

## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of Operations Committee**

**31 January 2014**

held in Consort House, Glasgow

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## Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow on 31 January 2014

- Present** Councillors Denis McKenna (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Jim Coleman, Charlie Gilbert (substitute), Alan Moir, Robert G MacIntyre, Lawrence O'Neill, Hamish Stewart and David Wilson.
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Secretary/Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support); Valerie A Bowen, Senior Committee Officer; Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) and Neil Wylie, Director of Finance and HR.
- Also attending** John Yellowlees, ScotRail

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Jim Buchanan (substitute), Tony Buchanan, Bill Grant, Kaye Harmon and Bobby McDill.

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

The committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Minute of previous meeting

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The minute of the meeting of 15 November 2013 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Arising therefrom with reference to page 2, paragraph 8(2)(c), Mr Stewart informed the committee that contract 9608 had not been awarded.

### 4. Monitoring report on public transport services in the SPT area

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 January 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing the committee of the latest trends in the number of passengers carried and the reliability of services directly operated and supported by the Partnership and on ScotRail services in the SPT area; and
- (2) providing information on the current status of SPT's bus action plan for the continuing improvement of bus service delivery within the region, regulating and fleet profile statistics, together with subsidised local bus service vehicle inspections.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the terms of the report.

### 5. Subsidised local bus service contract recommendations – financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 January 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) advising the committee of the financial implications of members' possible decisions relating to further items on the agenda.

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After discussion, the committee

- (1) noted the report in relation to the financial implications of awarding any contracts; and
- (2) agreed
  - (a) to give due consideration to the implications when making decisions on those contracts; and
  - (b) that information on the available funding in support of subsidised bus services over the past few years be submitted to a future meeting of the committee.

**6. Temporary contracts awarded under delegated powers**

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 22 January 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) appending a list of temporary contracts awarded under delegated powers since the end of November 2013, to ensure that gaps in the network arising from commercial market changes were filled; and
- (2) advising members that the tendering process would continue to ensure that the contracts were replaced on a more long term basis.

**7. Proposed renewal of subsidised local bus service contracts**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 January 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing information on the various options available to operators when tendering for the renewal of local subsidised bus service contracts;
- (2) informing members of the tenders received; and
- (3) recommending the award of appropriate contracts.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation, the committee

- (a) agreed to the award of the following contracts for the period 13 July 2014 to 15 July 2017, with the exception of contracts LS083B and LS044J which covered the periods 13 July 2014 to 16 July 2016 and 13 July 2014 to 11 July 2015, respectively:-
  - (i) package 15890 containing contracts 2827K (service 147), 2829J (services 68,71/71A), 2838G (services 72,178), 3164F1 (service 329), 4833J (service 399), 4840F1 (service 395/396), 4846N (service 13), 4898V (service 209), LS040D (service 128), LS083B (service 165), W061 (services 16,226,227,228), W062 (service 211), W063 (service 230) to Henderson Travel at a cost of £2,369,799;
  - (ii) contract 5645R (service 60) to McGills Buses at a cost of £32,198;
  - (iii) contract LS005F (service 59) to McGills Buses at a cost of £62,400;

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- (iv) contract LS009C (service 206) to First Glasgow at a cost of £91,870;
  - (v) contract LS081A (service M3) to First Glasgow at a cost of £64,222;
  - (vi) contract LS082A (service 31) to Henderson Travel at a cost of £205,069;
  - (vii) contract W033A (services 15,118) to Glasgow Citybus at a cost of £209,806;
  - (viii) contract W040A1 (service 332/A,334) to Shuttle Buses at a cost of £256,460, subject to the approval of East Ayrshire Council in respect of its contribution of £3,800 per annum;
  - (ix) contract W058A (services 8,94) to First Glasgow at a cost of £154,322;
  - (x) contract LS044J (service 904) to Scottish Citylink Coaches at a cost of £43,551;
  - (xii) contract W023A (services M1,230,299) to First Glasgow at a cost of £62,400; and
  - (xiii) contract LS60C1 (services 32,125) to Western Buses at a cost of £515,583; and
- (b) noted that the award of the contracts was subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for EU advertised public sector contracts.

