

## Minute of Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee

**6 March 2020**

held in 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow

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## **Minute of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee held in the Board Room, 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow on 6 March 2020**

- Present** Councillors Dr Martin Bartos (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Graham Brooks (substitute), Ian Cochrane, Graham Hardie, Alan Lafferty, Cathy McEwan, Marie McNair, Alan Moir, Donald Reid, Jim Roberts and David Shearer.
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Treasurer/Secretary; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Martin Breen, Planning and Projects Officer; Stuart Paul, Chief Accountant; and Tony Jones, Contact Centre Manager.

### **Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair advised that he had written to the Cabinet Secretary as per the committees' request and had circulated the response.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors David Wilson and Michael McPake.

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

Councillor Moir highlighted that he was employed by Abellio Scotrail, and thus declared an interest in item 6.

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

["Click here to view minute"](#)

The minute of the meeting of 20 September 2019 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

#### **4. Performance and Reimbursement Update on 2019/20 Quarter 1 to Quarter 3 Results**

["Click here to view report"](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 February 2020 by the Treasurer/Secretary updating the Committee of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme's performance and reimbursement results for 2019/20 financial quarters 1 – 3 (April – December 2019).

After discussion and hearing from Mr Breen in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the contents of the report in particular, the impact of reported increased concessionary demand and operator reimbursement on scheme costs.

#### **5. Revenue Monitoring Report as at 1 February 2020, Period 11**

["Click here to view report"](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 20 February 2020 by the Treasurer/Secretary advising members of revenue expenditure incurred at the end of period 11 (1 February 2020), including the projected outturn at the end of the current financial year.

After discussion and hearing from Mr Paul the committee:

- (a) noted the projected outturn position for 2019/20 based on the information available at the end of period 11; and
  - (b) noted the need to further draw on reserves in the financial year 2019/20.
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**6. Proposed Fare Increase and Review of Scheme**

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 February 2020 by the Treasurer/Secretary seeking Committee approval that:

- (a) an interim £0.50 increase in basic concessionary single and return fares;
- (b) ferry journeys over 10 nautical miles be charged at twice the basic concession; and
- (c) a review of the scheme, with specific focus on options to ensure its future financial sustainability

After much discussion, and the Committee confirming their agreement and support to the long-term future of the scheme, but recognising the significant affordability issues, agreed to the recommendations as detailed in the report. In addition, the Committee requested that consideration be given to how the NHS could be a partner in the scheme recognising the value the scheme makes to NHS objectives.

**7. Proposed Revenue Budget 2020/21**

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 20 February 2020 and a supplementary report tabled at the meeting by the Treasurer proposing a revenue budget for the financial year 2020/21, outlining the assumptions made in the preparation of the budget, and advising the Committee of the proposed local authority requisitions to support the Concession Scheme.

After consideration and having heard Mrs Davidson in answer to members' questions, the committee:

- (a) approved the proposed budget of up to £4.176m for financial year 2020/21, noting the requirement for approval of the proposed concessionary fares;
- (b) approved requisitions totalling £4.022m, a reduction of 0.44% in comparison to 2019/20; and
- (c) noted an estimated draw on reserves of £0.154m.

**8. Travel Card Unit - Update on Performance and digital enhancements**

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 February 2020 by the Treasurer updating the Joint Committee on the performance of the Travel Card Unit and advising of digital enhancements to support administration processing.

After discussion and having heard Mr Jones in answer to members' questions, the Joint Committee noted:

- (a) the contents of the report;
- (b) the progress made in reducing administration workloads and improving the customer experience; and
- (c) the future digital enhancements that will further improve service delivery.

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**9. Concessionary Subway Travel and Smart Ticketing**

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 18 February 2020 by the Treasurer updating the Joint Committee on improvements made by SPT to concession ticketing on the Subway, and the introduction of smart NEC ticketing, welcoming the financial saving and reduction of disposable tickets in circulation.

**10. Pilot Project for Application Identity Verification**

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 February 2020 by the Treasurer advising the Joint Committee of the proposal to engage with the Improvement Service to implement digital National Entitlement Card application identity verification on a pilot basis.

After discussion and having heard Mrs Davidson in answer to members’ questions, the Joint Committee noted:

- (a) the progress made and that a small scale pilot will be implemented; and
- (b) that a full assessment will be undertaken before full roll out, and reported to a future Committee.

**11. SPT & GCC – Supporting Applicants with a life-Limiting Cancer Diagnosis**

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 February 2020 by the Treasurer updating the Joint Committee on an improvement to the National Entitlement Card application Process to support people with a life-limiting cancer diagnosis.

After discussion and having heard Mr Jones in answer to members’ questions, the Joint Committee noted the report, and welcomed this significant process improvement.