

## Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

### Minute of Chair's Committee

**1 May 2020**

Held via videoconference

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**Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Chair's Committee  
Held via videoconference (due to public health guidance) on 1 May 2020**

**Present** Councillors Martin Bartos (Chair), David Wilson (Vice Chair), Alan Moir (Vice Chair) and Marie McGurk (Chair, Audit & Standards).

**Attending** Gordon Maclennan, Chief Executive; Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance and Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery.

**1. Apologies**

No apologies were noted.

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

The committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minute of previous meeting on 2 April 2020**

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The committee, having considered the minute of the previous meeting held on 2 April 2020, approved the minute as an accurate record of the meeting.

**4. Implementation of Business Continuity Plan – Coronavirus Pandemic**

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There was issued and considered a report of 21 April 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive detailing the SPT response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the impact on services and staff, and outlining details from the SPT Business Continuity response, including but not limited to:

- (1) the actions taken to ensure that public transport remained operating to support essential travel;
- (2) the changes to SPT Subway services and to bus services supported by SPT that aligned travel demand with availability, taking cognisance of the changes in commercial services and availability of staffing;
- (3) the impact on staffing levels and the changes in the working arrangements to support customer and staff safety and wellbeing; and
- (4) the implications for the financial health and stability of the organisation and what actions had been undertaken to response to the significant change.

After much discussion, and having heard from Mr Maclennan and Mrs Davidson in response to members' questions, the committee:

- (a) noted the details of the paper as presented, commending all staff for their continued contribution and efforts to ensure that public transport remained available for essential travel during these difficult times;
- (b) noted that the business continuity response had been implemented swiftly and in a co-ordinated fashion in advance of the government's announcement of formal lockdown;

- (c) noted ongoing high level discussions with Transport Scotland requesting additional financial support in light of the revenue consequences of the current emergency and the need to sustainably fund essential transport; and
- (d) agreed that a further update and a report outlining details of SPT's draft restart and recovery plan should be made available to the next scheduled meeting.

## 5. Applications for Grant Funding: Community Transport

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There was submitted and considered a report of 24 April 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive seeking the approval of the Chairs Committee to award grant funding to a number of community transport operators as detailed in the report.

Considering the urgency requirement of terms of reference, and having heard further from Mr Dickson of the urgent need to provide community transport operators with a level of certainty that funding will be made available thus allowing them to plan their continued operations, and also hearing that many community transport operators were playing a critical part in the response to COVID-19 within their communities by provision for example of delivery of food parcels, the committee approved grant funding to:

- (1) Community Transport Glasgow – up to £509,631;
- (2) North Area Transport Association - up to £133,944;
- (3) Coalfields Community Transport – up to £85,427;
- (4) South Ayrshire Community Transport – up to £95,906;
- (5) Rural Development Trust – up to £82,000, which also included a match funding of £42,000 to assist with the purchase of an electric vehicle; and
- (6) Getting Better Together – up to £50,000.

In addition, the committee noted and welcomed the support to Community Transport operators approved under delegated authority, as follows:

- a) South West Community Transport – up to £38,560;
- b) Community Central Halls – up to £32,500;
- c) Blantyre Volunteer Ltd – up to £25,000;
- d) Community Transport East Renfrewshire – up to £25,000;
- e) Clenboig Development Trust – up to £25,000;
- f) Larkhall & District Volunteer Group – up to £48,144;
- g) Renfrewshire Council – up to £8,000;
- h) Ardgown Hospice – up to £25,000;
- i) Port Glasgow Voluntary Trans-Port Group – up to £10,000;
- j) East Kilbride Community Transport – up to £15,250; and
- k) West Dunbartonshire Council – up to £18,371.

All approvals of grant are subject to appropriate governance checks being carried out.