## 8. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 January 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing information on the tenders received for a number of subsidised local bus service contracts which were required as a result of service withdrawals by First Glasgow and Stuarts Coaches together with forthcoming withdrawals by Henderson Travel; and
- (2) recommending the award of appropriate contracts.

After discussion, the committee

- (a) agreed to the award of the following contracts for the contract period 16 February 2014 to 16 July 2016 in respect of the contract at (i) and for the contract period 13 July 2014 to 15 July 2017 for the contracts at (ii) – (iv):-
  - (i) contract W056 to Henderson Travel at a cost of £134,160;
  - (ii) package 15890, containing contract W064 (service 47/A) to Henderson Travel at a cost of £2,369,799;
  - (iii) package 15937, containing contracts W071 (services 135,317B) and W074A (service 317), to Stuarts Coaches at a cost of £428,400; and
  - (iv) contract W072 to JMB Travel at a cost of £93,945; and
- (b) noted that the award of the contract was subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for EU advertised public sector contracts.

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**9. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts**

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 22 January 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) detailing changes to subsidised local bus services arising from changed circumstances, the committee noted

(1) the amendments as detailed below:-

Contract	Amendment
Contract 4840E1 East Kilbride - Eaglesham – Uplawmoor (service 395/396)	Alteration to route to address timetable reliability
Contract W022B1 Harthill/Torbothie - Wishaw General Hospital - Ravenscraig Sports Centre (services 365/366/367)	Alteration to route to maintain the servicing of key areas of Wishaw town centre following completion of streetscape project
Contract W010B Wishaw - Airdrie/Monklands Hospital (service 248A)	Alteration to route to maintain the servicing of key areas of Wishaw town centre following completion of streetscape project
Contract 4846M Hamilton - Strathaven - East Kilbride (service 13)	Alteration to route to avoid access issues due to parked cars
Contract 4945L1 Hamilton - Law – Carluke (service 243) SPT Vehicle	Alteration to route to allow servicing of Station Road , Law, following withdrawal of commercial element of service 135
Contract W053 Carluke Local/Lower Braidwood (service 47A/B Lanark Local (service 135)	Contract cancelled to allow creation of revised contracts which would encompass the new requirements of Lanark residents following the withdrawal of the commercial element of service
Contract 6876T3 Kilwinning - Irvine (service 27)	Contract cancelled to allow creation of revised contract which would encompass the new requirements of Montgomery Park residents following the withdrawal of commercial service 29A
Contract W065T Bridge of Weir – Johnstone (service X7A) Greenock – Kilmacolm (service 530)	Contract cancelled to allow creation of revised contract which would encompass the new requirements of Quarriers Village residents following the withdrawal of commercial service 317

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Contract	Amendment
Contract LS045A Paisley – Clydebank (service 757)	Alteration to route within Paisley Town Centre, to coincide with commercial changes, which would benefit the travelling public
Contract W049A Paisley – Braehead (service 21)	Alteration to route within Paisley Town Centre, to coincide with commercial changes, which would benefit the travelling public; and

**10. Development of Community Transport Public Social Partnership**

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With reference to the minute of 15 March 2013 (page 5, paragraph 11) when the committee had

- (1) noted that SPT had been pursuing a more proactive role in fostering the co-ordination and development of the community transport sector which had included investigations into opportunities to develop a Community Transport (CT) Public Social Partnership, which was a strategic partnering arrangement, supported by Scottish Government, to involve the third sector earlier and more deeply in the design and commissioning of public services; and
- (2) agreed that officers investigate options for the delivery and design of the MyBus service, as part of the Community Transport Public Social Partnership Development, to help meet growing demand,

