

## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of Operations Committee**

**27 January 2023**

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

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## **Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference\* on 27 January 2023**

**Present** Councillors David Wilson (Chair), Alex Allison, Ralph Barker (Substitute), Stephen Dornan, Michael McPake\* (excluding Agenda Item 6), Alan Moir, Jim Paterson\*, Donald Reid, Roza Salih\* and appointed members Greg Beecroft and Jenna Dickson

**Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance & Corporate Support; Antony Smith, Director of Subway; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery; Gary Robertson, Network Analysis & Design Manager; Jim Griffin, Senior Solicitor/Clerk and Ewan Tait, Business Development Executive, 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.

### **Chair's Remarks**

The Operations Chair sought the agreement of the Committee to table an additional item, which was circulated to members via email. All members of the Committee agreed.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Ken Andrew, Maureen Devlin, Adam Smith and appointed member Kirsty Orr.

#### **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.

Jenna Dickson declared an interest in Agenda Item 5, citing her employment with Scotrail Holdings.

Cllr McPake as a member of North Lanarkshire Council declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 and confirmed he would leave the meeting for that item.

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

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 4 November 2022, having been considered and agreed at the Partnership meeting on 16 December 2022 as a correct record, was duly noted.

#### **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 11 January 2023 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support 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 Tait in relation to ScotRail services, timetables, fares and an update on industrial action; and hearing from Mr Smith, Mr Wylie and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

The Operations Chair thanked Mr Tait for attending and noted SPT would consider including Subway performance statistics on the website or in stations in the near future.

## **5. Subsidised bus service contract recommendations: financial implications**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 January 2023 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 and noting that the report did not include implications arising from the additional paper.

After hearing from Mr Wylie in response to questions from members, the Committee noted:

- (i) the financial implications of the recommendations relating to the subsidised bus services budget in the following papers and agreed to give due consideration to this in the course of the decision making;
- (ii) the projected positive variance reported which may require to be utilised later in the financial year to support the regional and local network; and
- (iii) key concerns identified which may impact of the subsidised bus budget in the short to medium term, including in the current and future financial years and thus limiting SPT's ability to respond or react to future market research.

## **6. Mainstream Home to School Transport – Update**

[Click here to view the report](#)

Cllr McPake left the meeting. There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 January 2023 by the Chief Executive updating the Committee in relation to Mainstream Home to School Transport procurement in the current year and an update on matters previously reported.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions and confirming that the market remains in a difficult space and that driver recruitment is still an issue along with increasing costs, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

## **7. MyBus Review – Stage 1 – progress update and initial key findings**

[Click here to view the report](#)

Cllr McPake re-joined the meeting. There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 January 2023 by the Chief Executive providing an update on Stage 1 of the MyBus Review, including initial key findings.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh, Mr Wylie and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee heard of the consultancy work underway and noted:

- (i) the progress of the MyBus Review;
  - (ii) the initial key findings; and
  - (iii) that Stage 1 final recommendations will be presented to the next Operations Committee in April 2023.
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**8. Update on the Public Service Vehicles (Registration of Local Services) (Provision of Service Information) (Scotland) Regulations 2022**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 4 January 2023 by the Chief Executive updating the Committee on the establishment of Regulations regarding to the provision of bus service information.

After hearing Mr Dickson intimating that some operators already provide some information, while others do not, the Committee noted:

- (i) the content of the provisions of the Regulations detailed above, in respect of improved provision of information on cancelled or varied bus services; and
- (ii) that SPT Officers will continue to engage with Transport Scotland, Bus Operators, Councils, CPT & The Office of the Traffic Commissioner, ahead of the Regulations coming into force on 1 April 2023.

**9. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 January 2023 by the Chief Executive advising the Committee of amendments to subsidised local and MyBus bus service contracts since the last Operations Committee meeting on 4 November 2022.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

**10. Contracts awarded under delegated powers**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 January 2023 by the Chief Executive notifying the Committee of subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers.

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

**11. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 January 2023 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee approve the award of a number of subsidised local bus service contracts delivered in Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire council areas.

Cllr Reid asked for this paper to be considered in tandem with Agenda Item 15, given the commonality of operators. The Committee agreed.

**12. Requests for subsidised local bus services**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 January 2023 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee note the request received for subsidised local bus services and agree the proposed actions.

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After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee agreed the recommendations.

**13. Waste Management Services – Award of Contract**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 12 January 2023 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support recommending the Committee approve an award of a five year contract for Waste Management Services with the option to extend for a further five years to Enva Scotland Limited.

After hearing from Mr Wylie, the Committee approved the award of a contract for five years, with the option to extend for a further five years to Enva Scotland Limited for the supply of waste management services for all waste streams at an estimated cost of £382,677 for the initial five-year period.

**14. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contract 101/102 (Dumfries – Biggar – Edinburgh)**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 23 January 2023 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee approve the award of a subsidised local bus service contract for the 101/102 service in the South Lanarkshire area.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee thanked SPT's bus team for their work in securing a solution in a difficult situation and:

- (i) approved the award of the 101/102 service contract to Houstons Coaches at a cost of £385,000 per annum for 3 years (with an optional 2 year extension), effective from 1 April 2023;
- (ii) approved an SPT funding contribution of £128,333 per annum; and
- (iii) noted that the contract award is subject to approval of funding by Scottish Borders Council and Swestrans for their respective contributions for 3 years.

**15. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts – First Glasgow Contract Terminations**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 January 2023 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee approve the award of a number of subsidised local bus service contracts affecting the Glasgow, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire council areas.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mrs Davidson and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, particularly relating to the challenge of seeking alternative service provision and the increased costs arising thereon, the Committee sought clarity that endeavours would be used to recover the additional costs. After discussion and to minimise service disruption, the Committee agreed the award of the contracts detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Relative to Agenda Item 11 thereafter, the Committee, having noted that First Glasgow has withdrawn from service delivery of current contracts but continued to tender for future services, agreed the recommendations in the report.

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The Chair again extended thanks to all staff involved.

