

## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of meeting**

**15 March 2024**

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

**Contact:**  
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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 15 March 2024**

- Present** Councillors Stephen Dornan (Chair), Alex Allison\*, Ken Andrew, Holly Bruce (Substitute) Maureen Devlin, Helen Loughran (Substitute), Daniel Lennie\* (from item 5), Malcolm Mitchell, Alan Moir, Owen O'Donnell, Donald Reid, John Ross\*, Roza Salih, Adam Smith\*, Andy Steel\*, Duncan Townson\*, David Wilson and appointed members Greg Beecroft, Jenna Dickson\* (from item 4b) Anne Follin, George Hazel\* (until item 8), Ed McGrachan\*, Kirsty Orr\* (from item 6) and Andrew Walters\* (from item 5).
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director; 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, Councillor Christy Mearns and Amy Sullivan, Solicitor (clerk).

### **Chair's Remarks**

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. The Chair also welcomed new member, Councillor Andy Steel of Renfrewshire Council, replacing Councillor Jim Paterson.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors William Lennox, Christy Mearns, Michael McPake and William Sinclair.

### **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 15 December 2023 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) Operations Committee of 26 January 2024;
- (b) Strategy & Programmes Committee of 23 February 2024;
- (c) Audit & Standards Committee of 23 February 2024.

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## 5. Proposed Revenue Budget for 2024/2025

[click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 February 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support asking the Partnership to consider and approve the revenue budget for 2024/2025 highlighting the assumptions made in the preparation of the budget including proposals for fares, fees and charges and to note the consequential local authority requisition.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mrs Davidson and Mrs Aird in response to members' questions specifically relating to levels of support from Transport Scotland and what consideration had been given to parking charges relative to recent changes made by Glasgow City Council, the Partnership:

- (i) approved the proposed revenue budget for 2024/2025 of £36.598m;
- (ii) noted the requisition of £35.949m, a decrease of 1.04% compared to 2023/2024;
- (iii) approved an increase to Subway fares and charges in January 2025 as outlined in section 4;
- (iv) approved an increase to bus station departure and parking charges in April 2024 as outlined in section 4;
- (v) approved an increase in the maximum permitted farescale for supported bus services in August 2024 as outlined in section 4; and
- (vi) noted that an update to the LFTS and Reserves Policy will be presented to a future Partnership following conclusion of discussions between SPT and Transport Scotland regarding capital funding support for 2024/2025 and future financial years.

## 6. Proposed Capital Plan 2024/2025 to 2026/2027 including the Capital Budget 2024/2025

[click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 February 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support requesting the Partnership to consider, and if appropriate:

- (i) approve the proposed Capital Plan for financial years 2024/2025 to 2026/2027;
- (ii) approve the Capital Budget for financial year 2024/2025; and
- (iii) approve to Grant Fund to the Local Authorities or other bodies as per Appendix 4 and authorise that grant letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mrs Davidson and Mrs Aird in response to members' questions and expanding on the difficulties faced by SPT due to an absence of capital funding support from Transport Scotland and a recent suggestion to de-commit £40.8 million of Subway Modernisation funding, the Partnership approved:

- (a) the proposed Capital Plan for financial years 2024/2025 to 2026/2027;
- (b) the Capital Budget for financial year 2024/2025;

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(c) Grant Funds to the Local Authorities or other bodies as per Appendix 4 and authorised that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements: and

(d) noted that an urgent meeting was to be sought with the Transport Minister to seek a satisfactory funding solution.

**7. Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy 2024/2025**

[click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 28 February 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support updating the Partnership on treasury management process and seeking approval for:

(i) the proposed treasury management strategy and annual investment strategy for 2024/2025; and

(ii) the proposed capital strategy for 2024/2025 which forms part of SPT's integrated revenue, capital and treasury management planning.

After hearing from Mrs Aird, the Partnership approved:

(a) the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/2025;

(b) the Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/2025;

(c) SPT's prudential and treasury indicators as detailed in the report;

(d) the Permitted Investment Types detailed in Appendix 1;

(e) the Counterparty List detailed in Appendix 3; and

(f) the Capital Strategy for 2024/2025.

**8. SPT Corporate Plan 2024-2028**

[click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 February 2024 by the Chief Executive informing the Partnership of the proposed SPT Corporate Plan 2024-2028, attached at Appendix 1.

After discussion and hearing from Mrs Davidson in response to members' questions, the Partnership noted the SPT Corporate Plan 2024-2028 attached at Appendix 1.

**9. Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy – Recommendations for Future Delivery of the Regional Bus Network – for Public Consultation**

[click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 6 March 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning updating the Partnership on the development of the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS) and seeking the approval of the Partnership to consult on the recommendations arising from the SRBS Options Development and Appraisal stage, namely:

Recommendation 1: Franchising

To commence work on franchising, in line with the requirements of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.

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**Recommendation 2: Bus Service Improvement Partnerships**

To progress with Bus Service Improvement Partnership arrangements to provide a firm basis for private and public sector commitments to arrest further passenger decline and improve the bus network over the medium term.

**Recommendation 3: Municipal Bus Company**

To consider, as and when required, developing business case(s) for small-scale municipal bus company(ies) aimed at providing socially necessary services in parts of the region where private operators are currently very limited.

**Recommendation 4: Bus Partnership Fund**

To continue working with local authorities, Transport Scotland and bus operators to continue delivery through the bus partnership fund and

**Recommendation 5: Business as Usual and Voluntary Partnerships**

To rule out Business as Usual and Voluntary Partnerships as means to deliver a better bus network as more radical intervention is required.

Following considerable discussion and after hearing from Mr Kiloh, Mr Dickson & Mrs Davidson in response to members' questions, a motion was tabled by Councillor Bruce, seconded by Councillor Steel to amend the recommendations in the report by removing Recommendation 2: progressing with Bus Service Improvement Partnerships and to agree that SPT work together with constituent local authorities to investigate revenue raising opportunities through work-place parking and road user charging. Members voted, by way of roll-call, by a majority of 14 – 3 in favour of the recommendations within the report and thus the Partnership:

- (i) noted the update on the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS) provided in the report; and
- (ii) Approved the commencement of the public consultation on the recommendations noted in section 3 of the report arising from the SRBS Options Development and Appraisal stage.

**10. SPT Climate Change Strategy and Net Zero Action Plan**

[click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 March 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning recommending the Partnership approve SPT's Climate Change Strategy and Net Zero Action Plan as attached at Appendix 1.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions specifically around the definition of Scope 3 emissions, the Partnership approved SPT's Climate Change Strategy and Net Zero Action Plan attached at Appendix 1.

**11. Best Value Assurance Framework**

[click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 25 January 2024 by the Director of Finance and Corporate Support advising the Partnership on a formal review of the Best Value assurance framework and an assessment of the Board's Best Value arrangements in accordance with a recommendation from the Annual Audit Report 2022/2023.

After hearing from Mrs Aird, the Partnership noted the report, the Best Value assurance framework in place and assessment of the Partnerships' Best Value arrangements.

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### **Chair's Closing Remarks**

The Chair on behalf of the Partnership warmly thanked Mr Wylie for his services to SPT for over 20 years and wished him well for the future.