

Minute of Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee

17 September 2021

Held via Video Conference

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Minute of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee held via Video Conference at 1.30pm on 17 September 2021

Present Councillors Dr Martin Bartos (Chair), Ian Cochrane, Jim Fletcher, Jim McGuigan (Substitute), Graham Hardie, Michael McPake, Alan Moir, Donald Reid, Jim Roberts and David Wilson.

Attending Neil Wylie, Director of Finance and Treasurer; Stuart Paul, Chief Accountant; Martin Breen, Senior Transport Planner; Tony Jones, Contact Centre Manager; Jim Griffin, Depute Partnership Secretary and Karen Jones of Azets.

Chair's Remarks

Partnership Standing Order No 14 requires the agreement of the Partnership to record meetings. The Chair sought and the Partnership agreed for the recording of SPT Partnership and Committee video conference meetings to commence.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Malcolm Balfour, Jim Finn, Cathy McEwan and David Shearer.

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

The Committee noted there were no declarations of interest.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 12 March 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. 2020/21 Annual Audit Report to those charged with Governance

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 31 August 2021 by the Treasurer providing the Committee with the finalised 2020/21 Annual Audit Report by Azets for the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme.

After discussion and hearing from Ms Jones and Mr Wylie in answer to members questions, Ms Jones expressed thanks to Mr Wylie and Mr Paul's team for their high-quality work. The Chair, on behalf of members, thanked Ms Jones and Mr Wylie and Mr Paul's teams for delivering a strong outcome within normal timescales. Thereafter, the Committee noted the finalised 2020/21 Annual Audit Report by Azets for the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme.

5. Annual Accounts 2020/21

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 31 August 2021 by the Treasurer asking the Joint Committee to consider the audited annual accounts and approve them for signature to ensure compliance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014. The

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annual accounts are required to be signed no later than 30 September immediately following the financial year end.

After hearing from Mr Paul, the Committee approved the signing of the SCTSJC financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2021.

6. Final Outturn for financial year 2020/21 and Revenue Monitoring Report as at 14 August 2021, Period 5

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 30 August 2021 by the Treasurer advising members of the final outturn for the financial year 2020/21, and to report on revenue expenditure incurred at the end of Period 5 (14 August 2021) including the projected outturn at the end of the current financial year.

After hearing from Mr Paul, the Committee:

- (i) the final outturn position for 2020/21; and
- (ii) the projected outturn position for 2021/22 based on the information available at the end of P5.

7. Performance and reimbursement update on 2020/21 year-end and on 2021/22 quarter 1

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 September 2021 by the Treasurer updating the Committee of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme's performance and reimbursement results for 2020/21 financial year end and for 2021/22 quarter 1 (April-June).

After hearing from Mr Breen in response to members questions, the Committee noted the contents of the paper and in particular the continued impact of Covid-19 on concessionary travel demand and on operator reimbursement costs.

8. Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme – New Fare Structure – Financial Year 2022/23

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 September 2021 by the Treasurer updating the Committee on the implementation of the new Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme fare structure from financial year 2022/23.

After hearing from Mr Breen and Mr Wylie, members were advised that appropriate transport operators would shortly be written to regarding the new fare structure, and officers were aware of the importance of communication to concession card scheme users.

The Chair also advised that he had been made aware of a possible discrepancy concerning the impact that planned concessionary fares changes will have on Cowal peninsula ferry services as a result of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) pricing not being applied to these routes, and that officers will review the issue in detail, engaging with relevant stakeholders, and feedback to the first meeting of the Committee in 2022. Thereafter, the Committee noted the content of the report.

9. Concessionary Travel Unit – Update on Performance & Digital Enhancements and Summary of Proposed National Scheme Changes

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 1 September 2021 by the Treasurer:

- (i) updating the Committee on concessionary travel unit performance;
- (ii) advising the Committee of progress regarding digital enhancements to support administrative processing; and
- (iii) providing a summary of proposed changes to the national concessionary travel scheme which may impact the local SCTS.

After hearing from Mr Jones, the Committee noted the contents of the report, the progress made with digital enhancements and future integration to improve the service whilst retaining non-digital customer channels for direct contact where necessary.

