIntyre.

1. Councillor Al Reay

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chair referred with sadness to the death of Councillor Al Reay who had been Argyll and Bute Council's substitute member on the Partnership. The Partnership then observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

2. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors David Fagan and William Hendry and appointed member Tom Hart.

3. Declaration of interest

Ronnie Mellis declared an interest in respect of item 6 on the agenda (paragraph 8 of the minute) as he was an employee of Transport Scotland.

4. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 20 January 2012 (issued) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minute,

- (1) Mr Stewart advised members that there were several contracts throughout the minute that had not been executed due to various commercial changes made by First Glasgow and that these would be considered at a future committee; and
- (2) Mrs Davidson advised members that with regard to page 5 paragraph 9, the specification issued for the award of contract 1923C1 Gourrock – Kilcreggan ferry service had not contained the requirement for a new vessel, and the contract had been awarded on the basis of the specification issued.

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5. **Public transport services monitoring report**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 March 2012 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 five point 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 and Mr Tennant in answer to members' questions, the committee

- (a) noted the contents of the report; and
- (b) agreed, following a request from Councillor Perrie, that officers would monitor the number of vehicles which had their engines running whilst stationary in Central Road, Paisley.

6. **Gourock – Kilcreggan ferry**

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The committee noted that following recent developments, the report had been withdrawn.

Mr Stewart referred to the clarification raised by Mrs Davidson under the minute of the previous meeting, ie that the specification issued for the award of contract 1923C1 Gourock – Kilcreggan ferry service had not contained the requirement for a new vessel and the contract had been awarded on the basis of the specification issued, and informed members

- (1) of correspondence and representations made by Argyll & Bute Council, the Cove & Kilcreggan Community Council, and residents of the area on the design characteristics of the proposed vessel to be used on contract 1923C1 Gourock – Kilcreggan ferry service;
- (2) that the representations received had been supportive of enhancing the design characteristics of the vessel from a class V to a class IV, thereby increasing service reliability, which was fundamentally the key concern to all parties;
- (3) that following further discussions with SPT the operator, Clydelink Ltd, had advised they had obtained a suitable vessel already certified for the carriage of 96 persons on class IV operations and could be used for the contract commencing on 1 April 2012.

After considerable discussion and having heard Councillor Duncan MacIntyre (in attendance for this item only) and various members commend SPT officers for their open consultation with the communities involved and the £190,000 saving per annum which had been made, the committee noted the position.

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7. Variation in order of business

In terms of Standing Order no. 3.4, the committee agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

8. Proposals to seek variations to the existing regulatory provisions to improve the co-ordination and delivery of bus services

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With reference to the minute of the Partnership of 10 February 2012 (page 2, paragraph 8) when the Partnership had

- (1) approved the Competition Commission's final report into the local bus industry, which contained a package of measures all firmly based on increasing opportunities for competition within the commercial market and the market for tendered services; and
- (2) that officers would continue to develop SPT's proposals for an improved bus policy, taking account of the Competition Commission's decisions,

there was submitted a report (issued) of 1 March 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (a) appending proposals by SPT for submission to Scottish Government for additional powers/regulations which would assist Public Transport Authorities in securing an integrated, comprehensive bus network to better serve communities across Scotland;
- (b) explaining that those proposals, if adopted, would positively impact across a range of themes, including:-
 - Providing a more consistent, passenger focused, integrated bus network;
 - Providing opportunity for PTAs to ensure best value for public money in securing subsidised services;
 - Creating a far more secure bus network;
 - Improved information for passengers, and a more efficient method of receiving that information, thus reducing cost to public purse;
 - Safer buses on the roads;
 - A stronger community input to the transport sector;
 - Better targeting of public funds where they are needed most;
 - A more attractive, seamless, convenient ticket offering for passengers;
 - A workable mechanism to achieve a higher quality bus network; and
 - A more co-ordinated approach to network planning and development; and
- (c) concluding that implementation of the proposals would lead to significant improvements in the provision of bus services in communities across Scotland.

After considerable discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in answer to members' questions, the committee approved SPT's proposals for additional bus powers for dissemination to the Scottish Government and other relevant organisations.

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9. Subsidised local bus service contract recommendations – financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 March 2012 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 noted the report in relation to the financial implications of awarding any contracts and agreed to give due consideration to these implications when making decisions on these contracts.

