



## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of the Strategy & Programmes Committee**

**6 September 2024**

held in person at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference

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## **Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference\* on 6 September 2024**

**Present** Councillors Alan Moir (Chair), Gordon Blair\*, Stephen Dornan, Christy Mearns, John Ross\*, Duncan Townson\* and David Wilson and appointed members George Hazel\* and Ed McGrachan

**Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive/Partnership Secretary; 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; and Councillor Donald Reid

The Partnership agreed at its meeting of 12 March 2021, following consideration of Standing Order No 14, for the recording of Committee and Partnership meetings.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors William Lennox (connectivity issues), Owen O'Donnell, Sandy Watson, and appointed member Anne Follin.

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

Cllr Moir reaffirmed his declaration of 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 14 June 2024, having been considered and agreed at the Partnership meeting of 28 June 2024 as a correct record, was duly noted.

### **4. 2023/2024 Revenue Outturn, Revenue Monitoring Report as at Period 4, ending 20 July 2024 and updated Financial Forecast for Financial Year 2024/2025**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 19 August 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support advising the Committee of the final outturn for the financial year 2023/2024 and the net revenue position as at the end of Period 4, 20 July 2024, including an updated financial forecast for the current financial year, stating the assumptions made regarding income and expenditure levels.

Having heard from Mrs Aird, the Committee noted:

- (i) the contents of the report;
  - (ii) the final outturn position for 2023/2024;
  - (iii) the projected outturn position for 2024/2025 based on the information available at the end of P4; and
  - (iv) the financial pressures which continue to impact in the current financial year including increased supported service contract costs and reduced Subway patronage and therefore uncertainties remain in relation to the year-end projection.
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**5. 2023/2024 Capital Outturn and Capital Programme Monitoring and Proposed Amendments Report as at 20 July 2024, Period 4**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 August 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support on the 2023/2024 capital outturn position; seeking approval for proposed amendments to the 2024/2025 capital programme; seeking approval to Grant Fund as detailed in section 8(iii) of the report; and providing an update on 2024/2025 treasury management activities.

After hearing from Mrs Aird in response to members' questions, the Committee:

- (i) noted the 2023/2024 capital outturn position;
- (ii) approved the proposed amendments to the 2024/2025 capital programme as per Appendix 2 of this report;
- (iii) agreed to Grant Fund or to vary existing Grant Fund letters to the Local Authorities or other bodies for those awards up to the value of £200,000 and authorise that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements;
- (iv) noted the financial performance of the 2024/2025 capital programme as at Period 4;
- (v) noted that further work to resolve the funding gap, quantify and manage risk, advance savings and re-phase existing projects is being undertaken to balance spend against budget;
- (vi) noted the reduced funding contribution from Transport Scotland for the Subway Modernisation Programme; and
- (vii) noted the 2024/2025 treasury management update as at Period 4.

**6. Annual Treasury Management Report 2023/2024**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was a report (issued) of 2 August 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support reporting to the Committee on the treasury management activities and the actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for financial year 2023/2024.

Having heard from Mrs Aird in response to members' questions, particularly the likelihood of SPT requiring to incur debt as a means of funding future capital investments, the Committee noted:

- (i) the content of the report; and
- (ii) the Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2023/2024 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

**7. Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy – Progress Update**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 28 August 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning:

- updating the Committee on progress in the development of the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS);
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- providing an update on the consultation on the Recommended Options for the SRBS;
- recommending approval of proposed actions following the consultation; and
- providing an update on the next steps for delivery of the final draft SRBS for public consultation.

After extensive discussion and having heard from Mr Kiloh, Mrs Davidson and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, particularly relating to:

- whether the proposed recommendation with regard to small scale municipal operation should be amended to reflect a longer term vision;
- the timescales and future programme delivery, noting that each stage contributes to the essential statutory consultation; and
- the costs of undertaking the SRBS preparation,

The Committee Chair reiterated the importance of following the recognised process and that the 12-week consultation still allows all comments to be input, and hence be supportive of the recommendations as offered.

Thereafter, the Committee expressed their thanks to Mr Kiloh and the wider team for their efforts in moving forward and:

- (i) noted the content of the report;
- (ii) noted the report on the consultation on the Recommendations for the SRBS attached at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (iii) approved the proposed actions contained in section 3(ii); and
- (iv) noted the next steps in section 3(iii).

#### **8. Scottish Parliament Net Zero, Energy & Transport Committee – BSIPs and Local Service Franchising: Request for Views – SPT response**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 August 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning recommending approval of SPT's draft response to a request from the Scottish Parliament's Net Zero, Energy & Transport (NZET) Committee's for views on the use of the Bus Service Improvement Partnership (BSIP) and local service franchising powers of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, and any support and resource required therein to utilise them in practice, noting SPT's response was submitted as draft within deadline of 29 August 2024 subject to approval by this Committee.

After extensive discussion and having heard from Mr Kiloh, Mrs Davidson and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, particularly relating to whether the response would be resubmitted, taking into account comments made at the meeting, including on making a case for shorter term funding and the conclusion of the open consultation, the Committee approved the draft response to the NZET Committee, subject to comments made and agreed to invite the NZET Committee to host their meeting at SPT premises.

Furthermore, a request was made to investigate more fully the recent decision of Transport for Greater Manchester to enter into partnership with credit unions on transport ticketing.

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