

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee

7 November 2025

held in person at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference

Contact:

Amy Bryceland

amy.bryceland@spt.co.uk

Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference* on 7 November 2025

Present Councillors David Wilson (Chair), Alex Allison, Ken Andrew*, Stephen Dornan, Helen Loughran*, Alan Moir, Donald Reid*, Adam Smith, Andy Steel* and appointed members Moray Macdonald*, Scott Prentice and Pam Turton*

Attending Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; 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; Julie Wilson, Head of Service Delivery; Amy Bryceland, Solicitor/Clerk and Ewan Tait 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 reminded members and those attending in all capacities that only the official recording, to be published on SPT's website, is permitted.

The Chair welcomed Ewan Tait of Scotrail to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillor Maureen Devlin.

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 4, citing his employment with Scotrail and as a member of ASLEF, the trade union.

Appointed member Scott Prentice declared an interest citing his role as a Trustee of Transform Scotland.

3. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 22 August 2025, having been considered and agreed at the Partnership meeting of 19 September 2025 as a correct record, was duly noted.

4. Monitoring Report on public transport and facilities in the SPT Area

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 13 October 2025 by the Director of Transport Operations reporting on the operational performance of public transport services and facilities which are delivered directly by the Partnership or others on behalf of the Partnership and the provision of public transport services and facilities in the Partnership area more generally.

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

- i) what reporting of customer satisfaction of subway services and understanding was undertaken;

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- ii) the cause and effect of patronage levels increasing in SPT bus stations, noting that patronage was reduced on subsidised services although cost of delivery was increasing;
- iii) clarification of the availability of subway fleet relative to fleet reliability;
- iv) a request to consider the provision of greater detail for the escalation process for warnings issued to School Transport operators, including the reasons for warnings being issued and actions being taken to reduce the number of warnings; and
- v) the increase in the coach market and likely implications for the management of demand at SPT bus stations;

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

- i) upcoming timetable changes due to be implemented mid-December including the introduction of a half-hourly service in the evenings on the East Kilbride route, and the introduction of electric trains on further services following Network Rail enhancements;
- ii) the challenges in rail replacement bus service provisions during disruptions;
- iii) increase in patronage since the introduction of off peak all day fares; and
- iv) uplift in cancellations from the previous period caused by severe weather conditions (Storm Floris in August) and passenger incidents,

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

5. Subsidised Bus service contract recommendations: financial implications

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 20 October 2025 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, the Committee noted:

- i) upcoming timetable changes due to be implemented mid-December including the introduction of a half-hourly service in the evenings on the East Kilbride route, and the introduction of electric trains on further services following Network Rail enhancements; the financial implications of the recommendations relating to the subsidised bus;
 - ii) the projected positive variance reported which provides limited scope 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. As a result of this, an assessment of the current supported bus service provision will continue in 2025/2026 with a view to reducing overall costs with a view to making the supported service budget more sustainable in 2025/2026 and future financial years.
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6. Amendments to subsidised local bus services contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 14 October 2025 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery advising the Committee of amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts since the last Operations Committee meeting on 22 August 2025.

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

7. Contracts awarded under delegated powers

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 October 2025 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery advising the Committee of subsidised local bus and MyBus service contracts awarded under delegated powers.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee noted the subsidised local bus and MyBus service contracts awarded under delegated powers, in accordance with established corporate governance, financial regulation and contract standing orders.
