

Partnership minute



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of meeting

21 June 2019

held in the Lewis Room, 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held in the Lewis Room, 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, on 21 June 2019

Present Councillors Dr Martin Bartos (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Mark Kerr, Alan Moir, Graham Hardie, Richard Nelson, Donald Reid, Graeme Brooks (substitute), David Shearer, Anna Richardson, Marie McNair, Alistair Mackay (substitute), Lee Lyons (substitute), Maureen Devlin, Michael McPake, and appointed members Brian Davidson, Ann Faulds, Anne Follin, Alex Macaulay, Jim McNally and Jo MacLennan.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Secretary/Assistant Chief Executive; Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Planning & Strategy and Heather Maclean, Committee Services officer.

Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed newly appointed members to the meeting.

In addition, the Chair sought, and received, the agreement of the Partnership to the tabling of an additional paper, to be read in conjunction with agenda item 12.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Alan Lafferty, Colin Cameron, Ian Cochrane, Marie McGurk, Jim Roberts and David Wilson and appointed members Gregory Beecroft and Graham Johnston.

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

Appointed member Ann Faulds declared an interest in Item 11 as she previously represented Glasgow City Council at the related public enquiry.

3. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 8 March 2019 was submitted and approved as an accurate record, with no matters arising.

4. Committee Minutes

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

- (a) Operations Committee of 26 April 2019;
- (b) Strategy & Programmes Committee of 10 May 2019; and
- (c) Audit & Standards Committee of 7 June 2019

5. Changes to Membership

There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 April 2019 by the Assistant Chief Executive advising the Partnership of recent changes to the membership, together with amendments to committee membership, and requesting that the Partnership appoint a member to the role of Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee.

The Partnership noted the content of the report.

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Thereon, the Chair called for nominations for the appointment of Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee.

Councillor Marie McGurk was nominated by Councillor David Shearer and seconded by Councillor Malcolm Balfour.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Marie McGurk was appointed Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee.

6. SPT Annual Report 2018/2019

There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 June 2019 by the Assistant Chief Executive providing the Partnership with a draft copy of the SPT 2018/2019 Annual Report and seeking feedback from members prior to publication.

A significant discussion took place regarding the most appropriate communications channels for sharing the report and it was agreed that a report on SPT's communication strategy would be presented to a future Committee.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed that, subject to small changes and amendments, the report be approved for publishing, noting that a copy would be sent directly to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity.

7. Audit & Standards Committee annual report 2018/2019

There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 7 June 2019 by the Assistant Chief Executive presenting the Audit & Standards Committee annual report highlighting the work of the committee during the last financial year.

8. Regional Transport Strategy – progress update

There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 May 2019 by the Assistant Chief Executive providing a progress update on the preparation of the new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for the Strathclyde Partnership area and highlighting external factors that are influencing the development of the RTS, including the National Transport Strategy (NTS).

After discussion and hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, the Partnership:

- (i) noted the contents of the report and requested that the RTS work be extended to include research on how other European Cities fund public transport;
- (ii) sought clarity again on the status of the recent Glasgow City Council Connectivity Commission Report; and
- (iii) agreed that a report on how SPT was responding to the climate change emergencies declared by other stakeholders would be presented to a future Committee.

9. Workplace Parking Levy – proposed amendment to Transport (Scotland) Bill – SPT response

There was submitted a report (issued) of 21 May 2019 by the Assistant Chief Executive recommending the approval of SPT's draft response to a request from the Scottish Parliament's Rural Economy & Connectivity (REC) Committee for a written submission regarding a proposed amendment to the Transport (Scotland) Bill in relation to a Workplace Parking Levy. SPT's response was submitted by officers to the REC Committee as a draft response, subject to Partnership approval, prior to the deadline of 22 May 2019.

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The Partnership sought clarity from Mr Kiloh, specifically in relation to the proposed wording of section 2 of the response “Structure of the WPL Framework”, which stated:

“While we believe that, in most circumstances, it would not be equitable for businesses to pass the costs for the WPL onto individual employees, ...”

and a request from Councillor Anna Richardson that it be removed from the final response.

After discussion, Councillor Graeme Brooks, seconded by Councillor Lee Lyons, moved a motion that the drafted sentence should be retained in the SPT response.

In response, Councillor Anna Richardson, seconded by appointed member Ann Faulds, moved a motion that stated that the sentence should be removed, and following the Chair’s intervention, all parties agreed to continue discussions to allow a consensus to be reached.

Thereafter, following significant discussion with regards to the specific wording and hearing further from Mr Kiloh in response to members’ questions, the Partnership reached consensus on the following wording:

“SPT would support that if employers do charge, then employers should take into account the affordability to employees when deciding on an employee’s contribution towards the Workplace Parking Levy. It must also be recognised that some workers will have no alternative, in the form of public transport, and therefore this may be or could be considered to be a tax.”

The Partnership agreed to the content of the SPT response within appendix 1 of the report, subject to change of text as stated above and other changes requested at the meeting.

10. North Lanarkshire Council Transport Issues – Member Officer Working Group Key Outcomes

There was submitted and approved a report dated 30 May 2019 by the Assistant Chief Executive updating the Partnership on the outcomes of North Lanarkshire Council’s Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) on local transport issues, and specifically:

- (i) noting SPT’s input into the Member Officer Working Group in the North Lanarkshire Council area;
- (ii) noted that North Lanarkshire Council had approved more closely aligned working with NHS Lanarkshire and shared transport services, and promotion of community transport services; and
- (iii) noted that North Lanarkshire Council had approved to proceed with a Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) in the Monklands area, with support from SPT and Transport Scotland.

11. Queen Elizabeth University Hospital – Transport Review

There was submitted a report dated 16 May 2019 by the Assistant Chief Executive informing the Partnership of the findings of the recent review of transport arrangements at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH) in Glasgow.

After discussion and hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members’ questions, the Partnership noted the contents of the report.

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12. Withdrawal of tender bids for subsidised local bus services

Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts (tabled)

There was submitted a report dated 20 May 2019 and a supplementary report tabled at the meeting by the Assistant Chief Executive advising the Partnership of the withdrawal of several recent tender bids for subsidised bus services and recommending approval for the award of a number of local bus service contracts.

After discussion and hearing from Ms Davidson in response to members' questions, the Partnership:

- (i) noted the withdrawal of tender bids in respect of contracts 9592G1, 9593G1 and W130A; and
- (ii) agreed to award the contracts detailed in appendix 1 of the tabled report.

13. Member attendance at relevant transport planning and policy conferences

There was submitted and approved a report dated 5 June 2019 by the Assistant Chief Executive recommending the approval for the Chair and Vice Chair to attend a conference entitled "Developing Scotland's National Transport Strategy – Investment, Connectivity & Wellbeing".