

Partnership minute



## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of meeting**

**14 March 2025**

held at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow and via Video Conference

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## **Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow and via Video Conference\* at 10am on 14 March 2025**

**Present** Councillors Stephen Dornan (Chair), Alex Allison, Ken Andrew, Maureen Devlin\*, Helen Loughran\* (from Agenda Item 5), Christy Mearns, Alan Moir, Lawrence O'Neill, Donald Reid, John Ross\*, Roza Salih\*, Adam Smith\*, Andy Steel\*, Sandy Watson, David Wilson and appointed members Greg Beecroft, Anne Folin, Ed McGrachan and Andrew Walters\*

**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; Amy Bryceland, Solicitor and Paul White, Director of CPT Scotland

### **Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed new Appointed Member Nicola Graham, Director of Infrastructure and Support Services, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and extended his thanks on behalf of the Partnership to Greg Beecroft and George Hazel for their years of service as Appointed Members.

Partnership Standing Order No 14 requires the agreement of the Partnership to record meetings. The Chair reiterated to the Partnership that the meeting would be recorded and potentially viewed multiple times. The Partnership members noted this.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted from Cllr Malcolm Mitchell, Cllr Duncan Townson and appointed member George Hazel.

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

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

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

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 13 December 2024 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

#### **4. Committee Minutes**

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

- (a) Appointed Member Recruitment Committee of 16 January 2025;
- (b) Operations Committee of 31 January 2025;
- (c) Strategy & Programmes Committee of 21 February 2025;
- (d) Audit & Standards Committee of 21 February 2025; and
- (e) Appointed Member Recruitment Committee of 27 February 2025.

14 March 2025

**5. Presentation from Paul White, Director of CPT Scotland**

[Click here to view the presentation](#)

The Partnership viewed a presentation outlining the role of CPT and the work CPT are currently engaged in. After hearing from Mr White in response to members' questions, specifically noting:

- a) the financial and planning challenges in the bus sector;
- b) the availability of data from operators and the benefits that could be had in accessing data; and
- c) the source of the various statistics cited by Mr White and agreeing that the source documents would be circulated to members following the meeting,

the Committee thanked Mr White for his attendance and for the informative presentation..

**6. Update on Membership**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 28 February 2025 by the Chief Executive/Partnership Secretary providing the Partnership with an update on membership changes and advising on progress with the external recruitment of Appointed Members.

After discussion relating to the recruitment process, in particular the efforts made to distribute the application pack to a wide variety of specific interest groups and that all pronouns and names were removed prior to the Recruitment Committee having sight of the CVs and applications received, and after hearing further from Mrs Davidson, the Partnership noted:

- (i) the recent reappointments of appointed members Jenna Dickson, Anne Follin, Andrew Walters and Ed McGrachan;
- (ii) the appointment Nicola Graham as the representative from the Health sector;
- (iii) the progress made to date of the Appointed Member Recruitment Committee; and
- (iv) early plans being made to ensure an effective induction processes for Appointed Members.

**7. Amendments to the Subway Conditions of Travel**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 4 March 2025 by the Director of Transport Operations recommending the Partnership approve amendments to the Subway Conditions of Travel.

After hearing Mr Robinson confirm the changes arose following the introduction mainly of the new fleet, the Partnership approved amendments to the Subway Conditions of Travel as outlined in the report.

**8. Proposed Revenue Budget 2025/2026**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 February 2025 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support recommending the Partnership consider and approve the revenue budget for 2025/2026 highlighting the assumptions made in the preparation of the budget including proposals for fares, fees and charges and note the consequential local authority requisition.

14 March 2025

After hearing from Mrs Aird in response to members' questions, specifically relating to the impact reduced costs of Subway Modernisation could have and general questions around the charges of utilising Park and Ride services offered at some Subway stations, the Partnership approved:

- (i) the proposed revenue budget at £37.299m;
- (ii) requisition levels at £26.682m a 2.04% increase on the previous year;
- (iii) an increase of subway fares as detailed in the report;
- (iv) an increase to bus station departure and parking charges as detailed in the report;
- (v) an increase in the maximum permitted farescale for supported bus services as detailed in the report;
- (vi) the updated long term financial strategy; and
- (vii) the Reserves Policy as attached to the report.

