

Partnership minute



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of meeting

17 December 2021

held via Video Conference

Contact:

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held via Video Conference at 11am on 17 December 2021

Present Councillors Dr Martin Bartos (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Richard Bell, Colin Cameron, Graham Campbell, Ian Cochrane, Maureen Devlin, Jim Finn (by telephone from Agenda Item 3), Jim Fletcher, Willie Goldie, Jim McGuigan (Substitute) (until Agenda Item 8, but present for Item 10), Marie McGurk, Alan Moir, Richard Nelson (until Agenda Item 8, but present for Item 10), Donald Reid, Anna Richardson, Jim Roberts and David Wilson (until Agenda Item 8, but present for Item 10) and appointed members Greg Beecroft, Anne Follin (until Agenda Item 8, but present for Item 10), Graham Johnston (until Agenda Item 8, but present for Item 10), Ed McGrachan and Andrew Walters (until Agenda Item 8, but present for Item 10).

Attending Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive (from Agenda Item 5), Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Antony Smith, Director of Subway (from Agenda Item 5); Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning (from Agenda Item 5); Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery (from Agenda Item 5); Andrea Thompson, Media & Public Affairs Manager (from Agenda Item 5); Jim Griffin, Solicitor (until Agenda Item 5); Scott Miller and Lesley Gilmartin of Badenoch & Clark (until Agenda Item 5).

Chair's Remarks - Amendment to order of business

It was proposed and agreed that the order of business be amended to allow item 4(g), Minute of the Recruitment Committee of 14 December 2021, to be discussed as the first agenda item, and further agreed that, in terms of paragraph 1, Schedule 7a of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, members of the press and public be excluded during the discussion of this item.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Graham Hardie, Michael McPake and David Shearer and appointed members George Hazel and Jim McNally.

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

There were no declarations of interest although the majority of SPT officers did not attend the meeting until Agenda Item 5 to allow Press and Public Excluded discussion of Agenda Item 4(g).

Agenda Item 4(g) Recruitment Committee of 14 December 2021

The Chair advised members of the rigorous and thorough process followed by the Recruitment Committee to review the large number of high calibre applications received for the post of Chief Executive culminating in interviews of a short list of candidates on 14 December 2021.

The Chair further advised the Partnership that all members of the Recruitment Committee were unanimous in the Recruitment Committee's recommendation to the Partnership that Valerie Davidson be offered the position of Chief Executive with immediate effect.

Having heard the Chair, members of the Recruitment Committee and Mr Miller of Badenoch & Clark in response to members' questions, the Partnership unanimously approved the appointment of Valerie Davidson as Chief Executive and recorded its gratitude to the members of the Chief Executive Recruitment Committee.

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Chair's Remarks

Valerie Davidson, SPT officers and members of the press and public were invited to join the meeting.

Partnership Standing Order No 14 requires the agreement of the Partnership to record meetings. The Chair sought and the Partnership agreed for the recording of SPT Partnership and Committee video conference meetings to commence.

The Chair advised it was his great pleasure to announce the recommendation of the Recruitment Committee to appoint Valerie Davidson as SPT's new Chief Executive, and welcomed Mrs Davidson. Mrs Davidson expressed thanks to the Recruitment Committee and the Partnership for the opportunity to take SPT forward, noting now was the time to reset the tone and that collectively, the board and SPT leadership could make a real difference.

Vice Chairs Alan Moir and David Wilson seconded the congratulations to the new Chief Executive.

Thereafter for the purpose of the public meeting, apologies and Declarations of interest as noted were reiterated.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 17 September 2021 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) Recruitment Committee of 22 October 2021;
- (b) Operations Committee of 5 November 2021;
- (c) Personnel Committee of 5 November 2021;
- (d) Strategy & Programmes Committee of 26 November 2021;

The Chair highlighted that the RTS would not be finally approved in this Partnership term to ensure alignment with STPR2 and noted his intention to write to partner local authorities again to seek support to the issues raised in the TfS paper.

- (e) Audit & Standards Committee of 26 November 2021; and
- (f) Recruitment Committee of 3 December 2021.

5. Revised Model Code of Conduct for Members

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 December 2021 by the Acting Chief Executive recommending to the Partnership the adoption and approval of a revised Model Code of Conduct for Members.

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After extensive discussion from both elected and appointed members, particularly relating to whether members should be required to sign to intimate acceptance of the Code, and hearing from Mrs Davidson that compliance was an assumed condition of being a public body member, the Partnership approved the revised Model Code of Conduct for Members and agreed to adopt it with immediate effect, noting that member training on the specific changes will follow.

