

Partnership minute



## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of meeting**

**13 December 2024**

held at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow and via Video Conference

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## **Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow and via Video Conference\* at 10am on 13 December 2024**

**Present** Councillors Alan Moir (Chair), Alex Allison, Ken Andrew, Maureen Devlin\*, Stephen Dornan (from Agenda Item 10 due to a required prior appointment), Helen Loughran\*, Malcolm Mitchell\*, Owen O'Donnell, Lawrence O'Neill\*, Donald Reid\*, John Ross\*, Roza Salih\*, Adam Smith\*, Andy Steel\*, David Wilson and appointed members Greg Beecroft, Anne Follin\* and Ed McGrachan\*

**Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive & Partnership Secretary; 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; David Fielder, Head of Subway Projects; Andrea Thompson, Head of Corporate Communications, Michael Nimmo, Ticketing Manager and Jim Griffin, Senior Solicitor (Clerk)

### **Chair's Remarks**

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.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Gordon Blair, William Lennox, Christy Mearns, Duncan Townson, Sandy Watson and Appointed Members Jenna Dickson, George Hazel and 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.

Appointed Members Greg Beecroft, Anne Follin and Ed McGrachan declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 as their terms of office will conclude during 2025.

Appointed Member Ed McGrachan declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 as a director of Nevis Technologies Ltd.

### **3. Minute of previous meeting**

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 20 September 2024 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

### **4. Committee Minutes**

The minutes (issued) of the undernoted Committees were noted and approved as an accurate record:

- (a) Operations Committee of 8 November 2024;
- (b) Personnel Committee of 8 November 2024;
- (c) Strategy & Programmes Committee of 29 November 2024; and
- (d) Audit & Standards Committee of 29 November 2024.

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## **5. Recruitment of Appointed Member(s)**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 December 2024 by the Chief Executive / Partnership Secretary recommending the Partnership commence a public appointment campaign for the recruitment of appointed members, including a specific appointment to represent access to healthcare.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson who advised the Partnership that a nomination had recently been received for an appointed member to represent access to healthcare, the Partnership approved to implement an Appointed Member Recruitment Committee for the purpose of appointed member recruitment in 2025. After discussion, it was agreed that Councillors Dornan, Moir, Wilson, Devlin and Salih will serve on the Appointed Member Recruitment Committee.

## **6. Amendment to SPT Contract Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegations**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 December 2024 by the Chief Executive / Partnership Secretary recommending the Partnership approve an amendment to the SPT Contract Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegations as they relate to contract approval thresholds, thus supporting improved operational business efficiency & speed of decision making.

Following discussion, particularly relating to the approval threshold and having heard from Mrs Davidson in response to members' questions, the Partnership:

- (i) approved the revised contract threshold as outlined in section 3 of the report;
- (ii) noted the Audit & Standards Committee will receive a contract award report at each meeting to promote a level of scrutiny; and
- (iii) noted that the decision is implemented into other related governance documents as appropriate.

## **7. SPT Corporate Plan 2024-2028: Progress on Deliverables**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 12 November 2024 by the Chief Executive / Partnership Secretary advising the Partnership of progress towards the agreed commitments in the SPT Corporate Plan 2024-2028.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson who confirmed that an updated Corporate Plan aligned to the budget will be brought to the Partnership meeting on 14 March 2025 for further scrutiny, the Partnership noted the progress made towards the key Corporate Plan 2024-2028 commitments as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

## **8. Subway Modernisation – progress update**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 December 2024 by the Director of Transport Operations updating the Partnership with the latest progress on the Subway Modernisation Programme.

After discussion and hearing from Mr Robinson, Mrs Davidson and Mrs Aird in response to members' questions, particularly regarding:

- i) the phasing of the introduction of platform screen doors;

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- ii) communication with passengers regarding essential Sunday closures;
- iii) the testing to be undertaken; and
- iv) the availability of funding to conclude the project,

the Partnership noted:

- i) the continued progress made on all Subway Modernisation and improvement works since the last written update to the Partnership in June 2024;
- ii) ongoing progress on the MSA contract including formal acceptance of the first sixteen trains and introduction to passenger service of the first fourteen trains running on the existing signalling system, the completion of Fault Free Running and the ongoing hardware installation work in readiness for the new signalling system;
- iii) the challenges of introducing a new fleet to passenger service and delivering reliability growth;
- iv) continued challenge towards performance improvement on the TSSSA contract, and noting that a senior level discussion would take place in January 2025 which entailed travel to Amsterdam and sharing of information with other transport authorities;
- v) progress made on operational readiness and delay mitigation actions including existing infrastructure and fleet maintenance improvements;
- vi) that the modernisation programme remains within overall budget and funding envelope pending the outcome of the assessment of contractor claims recently received;
- vii) the commitment and performance of SPT, ANSTA and other contractors delivering the work; and
- viii) that a further report on progress will be presented to the Partnership meeting in June 2025.

## 9. Ticketing Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 December 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support informing the Partnership of SPT's activities in relation to integrated public transport ticketing.

After discussion and hearing from Mr Nimmo, Mrs Davidson, Mrs Aird and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, particularly regarding:

- i) the reasons for the reduction in Zonecard sales and the work planned for 2025 to promote the ticketing options;
- ii) the potential for a whole of Scotland smartcard;
- iii) the availability of relevant data from bus operators to allow more concise evidence based planning; and

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- iv) sources of information to advise travellers of the most appropriate travel and ticket options for their journey,

the Partnership noted the contents of the report.

## 10. Nevis Technologies Proposal

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 December 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support updating the Partnership on upcoming changes to arrangements for the delivery of ITSO smart ticketing services as the original planned delivery outcome of Nevis Technologies Ltd had been achieved, and seeking approval to dissolve the Nevis Technologies Ltd joint venture.

After hearing from Mrs Aird who confirmed that no members of staff would be adversely impacted by the dissolution of Nevis Technologies Ltd, the Partnership authorised SPT officers to negotiate the dissolution of Nevis Technologies Ltd to be effective post July 2025.

## 11. Clyde Metro Progress Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 December 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning updating the Partnership on progress of the Clyde Metro programme.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, including confirmation of a stakeholder and industry stakeholder engagement exercise in Spring 2025, the Partnership noted the contents of the report and the progress made to date in progressing the necessary workstreams to deliver on the Clyde Metro case for investment.

## 12. Regional Active Travel Strategy

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 December 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning updating the Partnership on the development of the SPT Regional Active Travel Strategy and Delivery Plan (ATS) and recommending the Partnership approve the final draft of the ATS.

After discussion and hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, particularly regarding:

- i) proposals relating to the formulation of the business case for the projects detailed in the Strategy;
- ii) the availability of funding; and
- iii) whether over-arching guidance can be used for the projects in the ATS and others,

the Partnership approved the final draft ATS at Appendix 1 of the report.

### Chair's closing remarks

The Chair on behalf of the Partnership thanked all officers of SPT for their work throughout the year and for the reports submitted to the Partnership and Committees and offered best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.