



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee

26 April 2024

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 26 April 2024

Present Councillors David Wilson (Chair), Alex Allison, Ken Andrew*, Maureen Devlin, Stephen Dornan, Alan Moir, Donald Reid*, Roza Salih*, Adam Smith* and Andy Steel* and appointed members Greg Beecroft and Jenna Dickson*.

Attending Lesley Aird, Director of Finance & Corporate Support; Richard Robinson, Director of Transport Operations; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery; Andrea Thompson, Head of Corporate Communications; Gary Robertson, Network Analysis & Design Manager; Jim Griffin, Senior Solicitor/Clerk; and Ewan Tait and Mark Wilson 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.

The Chair Welcomed Euan Tait and Mark Wilson of Scotrail to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillor Helen Loughran and Appointed Member Kirsty Orr.

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

Cllr Moir declared an interest, 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 26 January 2024, having been considered and agreed at the Partnership meeting of 15 March 2024 as a correct record, was duly noted.

Following agreement of the Minute and in response to members' questions:

- (i) Mr Robinson confirmed that BTP had been unable to provide data in the use of body worn CCTV in the furtherance of prosecutions but it is believed that these were having a positive effect; and
- (ii) Mr Dickson confirmed that the contract for bus services on the Isle of Arran had been extended to ensure continuity and that information is awaited from Calmac on the date for the introduction of the new ferry and the impact this will have on the timetable.

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

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 April 2024 by the Director of Transport Operations 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.

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After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Dickson and Mr Robinson in response to members' questions, specifically relating to:

- (i) The reasons behind the slower recovery post-covid of MyBus patronage;
- (ii) The causes of instances of lack of availability of Subway services; and
- (iii) The reasons why the number of departures from East Kilbride and Hamilton bus stations had not recovered to the same extent post-covid as those from Buchanan Bus Station;

and having heard from Mr Tait in relation to ScotRail services, specifically highlighting:

- (a) The continued disruption at Ayr Station and the ongoing impact on rail services, with potential changes to services being considered, mindful always of peak passenger flows; and
- (b) The impacts on passenger numbers following the removal of peak time fares, bad weather, Easter holidays, fare initiatives and international football;

the Committee noted the contents of the report and the Operations Chair thanked Mr Tait and Mr Wilson for attending.

5. Subsidised bus service contract recommendations: financial implications

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 April 2024 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 Mrs Aird and Mr Dickson who confirmed, in response to questions from members that everything was being done to mitigate the increased costs of services and, as this is becoming increasingly challenging, it would not be possible to guarantee that there would be no reductions of services, the Committee noted:

- (i) the financial implications of the recommendations relating to the subsidised bus services budget and agreed to give due consideration to the impact of individual decisions reported in each paper for consideration;
- (ii) the projected negative variance reported which reduces the scope SPT has to support the regional and local network in the remainder of the financial year; and
- (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.

6. Update on Mainstream Home to School Transport

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 April 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery updating the Committee in relation to plans, procurement and processes to deliver Mainstream Home to School Transport.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, specifically relating to:

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- (i) The increased costs of Home to School Transport, the budget increasing from £27 million pre-covid to a current £44 million;
- (ii) The issues surrounding the use of the Under 22 card and the limitations of the registered network;
- (iii) The ongoing engagement with transport operators; and
- (iv) Consultations being taken by some councils regarding a potential increase in the walking distance.

the Committee noted:

- (a) Mainstream Home to School Transport provision is essential in supporting and facilitating the education of children across Strathclyde and that SPT has successfully managed, monitored and maintained provision of Mainstream Home to School Transport on behalf of 11 of our partner councils for many years;
- (b) Whilst the contract renewal process for Home to School Transport for 2024/25 is underway in line with the agreed Project Plan & Key Milestones the ongoing challenges faced remain significant in respect of driver availability, fuel price volatility and wider inflationary pressures, market volatility remains a key risk to successful deliver; and
- (c) SPT Officers continue to collaborate closely with the Local Authority partners and operators in order to mitigate such risks where possible.

7. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 April 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery recommending the Committee approve the award of 14 subsidised local bus service and MyBus contracts.

After discussion and having heard from Mr Dickson, the Committee approved the award of the contracts detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and noted that;

- (i) Contract LS022K is subject to the approval of NHSGGC for a continued 90% funding contribution; and
- (ii) Contract W170A is subject to the approval of West Lothian Council for a funding contribution of 40%.

8. Contracts awarded under delegated powers – for noting

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 April 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery notifying the Committee of subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee noted the subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers, in accordance with established corporate governance, financial regulation and contract standing orders thus ensuring that socially necessary public transport services were provided.