**9. Proposed Capital Plan & Budget 2026/2026 to 2027/2028 including the Capital Budget 2025/2026**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 20 February 2025 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support recommending the Partnership consider, and if appropriate, approve:

- (i) the proposed Capital Plan for financial years 2025/2026 to 2027/2028;
- (ii) the Capital Budget for financial year 2025/2026;
- (iii) Grant Fund to the local authorities or other bodies as per Appendix 4; and
- (iv) authorise that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements

After hearing from Mrs Aird and noting that the Capital Plan had been scrutinised by the Strategy & Programmes Committee at its previous meeting, the Partnership:

- (i) approved the proposed Capital Plan for financial years 2025/2026 to 2027/2028;
- (ii) approved the Capital Budget for financial year 2025/2026;
- (iii) approved to Grant Fund to the local authorities or other bodies as per Appendix 4 of the report; and
- (iv) authorised that grant award letters be concluded in line with SPT governance arrangements.

**10. Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy & Capital Strategy**

[Click here to view the report](#)

14 March 2025

There was submitted a report (issued) of 25 February 2025 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support updating the Partnership on treasury management processes and seeking approval for:

- (i) the proposed Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2025/2026; and
- (ii) the proposed Capital Strategy for 2025/2026 which forms part of SPT's integrated revenue, capital and treasury management planning

After hearing from Mrs Aird the Partnership approved:

- (i) the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2025/2026;
- (ii) the Annual Investment Strategy for 2025/2026;
- (iii) SPT's prudential and treasury indicators as detailed in the report;
- (iv) the Permitted Investment Types detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (v) the Counterparty List detailed in Appendix 3 of the report; and
- (vi) the Capital Strategy for 2025/2026.

## **11. Clyde Metro Progress Update**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 February 2025 by the Head of Policy & Planning updating the Partnership on progress of the Clyde Metro programme.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh the Partnership noted:.

- (i) the contents of the report;
- (ii) that the Chief Executives of SPT, Glasgow City Council and Transport Scotland form the basis of the Programme Steering Group with oversight of the project; and
- (iii) that an appropriate programme of governance is in place and will be updated throughout the project.

## **12. Meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty 2025**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 February 2025 by the Head of Policy and Planning to provide the Partnership with a progress update on how SPT is meeting its obligations under the UK Equality Act 2010 and Scottish Public Sector Equality Duties and to recommend approval of the 'SPT Advancing Equality 2025' report attached at Appendix 1.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson outlining that the approach taken by SPT includes ensuring that all matters of equality are considered integral to operations, and in response to questions specifically seeking clarifications on:

- (i) whether improvements could be made to increase visibility of equality practices to the Partnership;
- (ii) whether there was scope and value to having a specific budget to support Equality initiatives; and

14 March 2025

(iii) what further actions could be taken to change the representation of the Partnership,

the Partnership noted the progress updates and approved the report at Appendix 1 for publication on SPT's website in line with the statutory timescales.

**13. Clyde Metro: Case for Investment Stage 2A: STAG Appraisal and related Technical workstreams – award of contract**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 February 2025 by the Head of Policy and Planning recommending the Partnership approve an award of contract for consultancy services to support the development of the Clyde Metro Case for Investment Stage 2A STAG Appraisal and related Technical Workstreams.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh the Partnership approved the award of contract for consultancy support to develop the Clyde Metro Case for Investment Stage 2A: STAG Appraisal and related Technical Workstreams to Mott Macdonald Limited for a value of £1,304,713.

**14. Clyde Metro Workstream F – contract award**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 February 2025 by the Head of Policy & Planning recommending the Partnership approve an award of contract for consultancy services to support the development of the Clyde Metro Case for Investment Stage 2F: Preliminary Engineering Statement.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh the Partnership approved the award of contract for consultancy support to develop the Clyde Metro Case for Investment Stage 2F: Preliminary Engineering Statement to Mott Macdonald Limited for a value of £575,219.50.

**Valedictory Remarks**

Mr Beecroft thanked the Partnership for their support and continued efforts to raise the importance of transport and thanked and commended the work of SPT staff, especially the Chief Executive, and wished for every success going forward.