6. Subway Modernisation - progress update

[Click here to view the report and presentation](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 December 2021 by the Director of Subway providing the Partnership with the latest progress update on the Subway Modernisation programme, accompanied by a presentation.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Smith and Mrs Davidson particularly relating to the challenges of delivering the project during Covid restrictions and new Subway trains being successfully entered into the Subway tunnels, the Partnership welcomed this significant step in the project, and further noted:

- (i) the continued progress made on all Subway Modernisation and improvements since the last written update to the Partnership in June 2021, despite the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that CP1 testing would commence in 2022;
- (ii) ongoing progress on the MSA contract;
- (iii) welcomed the progress made to support apprenticeships and the steps to embed this resource into the organisational structure;
- (iv) the continued challenge towards performance improvement on the TSSSA contract;
- (v) impacts and potential further delay and claims to both MSA and TSSSA contracts from COVID-19 as a Force Majeure event;
- (vi) the ongoing discussions with ANSTA to press delivery and resolve discussions relating to MSA claims and delays;
- (vii) progress made on operational readiness and delay mitigation actions including existing infrastructure and fleet maintenance improvements;
- (viii) the modernisation programme remains within overall budget and funding; and
- (ix) that a further report on progress will be presented to a Partnership meeting in June 2022.

The Partnership thanked Mr Smith and the Project Delivery team for their continued efforts to deliver a complex project while maintaining an operationally safe system on a daily basis.

7. Subway Opening Hours

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 December 2021 by the Director of Subway advising the Partnership of the operational issues that require to be assessed and resolved prior to any potential expansion of Subway Sunday opening hours.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson, Mr Smith and Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, particularly relating to the need to ensure that the issues required to be effectively communicated with members and all stakeholders, including the travelling public, the Partnership noted:

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- (i) Many of the issues will be addressed as a revised modernised subway Target Operating Model is developed in line with the remaining stages of the modernisation works;
- (ii) that officers will continue to monitor passenger requirements at all times;
- (iii) that the aspiration of revised opening hours and frequency remains the planned assumption;

and following subsequent discussion with regard to integrated ticketing, agreed:

- (iv) that a further report be considered at the next Committee meeting on 18 February 2020 specifically addressing matters that are required to be addressed in the drive to improved integrated ticketing.

8. Consideration of 5G Connectivity within Subway – Stage 2

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 December 2021 by the Acting Chief Executive advising the Partnership that SPT has secured up to £30,000 from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support a further piece of work related to 5G connectivity within the Subway.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson, the Partnership noted SPT's continued work with The University of Strathclyde in this area and the successful bid to DCMS to support the next stage of 5G research.

9. Climate Change and Carbon Management – SPT progress update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 7 December 2021 by the Acting Chief Executive updating the Partnership on recent progress by SPT in relation to climate change and carbon management.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, the Partnership noted the contents of the report and the Chair thanked officers for their proposal to extend carbon literacy training to Partnership members, and requested that a separate briefing session looking at technical issues of low carbon transport and relative merits and challenges relating to electronic, battery, lithium and hydrogen be considered.

10. SPT Council Reports

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 December 2021 by the Acting Chief Executive:

- (i) informing the Partnership of the preparation by SPT of reports for each council in Strathclyde, highlighting progress on transport policy and projects since 2017/18, the changing context for transport, SPT's regional role, and issues and priorities for the future; and
- (ii) recommending approval of the proposed structure and content of the reports, in line with the initial draft report "SPT: Delivering for Inverclyde" attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh, the Partnership expressed thanks for the excellent reporting of transport matters both at a regional and local level and:

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- (i) noted the report and agreed that the report should be available in a variety of formats; and
- (ii) approved the proposed structure and content of the reports, in line with the initial draft report “SPT: Delivering for Inverclyde”.

Valedictory

The Vice Chair Cllr Alan Moir expressed that thanks be recorded to Mr McNally for his service on the Partnership and the Operations Committee over a number of years as both an elected and appointed member, supporting SPT and the drive for better public transport. The Partnership agreed with the Chair’s suggestion that Mr McNally and all other serving members during the period of modernisation be invited at a relevant time to view the new rolling stock.

Chair’s Closing Remarks

The Chair advised he had issued an all staff email advising of the appointment of Mrs Davidson as Chief Executive but also, on behalf of the Partnership, thanking all SPT staff for their continued efforts and contributions in what has been another challenging year, and looked forward to a new and better year for transport when SPT would be in a position to lead that.