



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee

28 January 2022

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 28 January 2022

- Present** Councillors Alan Moir (Chair), Martin Bartos, Graeme Brooks (Substitute), Colin Cameron, Graham Campbell (from Agenda Item 4), Graham Hardie, Alistair Mackay (Substitute), Richard Nelson (until Agenda Item 5), Michael McPake, Donald Reid and appointed members Greg Beecroft, Jenna Dickson (until Agenda Item 8) and Graham Johnston (until Agenda Item 5).
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; 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; Andrea Thompson, Media & Public Affairs Manager and Scott Prentice, Head of Business Development, Scotrail (until Agenda Item 6).

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 Malcolm Balfour, Richard Bell, Marie McGurk and David Wilson.

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

Cllr Moir declared an interest in Agenda Item 5, 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 5 November 2021, having been considered at the Partnership meeting on 17 December 2021, was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. Presentation by Gill Murray, BTP Chief Superintendent, on policing priorities in the West of Scotland

[Click here to view the presentation](#)

After considerable discussion and having heard from Ms Murray, Mrs Davidson and Mr Smith in response to members' questions, particularly relating to the issue of safety on public transport and hearing that a cross industry strategic meeting was arranged for 17 February 2022 involving representatives from BTP, Police Scotland, the Scotrail Alliance, SPT and bus operators, the Operations Chair thanked Ms Murray for attending and requested that a further report on the topics discussed be brought to a future committee.

5. 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 18 January 2022 by the Director of Finance reporting on:

- (a) 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) the provision of public transport services and facilities in the Partnership area more generally.
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After considerable discussion and having heard from Mr Prentice on Scotrail services and the current consultations relating to ticket offices, and hearing from Mrs Davidson, Mr Wylie, Mr Dickson and Mr Smith in response to members' questions regarding SPT services, the Committee noted the details of the report.

The Operations Chair thanked Mr Prentice for attending and noted Mr Prentice would provide responses separately to specific local member questions.

6. Subsidised Bus Service Contract Recommendations: financial Implications

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 12 January 2022 by the Director of Finance, 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 noted:

- (i) the financial implications of the recommendations in the papers and gave due consideration to this in the course of the decision making;
- (ii) that the projected positive variance reported will be assessed at year end and any underspend will be transferred to the Strategic Bus Fund for use in future years; and
- (iii) the key concerns identified which may impact on the subsidised bus budget in the short to medium term, including in the next financial year.

7. Update on SPT's Real Time Passenger Information and Traffic Light Priority for Bus systems

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 January 2022 by the Chief Executive updating the Committee on the progress of Real Time Passenger Installations across the SPT area, and progress of the Traffic Light Priority for Bus projects.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions specifically relating to the progress made to roll out timetable information, highlighting the maintenance costs required to be funded by individual local authorities and the work to further roll out the system in specific council areas, the Committee noted:

- (i) the work being carried out to improve public transport information through the recent and planned expansions of RTPI across the Local Authority areas, SPT's bus stations and NHS estates; and
- (ii) the work being done in respect of TLP for bus, both executed and planned, to assist with creating conditions to improve the punctuality of bus services.

8. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 January 2022 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee approve the award of a number of subsidised local bus service contracts.

After hearing from Mr Dickson and Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, particularly on the need to ensure service continuity as much as possible and that government financial support would change from April 2022 adding to the financial pressure on subsidised service

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delivery and expected increased demand, including the request for reinstatement of night services, the Committee agreed:

- (i) the award of the contracts detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (ii) that further information would be provided at the appropriate time on the outcome of the outstanding tendering exercises to ensure Partnership members were fully briefed as to the challenges faced, and any relevant reasons if contracts are not subsequently awarded.

9. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 January 2022 by the Chief Executive advising the Committee of amendments to subsidised local and MyBus bus service contracts since the last Operations Committee meeting on 5 November 2021.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, particularly on the additional MyBus and Covid vaccination transport resource provided at Ravenscraig Health Centre, the Committee noted the amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts in accordance with established corporate governance, financial regulation and contract standing orders.

10. Contracts awarded under delegated powers

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 January 2022 by the Chief Executive 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, thus ensuring that socially necessary gaps in the public transport are provided for.

11. Requests for subsidised local bus services

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 January 2022 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee note the request received for subsidised local bus services and actions.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, particularly relating to services between Glasgow Hight Street and Spingburn, the Committee heard that in response to requests, Mrs Davidson held discussions with MSPs relating to the increased demands and pressures on the availability of funding to support gaps in the bus and public transport network among other matter, the Committee agreed the recommendations as detailed in the report.

Closing Remarks

On behalf of Cllr Wilson, Cllr Moir noted this was the last Operations Committee meeting of the current Partnership and extended thanks to Cllr Mackay for his input to the Operations Committee in his role as Substitute for Cllr McGurk.