10. Homologation of local bus service contracts

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 March 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) advising of action which had been taken by SPT, following recent changes to the bus network.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the committee noted

- (1) that the timetable of contract 0914E Glasgow Inner Circle (service 89/90) had been revised from 4 March 2012 as detailed in the report to improve connections for passengers, resulting in a net saving of £600 per month; and
- (2) that contract 5627T2 Bishopton local/Bishopton - Erskine (service 520 & 521) had been awarded to Slaemuir Coaches Ltd at a cost of £912 per week from 1 February to 14 July 2012, in order that tender prices could be invited for new long term contracts.

11. Award of subsidised local bus service contracts

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There was submitted a report of 1 March 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) reminding members of the temporary arrangements which had been put in place following the withdrawal of a number of commercial services and revisions to the bus network within the Croy and Kilysth areas, in order to allow SPT time to assess the position and prepare tenders for longer term contracts;
- (2) providing information on the tenders received for new subsidised local bus services; and
- (3) recommending the award of appropriate contracts.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the committee agreed

- (a) to award the following contracts to Henderson Travel which would be apportioned within package 15477:-
 - (i) contract W019 Hamilton - Hamilton/Little Earnock (service 226) at a cost of £52,852 for the contract period 15 April 2012 to 12 July 2014; and

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- (ii) contract W021A Croy – Blackwood/Twechar/Kilysth/Carrickston/Cumbernauld (services 344,348 & 403) at a cost of £97,409 for the contract period 15 April to 15 July 2013;
- (b) to award contract W010A Wishaw – Airdrie/Monklands Hospital (service 248) to Stuarts Coaches Ltd at a cost of £78,500 for the contract period 15 April 2012 to 13 July 2013; and
- (c) noted that formal awards of the above contracts were subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for public sector contracts.

12. Renewal of subsidised local bus service contracts

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There was submitted a report of 1 March 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

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

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation and Mr Tennant in answer to members' questions, the committee

- (a) agreed
 - (i) to award contract 0914G Glasgow Inner Circle (services 89 & 90) to Henderson Travel which would be apportioned within package 15477 at a cost of £314,652 for the contract period 15 July 2012 to 11 July 2015;
 - (ii) to award contract 0902E Bankhead – Glasgow (service 7) to First Glasgow at a cost of £53,497 for the contract period 15 July 2012 to 11 July 2015;
 - (iii) to award the following contracts to Stuarts Coaches Ltd which would be apportioned within package 15334 for the contract period 15 July 2012 to 11 July 2015 :-
 - (iii) contract 4801R Carnwath – Lanark – Forth – Braehead (service 137) at a cost of £178,480; and
 - (iv) contract 4865B Lanark – Biggar (service 191) at a cost of £223,100; and
 - (iv) that in view of the high cost of the sole tender received, contract LS087B Cumnock – Ayr – Cumnock (service 48) be re-tendered;
 - (v) that previous patronage figures for the service at (iv) above be provided to Councillor McDill; and
 - (vi) that an annual contribution of £57,956 be made to SWestrans towards the operation of contract SW/12/NSH/A (1), subject to the contribution of £27,819 from South Ayrshire Council for the school element of the contract.

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- (b) noted that formal awards of the above contracts were subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for public sector contracts.

13. Amendment to subsidised local bus service contract 6518D

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 1 March 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) recommending that the committee agree to the removal of the late evening journey between Kildonan, Lagg and Whiting Bay on contract 6581D Brodick – Whiting Bay (service 323) from 25 March 2012, due to the high subsidy cost per passenger.

14. Community Transport Projects: grant funding update

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 1 March 2011 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) reminding members that since April 2008, SPT had been managing funding for community transport projects on behalf of constituent authorities;
- (2) providing a brief summary of the following community transport projects which had been awarded grant funding during the period 1 May 2011 to 29 February 2012:-
 - Community Transport Glasgow;
 - Getting Better Together - community centred health initiative in the Greater Shotts and surrounding areas;
 - North Area Transport Association – community transport services in North Glasgow;
 - Retired and senior volunteer programme – voluntary car scheme for patients within the East Renfrewshire Council area;
 - Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire - CamGlen NHS car sharing project; and
 - Women's Royal Voluntary Service Rural Clydesdale Community Transport service; and
- (3) appending a table detailing the amount of grant funding awarded to each of the projects.

15. Requests for subsidised local bus services

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 March 2012 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) advising members of various requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services.

After consideration and having heard Mr Stewart in answer to members' questions, the committee agreed not to take any further action in respect of the local subsidised bus service requests detailed in the report.