



## Minute of Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee

**18 September 2020**

Held via Video Conference

**contact:**

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## **Minute of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee held via Video Conference on 18 September 2020**

**Present** Councillors Dr Martin Bartos (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Ian Cochrane, Graham Hardie, Alan Lafferty, Marie McNair, Alan Moir, Donald Reid, Jim Roberts, David Shearer and David Wilson (from Agenda Item 7)

**Attending** Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Stuart Paul, Chief Accountant; Martin Breen, Senior Transport Planner; Tony Jones, Contact Centre Manager; Jim Griffin, Solicitor; and Karen Jones of Azets (formerly Scott Moncreiff)

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Cathy McEwan and Michael McPake.

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

The Committee noted there were no declarations of interest.

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

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 6 March 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record, noting that the Chair had requested correspondence of 2019 between the Chair and the Cabinet Secretary (previously circulated to members by email in early 2019) had been subsequently appended to the minute for information only.

### **4. 2019/20 Annual Audit Report**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 September 2020 by the Treasurer/Secretary providing the Committee with the finalised 2019/20 Annual Audit Report by Scott Moncreiff (now known as Azets) for the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme.

After discussion and noting Ms Jones' thanks to the SPT Finance team, the Committee noted the finalised 2019/20 Annual Audit Report by Scott Moncreiff to those changed with governance, for the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme.

### **5. Audited Annual Accounts 2019/20**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 September 2020 by the Treasurer/Secretary recommending the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee consider the audited annual accounts and approve them for signature, to ensure compliance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

After discussion and hearing from Mr Paul, the Committee approved the signing of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2020.

### **6. Final Outturn for financial year 2019/20 and Revenue Monitoring Report as at 15 August 2020, Period 5**

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[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 31 August 2020 by the Treasurer/Secretary advising members of the final outturn for the financial year 2019/20 and reporting on revenue expenditure incurred as at the end of Period 5 (15 August 2020), including the projected year end outturn for the current financial year.

After discussion and after hearing from Mr Paul and Mr Wylie, the Committee noted the final outturn position for 2019/20 and the projected outturn position of an underspend of £1.884m, noting the uncertainty surrounding this projection due to the current public health crisis for 2020/21 and noting that any underspend retained provided for more time but did not alter the long term viability concerns which are precipitating the ongoing scheme review.

#### **7. Performance and reimbursement update for 2019/20 and 2020/21 quarter 1**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 30 August 2020 updating the Committee on the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme's performance and reimbursement results for 2019/20 and for 2020/21 quarter 1 (April-June).

After consideration and having heard Mr Breen in answer to members' questions, the Committee noted:

- (i) the contents of the report and in particular the impact of Covid-19 on concessionary demand and operator reimbursement;
- (ii) the deferral of the agreed 2020/21 fare increase as a result of the current public health crisis; and
- (iii) an anticipated downturn in demand and operator reimbursement for concessionary travel.

#### **8. Review of Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme – Progress Update**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 September 2020 by the Treasurer updating the Joint Committee on the award of contract and on the current progress of the Review of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme.

After discussion and having heard Mr Breen in answer to members' questions, the Joint Committee noted progress of the review and the intention to hold stakeholder workshops, including members, as part of the review.

#### **9. Travel Card Unit – Update on Performance and Digital Enhancements**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 2 September 2020 by the Treasurer updating the Joint Committee on performance of the Travel Card Unit and advising the Committee of progress regarding digital enhancements to support Travel Card Unit administrative processing.

After discussion and having heard Mr Jones and Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, the Joint Committee welcomed the content of the report which was very positive and noted the progress made with digital enhancements and future integration to improve the service further.

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