there was submitted a report (issued) of 15 January 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (a) advising members
  - (i) that the Community Transport (CT) sector and SPT's ability to continue to deliver socially necessary DRT services faced significant challenges; and
  - (ii) that in order to assist in addressing these challenges, the development of a Public Social Partnership (PSP) would focus on two key areas – the delivery of SPT's MyBus services and CT capability and capacity growth;
- (b) providing background information on each of the key areas;
- (c) explaining
  - (i) that the PSP would focus on enhancing the volunteering and training capacity within the sector and seek to ensure that volunteering provided opportunities to those who were long-term unemployed, looking at a change of career, those returning to the workplace and younger people looking to develop new skills; and
  - (ii) that the development of the PSP would ensure that the CT sector and the range of DRT services that SPT delivered were effective, efficient and fit for purpose in the future and would ensure also that the CT providers had the capacity to deliver these

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services and provide opportunities for individuals in the local community to enhance their skills;

(d) intimidating

- (i) that the funding required to take this project forward over the next 15 months was £179,011 and would cover the following:
- the employment of a Project Co-ordinator;
  - the development of a Volunteer Training Programme in partnership with the West of Scotland Community Transport Network Members;
  - the purchase of Community Transport Scheduling Software which SPT would have oversight of; and
  - an updated mapping exercise to audit the current provision of Community and Demand Responsive Transport Services and Operators in the West of Scotland;
- (ii) that SPT had submitted a funding proposal to the Scottish Government for £119,329, equivalent to 67% of the overall budget, which would fund the employment of the Project Co-ordinator together with a proportion of the project costs; and
- (iii) that it was proposed that the remaining 33% of the funding required (£59,682) was match funded by SPT together with the provision of one of the vehicles that was currently being retired from service work as part of the continued vehicle renewal programme. This funding would be met from the Enhanced DRT/Community Transport budgets for financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15; and

(e) informing members

- (i) that SPT was providing 50% match funding for the cost of 2 apprentice mechanics through a Modern Apprenticeship Scheme, the remaining 50% funding had been secured by Community Transport Glasgow from Glasgow City Council's Commonwealth Apprenticeship Fund; and
- (ii) that this funding was part of the £95,000 funding package approved at the Operations Committee meeting held on 16 August 2013 to support an appropriate maintenance arrangement as part of the allocation of vehicles to suitable community transport operators.

After consideration and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the committee

- (A) agreed to the 33% match funding of £59,682, and the provision of a vehicle, if the current funding proposal to Scottish Government was successful; and
- (B) otherwise noted the terms of the report.

**11. Requests for subsidised local bus services**

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 22 January 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) advising members of various requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services and recommending no action in respect of each request.

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**12. Review of Sunday service on Gourock-Kilcreggan ferry**

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With reference to the minute of 15 March 2013 (page 7, paragraph 14) when the committee had agreed to the award of a contract to Clyde Marine Services Ltd to provide a Sunday service on the Gourock - Kilcreggan Ferry from 31 March to 19 October 2013 in order to permit further opportunities for passenger growth, there was submitted a report (issued) of 22 January 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) that, although usage of the core Monday – Saturday ferry service remained relatively strong, in spite of much improved summer weather in 2013 Sunday passenger numbers fell to 742 which had resulted in a subsidy cost per passenger of £21.60 – far in excess of what was acceptable under guideline criteria;
- (2) intimating that Cove and Kilcreggan Community Council had requested that an earlier sailing be incorporated into the Sunday timetable in the belief that this would encourage increased patronage;
- (3) explaining that increasing the operational hours of the service would lead to a corresponding increase in the cost of the contract and, with the subsidy cost per passenger already excessive, it was unlikely that a sufficient number of additional passengers would be gained to bring the already prohibitive cost within acceptable limits; and
- (4) recommending that the committee agree that no further subsidy be provided for the Sunday service.

After consideration and having heard Messrs Stewart and MacLennan and Councillors MacIntyre and Wilson in answer to members' questions, the committee approved the recommendation at (4) above.

Thereon, the Chief Executive undertook to speak to the operators of both the weekday and Sunday services to ascertain if either company would be prepared to provide a commercial Sunday service over the period of the Commonwealth Games.