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9. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 April 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery advising the Committee of amendments to subsidised local and MyBus bus service contracts since the last Operations Committee meeting on 26 January 2024.

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

10. Applications for grant funding – community transport

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 April 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery requesting the Committee approve the award of grant funding in support of projects provided by community transport operators across Strathclyde.

After hearing from Mr Dickson and Mrs Aird in response to members' questions particularly:

- Confirming that all applicants for grant funding had received payment of the full sum or the majority of the sum sought;
- That increases in individual payments to the sums paid in previous years had been limited to 3%;
- That SPT is in receipt of annual funding agreements and it would not be possible to commit to payment of grants for a longer period;
- That SPT would shortly be presenting to the Community Transport Association(CTA) on the work it does with regard to Community Transport; and
- In response to members' requests, the Head of Bus Strategy and Delivery will endeavour to have a representative of the CTA and a recipient of grant funding to make a presentation to a future meeting of the Operations Committee;

the Committee:

(i) approved the following grant funding for the financial year 2024/2025;

- Up to £84,760 to Coalfield Community Transport;
- Up to £445,654 to Community Transport Glasgow;
- Up to £61,090 to Larkhall & District Volunteer Group;
- Up to £142,789 to North Area Transport Association;
- Up to £109,480 to South Ayrshire Community Transport;
- Up to £91,151 to South West Community Transport.

(ii) noted the following awards made under delegated powers;

- Up to £30,900 to Ardgowan Hospice;
 - Up to £28,000 to Blantyre Volunteer Group;
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- Up to £35,000 to Community Central Hall;
- Up to £25,000 to Community Transport East Renfrewshire;
- Up to £15,450 to Community Transport East Kilbride;
- Up to £40,000 to Getting Better Together;
- Up to £25,750 to Glenboig Development Trust;
- Up to £25,000 to Inverclyde Voluntary Council of Social Services;
- Up to £20,360 to Port Glasgow Volunteer Group;
- Up to £9,000 to Renfrewshire Council SOOPiR Bus;
- Up to £12,360 to Renfrewshire Community Transport;
- Up to £30,000 to West Dunbartonshire Council Community Transport.

All awards are subject to appropriate governance checks being carried out.

11. Amendments to the Subway Conditions of Travel

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 April 2024 by the Director of Transport Operations which clarifies the policy on travel with lithium-ion powered micro devices including;

- E-scooters
- E-unicycles
- E-hoverboards
- E-skateboards

After hearing from Mr Robinson, the Committee approved the amendment to the Subway Conditions of Travel

12. Award of Contract for Buchanan Bus Station Roof Replacement

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 April 2024 by the Director of Transport Operations recommending the Committee approve the award of contract to Hugh LS McConnell Ltd for works to replace all the flat roof systems to the main building at Buchanan Bus Station.

After hearing from Mr Robinson and Mrs Laird who, in response to members' questions, confirmed that;

- The tender received met all of the required criteria;
 - SPT has appropriate internal resource to ensure continuity of operations during the performance of this contract and the contractor will be subject to strict obligations in that regard; and
 - This spend is operationally essential and is provided for in the capital budget.
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The Committee approved the award of contract to Hugh LS McConnell Ltd in the sum of £601,979.65 plus VAT for replacement of the built-up flat roof systems to the main building at Buchanan Bus Station.

13. Buchanan Bus Station Masterplan Development – Award of Contract

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 April 2024 by the Director of Transport Operations recommending the Committee approve an award of contract for consultancy services to support the development of a masterplan for Buchanan Bus Station and the surrounding city block.

After hearing from Mr Robinson who confirmed that there would be continued engagement with Glasgow City Council and all other interested parties to achieve an efficient, effective and aspirational Buchanan Bus Station in a transformed part of the city, the Committee approved the award of contract to Atkins Realis UK Ltd in the sum of £428,656.45.

14. Digital Hardware Refresh (Phase 2)

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 April 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support recommending the Committee approve the direct award of a contract via CCS Framework RM6098 to Insight for a digital hardware refresh including:

- The supply of Cisco equipment, software and licences;
- Provision of Cisco partnership support;
- Configuration, testing and installation of new equipment;
- Disposal of end of life Cisco equipment in accordance with electronic waste recycling processes (WEEE Regulations); and
- Project management services for the above.

After hearing from Mrs Aird, the Committee approved the award of the digital hardware refresh (phase 2) contract to Insight via the CCS framework in the sum of £337,403.91

15. The Open Golf Championship – Transport Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 April 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery informing the Committee on emerging transport arrangements for the Open Golf Championship being held in Troon in July 2024.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee noted the contents of the report.
