

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of meeting

6 March 2020

held in the Lewis Room, 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow

contact officer:

Heather Maclean phone: 0141 333 3287

Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held in the Lewis Room, 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, on 6 March 2020

- Present** Councillors Dr Martin Bartos (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Colin Cameron, Maureen Devlin, Graham Campbell, Ian Cochrane, Graham Hardie, Alan Lafferty, Richard Nelson, Donald Reid, Anna Richardson, Marie McNair, Alistair Mackay (substitute), Michael McPake, Alan Moir, David Shearer, Jim Roberts and David Wilson and appointed members Gregory Beecroft, Brian Davidson, Ann Faulds, Anne Follin, Graham Johnston, Alex Macaulay, Jo MacLennan and Jim McNally.
- Attending** Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Valerie Davidson, Secretary/Assistant Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Antony Smith, Director of Subway; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus strategy & Delivery and Heather Maclean, Committee Services officer.

Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and wished to confirm, given the on-going public health concerns regarding Covid-19, that SPT are in direct liaison with Transport Scotland regarding contingency plans which are regularly tested and confirmed that there are degradation plans in place for both subway and bus stations.

The Chair added that SPT are following the official advice received from the Government and NHS, and will continue to do so to safeguard the well-being of staff and customers.

The Chair concluded that as the landscape was continually changing, SPT is monitoring the situation closely to respond as necessary.

In addition, the Chair thanked all members for their attendance and participation at the recent Board Development session, and confirmed that the plan going forward was to hold member engagement sessions to discuss significant matters of policy formulation. The first would take place before the next Partnership meeting and discuss Public Transport Funding.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors David Wilson and Marie McGurk.

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

Councillor Colin Cameron and appointed member Ann Faulds declared an interest in agenda item 7 as Directors of Nevis Technologies Ltd.

Appointed member Gregory Beecroft declared an interest in agenda item 4(f), minutes of the Appointed Members Recruitment Committee on behalf of all appointed members.

3. Minute of previous meeting

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

The minute of the meeting of 13 December 2019 was submitted and approved as a correct record with no matters arising.

4. Committee Minutes

The minutes (issued) of the undernoted committees were noted, with the exception of the 'P' paragraphs contained in the minutes of the Strategy & Programmes Committee which were approved.

6 March 2020

- (a) Operations Committee of 24 January 2020;

[“Click here to view minute”](#)

In a response for an update on the Gourrock – Kilcreggan ferry service transfer, Mrs Davidson confirmed that following the agreement of the Committee, Transport Scotland had requested that the date of the transfer be amended to 1 June 2020.

The partnership expressed its disappointment at another date change, but recognising the need to ensure passengers continue to have access to the service, agreed that the service would continue under contract until 31 May 2020.

Cllr Campbell also highlighted that he had raised questions relating to the RTPI roll out, and service provision within his area for noting.

- (b) Strategy & Programmes Committee of 7 February 2020;

[“Click here to view minute”](#)

- (c) Audit & Standards Committee of 14 February 2020;

[“Click here to view minute”](#)

- (d) Personnel Committee of 14 February 2020;

[“Click here to view minute”](#)

- (e) Personnel Appeals Committee of 16 February 2020; and

[“Click here to view minute”](#)

- (f) Appointed Members Recruitment Committee of 27 February 2020.

5. Proposed Revenue Budget 2020/21 and Long Term Financial Strategy

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 February 2020 and a supplementary report tabled at the meeting by the Assistant Chief Executive seeking approval to the proposed revenue budget for the financial year 2020/2021, and outlining the requisition of funding from each local authority.

The combined report highlighted:

- (a) The on-going drive for savings, principally from a reduction in headcount, to re-direct resources to front line services;
- (b) The budget supported the Partnerships agreed priorities;
- (c) That the budget now supported a contribution to the capital plan, in light of the reduced capital funding announced in the Scottish Government budget; and
- (d) Confirmation that the additional funding of £156,000 would support bus service operations within the SPT area.

