

Partnership minute



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of meeting

26 June 2020

held by video conference

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held by video conference, on 26 June 2020

- Present** Councillors Dr Martin Bartos (Chair), Alex Allison (Substitute), Malcolm Balfour, Richard Bell, Colin Cameron, Graham Campbell, Ian Cochrane, Maureen Devlin, Mark Kerr, Alan Lafferty, Alan Moir, Marie McGurk, Marie McNair, Michael McPake, Anna Richardson, Jim Roberts and David Wilson and appointed members Greg Beecroft, Brian Davidson, Ann Faulds, Graham Johnston, Alex Macaulay, Jo MacLennan and Jim McNally.
- Attending** Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Antony Smith, Director of Subway; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning and Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery.

Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting, held via Skype for Business video conference and expressed thanks to all SPT staff for performing admirably in particularly difficult times and thanked members for their patience during the period when the normal committee cycle was suspended.

Due to the digital platform of the meeting, the Chair noted that all members had been circulated a document in advance of the meeting by Mrs Davidson, which addressed questions and answers which members had raised on the meeting papers since their circulation on 19 June 2020.

It was also noted that following a request, members of the public were also observing the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Graham Hardie, Richard Nelson and David Shearer and appointed member Anne Follin.

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

Appointed member Mr Beecroft declared an interest in Agenda item 10 stating that he is a member of the Sustrans Supporters Group and formerly a trustee of an associated charity.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 6 March 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record with no matters arising, subject to the amendment of Cllr Bell being in attendance at the meeting.

4. Committee Minutes

The minutes (issued) of the undernoted committees were noted:

- (a) Chairs Committee of 24 March 2020;
- (b) Chairs Committee of 2 April 2020;
- (c) Chairs Committee of 1 May 2020;
- (d) Chairs Committee of 15 May 2020; and

26 June 2020

(e) Audit & Standards Committee of 16 June 2020.

5. Audit & Standards committee annual report 2019/2020

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 12 June 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive explaining that following consideration by the Audit & Standards Committee, and in compliance with accepted good practice, the Partnership was recommended to consider and note the Audit & Standards committee annual report for financial year 2019/2020.

After consideration and having heard from Mrs Davidson and Cllr McGurk in answer to members' questions, the Partnership noted the Audit & Standards committee annual report for financial year 2019/2020.

6. Financial Implications of COVID-19

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 June 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive appraising SPT members of the financial implications arising from the SPT response to the COVID-19 pandemic, update on discussions with Transport Scotland (TS) to address the financial gap arising as a direct result, and outline what measures may be necessary to re-establish financial stability of the organisation.

After consideration and having heard from Ms Davidson in answer to members' questions, specifically relating to the actions needed to highlight the serious nature of the position with TS, and other stakeholders, options available to SPT to bridge any deficit and the importance of safeguarding SPT essential services, the Partnership:

- (a) noted the actions taken to date, including the continued dialogue with Transport Scotland to press the issue of the need for financial support;
- (b) agreed that should a positive response not be forthcoming from TS, the matter should be raised more widely with stakeholders, including Council Leaders and constituent MSPs; and
- (c) noted that should financial support not be forthcoming to SPT to offset the loss of income, that future reports will be provided to Committees with options to reduce the level of deficit forecast, highlighting the service withdrawals necessary.

The Partnership were also in agreement that the Chair take the matter up to highlight the financial implications to SPT and the Chair indicated that he and the Vice Chairs would discuss next steps with the Chief Executive to promote SPT's concerns.

7. 2019/20 Capital Outturn and Capital Programme Monitoring and Proposed Amendments Report as at 23 May 2020, Period 2

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 June 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive:

- (i) to report on the 2019/20 capital outturn position,
- (ii) provide a progress update on the 2020/21 capital programme,
- (iii) to seek approval for proposed amendments to the 2020/21 capital programme, and
- (iv) to seek approval to Grant Fund as detailed in section 6(c) of this report.

26 June 2020

Appointed member Mr Macaulay expressed his congratulations to both SPT staff and the local authorities on their ability to continue to deliver during the challenges of Covid-19, and highlighted that although there were proposed changes to the plan, it was inevitable that further changes were expected as a result of the emergency situation.

Having heard from Mr Wylie, the Partnership:

- (a) noted the 2019/20 capital outturn position;
- (b) approved the proposed amendments to the 2020/21 capital programme as per Appendix 2 of this report;
- (c) agreed to Grant Fund or to vary existing Grant Fund letters to the Local Authorities or other bodies and authorise the Assistant Chief Executive to complete the award letters.
- (d) noted the financial performance of the 2020/21 capital programme as at Period 2; and
- (e) noted that further work to quantify and manage risk, advance savings and re-phase existing projects is being undertaken to balance spend against budget.

8. Subway Modernisation – progress update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 June 2020 by the Director of Subway providing the Partnership with the latest progress update on the Subway Modernisation programme.

After extensive discussion, and members' questions relating to the impact of the Subway service being suspended for the weekend of 4th and 5th July 2020 to carry out significant rail work at Broomloan Depot taking account of the lower patronage, and having heard further from Mr Smith, the Partnership expressed their thanks to staff for their work on this during a difficult time, and noted:

- (a) the continued progress made on all Subway Modernisation and improvements since the last written update to the Partnership in December 2019;
- (b) the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on modernisation activity, with effectively all site works going on hold with re-start and recovery plans still being defined in some areas;
- (c) the action taken to maintain design and preparatory works progress via remote and home working measures;
- (d) confirmation of previously reported delays on the MSA contract;
- (e) impacts to the TSSSA contract from MSA delays;
- (f) impacts and likely further delay and contract claims to both MSA and TSSSA contracts from COVID-19 as a Force Majeure event;
- (g) the on-going review and challenge of the ANSTA JV MSA delay mitigation proposal for an alternative migration plan for new fleet introduction into passenger service;
- (h) operational impacts of the reported delays continue to be assessed and mitigation plans are underway, including existing fleet maintenance and reliability programmes; and
- (i) the programme remains within overall budget and funding.

9. Strategic Issues Update – Covid-19 Crisis

26 June 2020

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 June 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive updating the Partnership on the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on transport services across the west of Scotland, and the measures in place or being planned by SPT and other partners to address these impacts.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh, the Partnership noted the contents of the report.

10. Scottish Government “Spaces for People: Making essential travel and exercise safer during Covid-19” fund – Adapting Glasgow City Centre

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 June 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive informing the Partnership of the Scottish Government’s “Spaces for People” fund, highlighting a focus on temporary measures being introduced in Glasgow city centre initially.

After discussion and hearing from Mr Dickson and Mr Kiloh in response to members’ questions, the Partnership noted the contents of the report.

11. Annual Report

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 June 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive providing the Partnership with a draft of the SPT 2019/2020 Annual Report, seeking feedback from members prior to the report being published.

After discussion and hearing from Ms Thompson in response to members’ questions, the Partnership considered the draft SPT 2019/2020 Annual Report and provided feedback for inclusion prior to the Annual Report being finalised, and approved the publication of the report subject to changes as discussed prior to and at the meeting being taken account of.

Closing Remarks

Cllr Moir noted this was the first Partnership meeting in formal sitting during the current emergency and wished to convey the sincere appreciation for the fantastic work of all SPT staff. This was seconded by the Chair, and supported by all members of the Partnership.