Committee minute



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee

9 June 2023

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

Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference* on 9 June 2023

Present

Councillors Alan Moir (Chair), Stephen Dornan, Graham Hardie* (Substitute), Mark Horsham* (from Agenda Item 5), William Lennox*, Christy Mearns, Owen O'Donnell, Lawrence O'Neill*, Duncan Townson, David Wilson and appointed members Anne Follin, Ed McGrachan and Andrew Walters.

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; Andrea Thompson, Media & Public Affairs Manager and Paul-Scott Wiggins, Head of Service Operations & Security.

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 Mitchell and William Sinclair and appointed member George Hazel.

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

Cllr Moir reaffirmed his declaration of interest citing his employment with Scotrail and as a member of ASLEF, the trade union.

3. Minute of previous meeting

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The minute of the meeting of 17 February 2023, having been considered and approved at the Partnership meeting on 17 March 2023 as a correct record, was duly noted.

4. Proposed Capital Amendments 2023/2024

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There was submitted and discussed a report (issued) of 17 May 2023 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support seeking approval for proposed amendments to the 2023/2024 capital programme and seeking approval to Grant Fund as detailed in section 6 of the report.

After considerable discussion, specifically highlighting that resources are being directed to Partnership priorities and after hearing from Mr Wylie and Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions and noting the additional funding in support of active travel, the Committee:

- (i) approved the proposed amendments to the 2023/2024 capital programme as per Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) agreed to Grant Fund or to vary existing Grant Fund letters to the Local Authorities or other bodies for those awards up to the value of £200,000 and authorise that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements;
- (iii) agreed to recommend to the Partnership meeting of 23 June 2023 approval to Grant Fund or to vary existing Grant Fund letters to the Local Authorities or other bodies for those awards over a cumulative value of £200,000; and
- (iv) noted that further work to quantify and manage risk, advance savings and re-phase existing projects is being undertaken to balance spend against budget.

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5. Clyde Metro - progress update

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There was submitted and discussed a report (issued) of 30 May 2023 by the Chief Executive updating the Committee on the Clyde Metro project and SPT's preparatory works in support of this.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh and Mrs Davidson, particularly on moving forward on early work on projects that would support the wider ambition of Clyde Metro and the work being done by SPT and partners to support advancement of the case for investment as early as possible, the Committee noted the report.

6. Strategic Issues Update for the SPT area

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 30 May 2023 by the Chief Executive providing an update on strategic level issues affecting transport in the West of Scotland.

After extensive discussion, particularly on seeking more information on whether further improvement on public transport accessibility was being considered and:

- (i) the expected timescales of Transport Scotland to issue the necessary guidance and enabling regulations of the Transport Scotland Act;
- (ii) whether SPT was seeking to engage with and exploring opportunities for additional funding, including that available via The Scottish Zero Emission Bus Challenge Fund (Scotzeb);
- (iii) how SPT was ensuring a consistency with the National Planning Framework;

and after hearing from Mr Kiloh, Mr Wylie and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the report, and agreed that a briefing note outlining more information on the Highland Council school / local bus project should be circulated to all members.

7. Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy & Delivery Plan – Award of Contract

Click here to view the report

There was submitted a report (issued) of 30 May 2023 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee approve an award of contract for consultancy services to support the development of the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy to Systra Limited.

After discussion with members welcoming this next step and hearing from Mr Dickson and Mr Kiloh in response to specific questions, the Committee:

- (i) approved the award of contract for consultancy support to develop the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy to Systra Limited for a value of £147,188 (excluding VAT);
- (ii) noted that Work Packages 3 6 will be awarded at SPT's discretion and Partnership approval, and will be dependent on the outcomes of Work Packages 1 and 2; and
- (iii) following (ii) above, noted that the programme and costs for Work Packages 3-6 will be subject to approval by a future Committee at the appropriate time.

8. Glasgow City Region City Deal: Update on East Dunbartonshire Council's Place and Growth Programme

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 30 May 2023 by the Chief Executive updating the Committee on the progress with East Dunbartonshire Council's Place and Growth Programme. After hearing from Mr Dickson outlining SPT's key role in this project, the Committee noted the report and welcomed the role SPT are contributing to deliver the transport elements of the project.

9. Capital Programme Projects Update

Click here to view the report

There was submitted a report (issued) of 30 May 2023 by the Chief Executive updating the Committee on progress of SPT's Capital Programme projects for the financial year 2023/2024.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Kiloh and Mrs Davidson in response to members' questions, specifically seeking more information as to how the Partnership assesses the value for money and effectiveness of all projects, but especially active travel projects and takes account of unintended consequences of projects which impact on public transport provision, the Committee noted the contents of the report and reaffirmed its support and resource allocation to sustainable transport.

10. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contract

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 19 May 2023 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee approve the award of a subsidised local bus service contract in the North Lanarkshire Council area.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee agreed the award of the contract detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and noted the award was subject to the approval of North Lanarkshire Council.

11. Security Guarding and Closed Circuit Television Monitoring Services – award of contract

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 30 May 2023 by the Director of Subway recommending approval of the award of a contract for security guarding and Closed Circuit Television monitoring services across all SPT assets and estate.

After hearing from Mr Wiggins, the Committee approved the award of a contract for security guarding and Closed Circuit Television monitoring services across SPT assets to Profile Security Solutions Ltd for a period of 5 years and at a cost of £6,018,052.

12. Insurance Renewal

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 May 2023 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support updating the Committee on the renewal of SPT's insurance policies and award of corresponding contracts.

After hearing from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the award of the insurance policies under delegated powers noted in the report and that a separate not relative to SPT's cyber security stance would be shared with members on a private and confidential basis.