After consideration and having heard Ms Davidson and Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, the Partnership:

- (i) approved the proposed revenue budget of £36,176,809;
- (ii) noted continued Scottish Grant in support of SPT at £714,083;
- (iii) noted the local authority requisitions of £35,462,726 for 2020/21 which is the same level as 2019/20 as detailed in appendix 2 of the supplementary report;
- (iv) approved the fare changes as detailed in the issued report dated 26 February 2020;

6 March 2020

- (v) agreed that details of the bus service operations budget is provided to the next Operations Committee; and
- (vi) approved the Long Term Financial Strategy as detailed in the issued report dated 26 February 2020 which will be updated to incorporate the final budget as detailed in the supplementary report.

6. Proposed Capital Plan 2020/21 to 2022/23 including the Capital Budget 2020/21

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 25 February 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive outlining the proposed Capital Plan for financial years 2020/21 to 2023/23 and the Capital Budget for financial year 2020/21, highlighting a reduction of 33% in funding from the Scottish Government.

Having heard from members on the need to ensure funding provision was available to support projects which deliver transport solutions but which may not be in a position to fully deliver, together with the need to provide support to local authorities in the development of their projects, and in hearing from Mrs Davidson and Mr Wylie how this could be achieved, the Partnership:

- (a) approved the proposed Capital Plan for financial years 2020/21 to 2022/23;
- (b) approved the Capital Budget for financial year 2010/21; and
- (c) approved Grant Funding to the Local Authorities or other bodies as detailed in appendix 4 of the report, and authorised the Assistant Chief Executive to complete the grant award letters.

7. Nevis Technologies Ltd – Appointment of Director

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 28 February 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive recommending the appointment of Neil Wylie, Director of Finance to the Board of Nevis Technologies Ltd.

After discussion, the Partnership:

- (a) approved the nomination of Neil Wylie to the Nevis Technologies Ltd Board; and
- (b) noted that the remaining vacancy remains under consideration.

8. SPT Review of Provisions of the Transport (Scotland) act 2019

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 31 January 2020 by the Chief Executive informing the Partnership of the outcome of the review by SPT of the provisions of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members’ questions, the Partnership:

- (a) noted the report;
- (b) approved the proposed actions noted in appendix 1;
- (c) agreed that the appendix would be circulated to all members of the Partnership to share within individual local authorities; and
- (d) agreed that the appendix would be updated to accommodate existing legislation which remains unchanged.

6 March 2020

9. National Transport Strategy – Update

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 February 2020 by the Chief Executive updating the Partnership on the publication of the new National Transport Strategy.

After discussion and hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members’ questions, the Partnership:

- (a) noted the publication of and agreed SPT’s support in principle for the new National Transport Strategy; and
- (b) noted that the National Transport Strategy has been taken account of in the current stage of the Regional Transport Strategy development on Issues and Objectives.

10. COP26 – United Nations Climate Change Conference - Presentation

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted and noted a report dated 18 February 2020 by the Chief Executive providing a background to the presentation delivered to the Partnership on 6 March 2020.

Both the report and the presentation provided an update on the preparations, by SPT and partner organisations, for COP26 so far.

Partnership members requested that the following matters be relayed back to the Transport Co-ordination group for consideration:

- (a) that adequate modelling of where delegates would be based is undertaken;
- (b) the implications of the 75th anniversary of VE Day takes place during the period of the conference;
- (c) clarification is needed on the proposal of free travel for delegates;
- (d) the needs of other groups are also fully assessed including the impact on the day to day travel, the media and unofficial delegates; and
- (e) the value of SPT contribution should not be under estimated.

11. Proposal to Join a 5G Trial Project

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted and approved a report dated 11 February 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive advising the Partnership of SPT’s involvement in a trial 5G project to install 5G signal within the subway tunnels.

12. Airwave Special Coverage Service Delivery – award of contract

[“Click here to view report”](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 February 2020 by the Director of Subway recommending the approval of the award of a contract to Airwave Solutions Ltd for the continuation of the Airwave Secure Communications Radio Service including necessary infrastructure upgrades and service provision.

After discussion and hearing from Mr Smith in response to members’ questions, the Partnership approved:

- (a) a one off cost of up to £1,161,420 for the equipment upgrade of the Airwave Secure Communications Radio service; and

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

6 March 2020

- (b) up to £300,00 per annum until December 2022, with the option to extend the contract to meet the new Emergency Services Network transition programme at a cost of up to £300,000 per annum (indexed).