

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee

4 November 2016

held in 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held in 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, on 4 November 2016

- Present** Councillors Denis McKenna (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Tony Buchanan, Bill Grant, Kaye Harmon, Chris Kelly, Alan Moir, Bobby McDill, Robert G MacIntyre, Hamish Stewart and David Wilson and appointed members Gregory Beecroft and Graham Johnston.
- 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); Charlie Hoskins, Senior Director; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance and HR and Alex Scott, Bus Services Manager.
- Also attending** John Yellowlees, ScotRail Community Liaison Manager and Dan Blake, Performance Manager, Abellio ScotRail.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Jonathan Findlay, Gerald Leonard and Lawrence O'Neill.

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 26 August 2016 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minute, in relation to

- (1) page 5, paragraph 8(2), Cllr Harmon reported that as a result of her letter, Transport Scotland, North Lanarkshire Council and SPT had met to discuss the cost implications, particularly in the Cleland and Shotts areas, but also as part of the wider picture. She advised members that further meetings would take place; and
- (2) page 3, paragraph 8(1), Mr Scott reported that in relation to Contract 5627K, SPT was now in receipt of an application to cancel the commercial operation of this service and it would be necessary now to take action to secure the socially-necessary transport links involved.

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

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 October 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing the committee of the latest trends in the number of passengers carried and the reliability and punctuality of services directly operated and supported by the Partnership and on Abellio ScotRail services operating in the SPT area;

4 November 2016

- (2) providing information on examples of progress towards the key themes of the Bus Strategy and Outline Investment Programme, 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 and details of subsidised local bus service vehicle inspections; and
- (3) appending ScotRail's Performance Improvement Plan, which had been produced as a result of recent performance issues.

Thereon, Mr Yellowlees advised members that ScotRail had been asked by Transport Scotland to improve train service punctuality and bring performance back up to a Public Performance Measure (PPM) level above 90.3%. He explained that although ScotRail was only a few weeks into the improvement plan, there were already encouraging changes and improvements with the PPM level, which was currently at 89.5%.

Mr Blake and Mr Yellowlees then took a number of questions from members on timescale, fleet improvement, overcrowding and investment in new technology.

After discussion and having heard Messrs Hoskins and Scott in further explanation and in answer to members' questions on the monitoring report, the committee

- (a) noted the terms of the report; and
- (b) thanked Messrs Yellowlees and Blake for their attendance and noted that an update would be provided to the committee on the progress of the Action Plan in 3 months.

5. Subsidised local bus service contract recommendations – financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 October 2016 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.

After discussion, the committee

- (1) noted the report in relation to the financial implications of awarding any contracts; and
- (2) agreed to give due consideration to the implications when making decisions on those contracts.

6. Temporary contract awarded

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 27 October 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) advising members of a temporary contract awarded under delegated authority, which had been in place since 23 October 2016, to ensure that a gap in the network arising from a commercial market change was filled whilst longer term contractual arrangements were progressed.

7. Proposed amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 18 October 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) detailing changes to subsidised local bus services arising from changed circumstances, the committee approved the amendments as detailed below:-

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Operations Committee

4 November 2016

Contract	Amendment
Contract W022D Harthill/Torbothie - Shotts - Wishaw General Hospital/Ravenscraig Sports Centre (services 365/366/367)	Alteration to the timetables and routes of services 365, 366 and 367 from 11 September 2016 to 16 August 2017, due to the closure of Station Road, Shotts to facilitate the Edinburgh Glasgow Rail Improvement Programme. (additional cost of £286 per week, equivalent to £14,847 per annum)
Contract 9594D Greenock - Pennyfern/Greenock - Branchton (services 330/331)	Alteration to the timetable of service 331, with effect from 2 October 2016, following the introduction of a commercial service. (saving of £18 per week, equivalent to £940 per annum)
Contract W064A Kirkintilloch – Milngavie (services 47/47A)	Alteration to the timetables and routes of services 47/47A, with effect from 26 September 2016, to address reliability concerns. (no additional costs)
Contract 8812F (Helensburgh - Garelochhead - Coulport service 316)	Alteration to the timetable of service 316, with effect from 26 September 2016, to improve interchange at Helensburgh Railway Station (no additional costs)
Contract LS074N Moodiesburn – Coatbridge (service 245) Moodiesburn - Gartcosh – Shettleston (service 310)	Alteration to the route and timetable of service 310, with effect from 18 September 2016, to operate via Sandyhills bus turning area (additional cost of £58 per week, equivalent to £2,993 per annum)
Contract W050C Whitehirst Park – Irvine (service 27) Whitehirst Park - Irvine/i3 Enterprise Area (service 29)	Alteration to the route of service 27, and to the route and timetable of service 29, with effect from 19 September 2016, to avoid obstructed sections of the route and to extend boarding times to allow for increased patronage, respectively. (no additional costs)
Contract LS045C Paisley – Clydebank (service 757)	Alteration to the route of service 757, with effect from 21 November 2016, to operate via a business park within the vicinity of Glasgow Airport. (no additional costs)

