



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

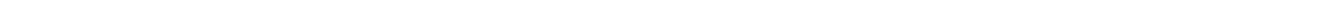
Minute of Operations Committee

20 August 2021

held via Video Conference

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Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held via Video Conference on 20 August 2021

Present Councillors David Wilson (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Martin Bartos, Colin Cameron, Graham Campbell, Jim Finn, Graham Hardie, Alistair Mackay (Substitute), Michael McPake, Alan Moir, Donald Reid and appointed members Greg Beecroft and Jenna Dickson.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Acting Chief Executive/Partnership Secretary; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Antony Smith, Director of Subway; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery; Gary Robertson, Network Analysis & Design Manager and Ewan Tait, Business Development Executive, Abellio Scotrail.

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 Councillors Marie McGurk and Richard Nelson and appointed member Graham Johnston.

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, although Cllr Moir intimated his role within Abellio Scotrail.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 30 April 2021, having been considered at the Partnership meeting on 18 June 2021, was submitted and approved as a correct record.

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 4 August 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive:

- (a) 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
- (b) reporting on the provision of public transport services and facilities in the Partnership area more generally.

After significant discussion and having heard from Mr Tait of Abellio Scotrail on the consultation of proposed amendments to Scotrail services which would be launched later in the day and hearing from Mr Wylie, Mr Dickson and Mr Robertson in response to members' questions regarding SPT services, specifically the potential impact of the recently announced Under 22s travel scheme, the Committee noted the details of the report.

The Operations Chair thanked Mr Tait for attending.

5. Subsidised Bus Service Contract Recommendations: financial Implications

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[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 4 August 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive, advising the Committee of the financial implications of the subsidised bus contract recommendations being considered at the meeting.

After hearing from Mr Wylie, the Committee:

- (i) noted the financial implications of the recommendations in the accompanying papers and agreed to give due consideration to this in the course of the decision making; and
- (ii) noted the projected positive variance reported which may require to be utilised later in the financial year to support the regional and local network.

6. Implementation of Part 3 (bus services) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 - Consultation

[Click here to view the presentation](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 July 2021 by the Chief Executive informing the Committee of a consultation being undertaken by Transport Scotland on the implementation of Part 3 (bus services) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh, specifically highlighting that much of the Transport Act provisions reflected the hard work that SPT had submitted vis à vis its own bus policy, the Committee noted the contents of report.

7. SPT response to impacts of Covid-19 pandemic and preparations for COP26 - presentation

[Click here to view the report and presentation](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 July 2021 by the Chief Executive together with a presentation detailing SPT's ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic and preparations for the United Nations Climate Change Conference 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to be held in Glasgow in October-November 2021.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of the report and presentation, and thanked all SPT staff for their continued efforts ensuring public transport was available to those who need it.

8. SPT Framework for Supporting Local Bus Services

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 July 2021 by the Chief Executive:

- (i) updating the Committee on a review of SPT's approach to supporting local bus services;
- (ii) recommending approval of a new 'SPT Framework for Supporting Local Bus Services', attached at Appendix 1, replacing the previous 'Guideline Criteria for the Secural of Subsidised Local Services'¹; and
- (iii) recommending approval of updated SPT target maximum subsidy limits for local bus services.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee:

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- (i) approved the updated SPT Framework for Supporting Local Bus Services document at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) approved the new maximum subsidy limits detailed in section 3.3.5 of the report; and
- (iii) noted that the issue would be reviewed again in line with the developing RTS at the appropriate time.

9. Extension of National Concessionary Travel Scheme to Under 22s

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 August 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive updating the Committee on plans announced by Transport Scotland to extend the National Concessionary Travel Scheme to those under 22 years of age.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee welcomed the Scheme as a positive policy to support younger people accessing public transport, but stressing that the Scheme will have unintended consequences on other modes and that these should be raised further with Transport Scotland.

10. Update on the Upgrade of Passenger Information Provision and Lighting at Buchanan Bus Station

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 4 August 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive updating the Committee on the upgrade of passenger information provision and lighting at Buchanan Bus Station (BBS).

After discussion and having heard from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Committee:

- (i) welcomed and noted the contents of the report; and
- (ii) noted the planned work to roll out the same standard of enhanced passenger information provision at Greenock, East Kilbride and Hamilton Bus Stations.

11. Extension to Ticketing Systems Contract

[Click here to view the report](#)

Cllr Cameron declared that he was the SPT representative on Nevis Technologies Ltd.

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 August 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive recommending approval of an extension of the agreement between SPT and Nevis Technologies Ltd (NTL) for the supply of smart ticketing back office services for the Subway.

After discussion and having heard from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Committee approved the extension of the agreement between SPT and Nevis Technologies Ltd (NTL) for a further five years to October 2026, at an annual cost of £73,000, noting the contract value was £365,000 for the contract period.

12. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 29 July 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive advising the Committee of amendments to subsidised local and MyBus bus service contracts since the last Committee meeting of 30 April 2021.

After discussion and having heard from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the amendments to subsidised local and MyBus bus service contracts, in accordance with established corporate governance, financial regulation and standings.

13. Contracts awarded under delegated powers

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 29 July 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive notifying the Committee of subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers.

After discussion and having heard from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the subsidised local bus service contracts awarded, utilising delegated powers, thus ensuring that socially necessary gaps in the public transport are provided for.

14. Requests for subsidised local bus services

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 29 July 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive recommending the Committee note the request received for subsidised local bus services and actions.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee agreed the recommendations as detailed in the report.