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Operations Committee

4 November 2016

Contract	Amendment
Contract 6917H Troon - Muirhead - Dundonald - Kilmarnock (service 110)	Alteration to the timetable of service 110, with effect from 13 November 2016, as a result of low patronage on early Sunday morning journeys. (Saving of £4 per week, equivalent to £205 per annum)
Contract W017D1 Kirkintilloch - Twechar – Banton (service 84,84A,84B)	Alteration to the routes and timetables of services 84/84A, with effect from 17 October 2016, to allow improved off peak access to Kirkintilloch Town centre and to allow for the withdrawal of Sunday daytime journeys following the introduction of a commercial service, respectively. (Saving of £10 per week, equivalent to £521 per annum)
Contract 0906G Castlemilk - Rutherglen - Greenfield - Queenslie (service 46)	Alteration to the timetable of service 46, with effect from 23 October 2016, to fill a gap in bus service provision following the withdrawal of a commercial service. (additional cost of £64 per week, equivalent to £3,342 per annum)
Contract LS009C Dumbarton – Tullichewan - Westcliff – Haldane (service 206)	Alteration to the route and timetable of service 206, with effect from 23 October 2016, as a result of the identification of excess service provision on the route. (saving of £12 per week, equivalent to £640 per annum)
Contract 9571F Silverton - Dumbarton - Brucehill/Westcliff (service 208/218)	Alteration to the route and timetable of services 208 and 218, with effect from 23 October 2016, to fill a gap in bus service provision following the withdrawal of a commercial service. (additional cost of £12 per week, equivalent to £640 per annum)

8. Community Transport projects: Grant funding

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 27 October 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), providing a brief summary of the following Community Transport projects which had been awarded grant funding during the period 1 April to 30 September 2016:-

4 November 2016

- Access to Employment (Ayr);
- British Red Cross Society;
- Community Transport Glasgow;
- Getting Better Together;
- Glasgow Hospital Evening Visitor Service;
- NATA (North Area Transport Association);
- Port Glasgow Voluntary Trans-Port Group;
- South West Community Transport; and
- The Rural Development Trust Ltd.

9. Request for subsidised local bus service

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 26 August 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), advising members of a request for the provision of a subsidised local bus service to provide additional links into Great Western Retail Park from Drumchapel and surrounding areas and recommending no action in respect of the request.

10. Gourock – Kilcreggan Ferry Service: Update

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 October 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

(1) reminding members

(a) that for many years, SPT had provided subsidy, on a socially necessary service basis, to the Gourock – Kilcreggan ferry route the principal users of which were workers travelling to and from HMNB Faslane and RNAD Coulpport, together with commuters who elected to travel to Gourock to connect with the train service to Glasgow; and

(b) that outwith these peak demand times, there was lighter passenger traffic;

(2) intimating

(a) that there were aspirations within communities on both sides of the river for management of the service to be transferred to the Scottish Government via its agency, Transport Scotland, and various local campaigns had sought to take this forward; and

(b) that SPT had always been clear that subject to availability of funding, it was happy to continue to arrange this socially necessary service, but was equally willing to agree transfer of responsibility to Transport Scotland;

(3) informing members that, following consultation with the Transport Minister, Transport Scotland had confirmed to SPT and other parties that it was now willing to assume responsibility for the service, and had indicated that the most appropriate way forward was to incorporate the Kilcreggan service into the new Gourock – Dunoon ferry contract which was due to commence in July 2017;

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Operations Committee

4 November 2016

- (4) explaining that as the current contract for the Gourock – Kilcreggan service was due to expire at the end of March 2017 and the Gourock – Dunoon contract would not commence until July 2017, a procurement exercise was required to ensure continuation of the Gourock – Kilcreggan service until such time as transfer to Transport Scotland was arranged, thereby protecting passengers from any service disruption during the transfer; and
- (5) advising members that the results of the tendering exercise would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

After consideration and having heard Mr MacLennan in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the terms of the report.