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journeys

SPT

committee minute

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee meeting

16 March 2007

held at: Consort House, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow, on 16 March 2007

Present Councillors Davie McLachlan (Chair), Eric Forbes, Alan Lafferty, John Mason, Linda McColl, Eric Ross, Alan Stewart and Margaret Toner and appointed members Tom Hart and Bill Ure.

Apologies Councillors David Fagan, Eileen Logan, William McCaig (deputy) and John McDowell.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Secretary; Gordon MacLennan, Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Services); John Halliday, Assistant Chief Executive (Transport & Strategy); Eric Stewart, Director of Bus Operations and H Martin, Rail

1. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 19 January 2007 was submitted and approved.

2. Public transport services monitoring report

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 March 2007 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Transport Strategy) informing the committee of the latest trends in the number of passengers carried and the reliability of public transport operators' services supported by the Partnership.

After discussion and having heard Mr Halliday in answer to members' questions and Mr Stewart advise that it was his intention to include various new indicators in future reports including total bus mileage in relation to the number of passengers, timetable information, upgrade of bus stops and vehicles meeting European emissions, the committee noted the contents of the report.

3. Franchise Agreement – performance reporting – SQUIRE

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 7 March 2007 by the Assistant Chief Executive, (Transport and Strategy),

- (1) summarising First ScotRail's performance on delivering the Service Quality aspects of its Franchise obligations, utilising the results of SQUIRE inspections for periods 7 to 9 (7 September to 9 December 2006);
- (2) informing members

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- (a) that although Transport Scotland had now combined the two existing SQUIRE regimes into one regime covering all First ScotRail stations in Scotland, they were not in a position to provide either line of route or regional data for RTPs; and
 - (b) that further consideration would be given to RTPs requests for information on performance in their areas in the Autumn following automation of the data gathering and reporting;
- (4) advising members that in the interim, Transport Scotland had surveyed commuters on their top five concerns which would be published on their Website in due course; and
- (5) highlighting that in addition, an SPT internal working group would be reviewing the provision of performance information to members and the SQUIRE report would be part of that process.

After discussion and having heard Mr Halliday and Mrs Martin in answer to members' questions, the committee noted

- (i) the contents of the report taking into consideration the comments raised by members at the meeting;
- (ii) that future reports would reflect the fact that Transport Scotland had introduced a single SQUIRE regime for the whole country; and
- (iii) that discussions would be required with Transport Scotland on the provision of future information.

4. Subsidised local bus service recommendations

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 March 2007 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) advising the committee of the financial impact of members' possible decisions relating to the remaining items on the agenda.

After consideration, the committee noted the report in relation to the financial impact of awarding any contracts and managing the award of contracts within the constraints of the existing budgets and agreed to have regard to them when making decisions on these matters.

5. Applications for Bus Route Development Grants

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There were submitted various reports (issued) by the Chief Executive,

- (1) outlining applications by various bus operators for subsidies under the Bus Route Development Grant Scheme; and
- (2) seeking the committee's support for the submission of the applications to the Scottish Executive for consideration.

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After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation, the committee

- (a) approved the following Bus Route Development Grant (BRDG) applications:-
- (i) improvement and extension to Stagecoach service between Ayr and Dundonald to serve both Ayr Hospitals;
 - (ii) improvement and extension to Stagecoach local services 22 and 28 in Irvine;
 - (iii) improvement and extension to First service 59 Glasgow City Centre - Mosspark – Silverburn (Pollok);
 - (iv) improvement and extension to First service 89/90 City Circular;
 - (v) initiation of new First service 77, Pollok - East Kilbride – Cambuslang – Parkhead;
 - (vi) modification and enhancement of First services 7 and 103 in Glasgow and Rutherglen/Cambuslang;
 - (vii) enhancement of Henderson Travel service 13 East Kilbride to Hamilton via Strathaven;
 - (viii) enhancement of Henderson Travel service 212 between Coatbridge and Caldercruix or Blackridge; and
 - (x) enhancement of First service 747 Glasgow University to Renfrew.
- (b) agreed that the following BRDG applications be continued to a future Chair's Committee in order that further discussions could take place with the local members and local authorities concerned:-
- (I) enhancement of Scottish Travel service X22 Greenock - Clydebank; and
 - (II) proposal for new Scottish Travel service X23 Greenock – Silverburn via Paisley.

6. Renewal of subsidised local bus service contracts

After consideration of various reports (issued) by the Chief Executive on tenders received for the renewal of subsidised local bus service, the committee dealt with the contracts as follows:-

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Agenda Item No.	Contract	Operator	Contract Amount	Equivalent Annual Cost	Decision
6. Click here to view report Renewal of Dumfries – Biggar – Edinburgh subsidised local bus service contracts	Contracts 4907B & 4909A Dumfries – Biggar – Edinburgh (service 100)	MacEwans Coach Services (package) Ref 13662	£952,255 total package cost	£190,451 total package cost	Agreed as part of package ref 13662 and subject to the approval of the various funding partners as detailed in the report. To be funded as detailed in the report.
7. Click here to view report Renewal of subsidised local bus service contracts on the Isle of Arran	Contract 6517D Brodick – Blackwaterfoot (services 322, 323 and 324)	Western Buses (package) Ref 13685	£3121,483 total package cost	£624,297 total package cost	Contracts 6517D – 6524D and 6746E – agreed as part of package ref 13685 subject to the approval of North Ayrshire Council. To be funded as detailed in the report.
	Contract 6518D Brodick – Whiting Bay (service 323)	Western Buses (package) Ref 13685			
	Contract 6519D Brodick – Blackwaterfoot (services 322, 323 and 324)	Western Buses (package) Ref 13685			
	Contract 6520D Brodick – Blackwaterfoot (service 322, 323 and 324)	Western Buses (package) Ref 13685			
	Contract 6521D Brodick – Blackwaterfoot (service 322, 323 and 324)	Western Buses (package) Ref 13685			
	Contract 6522D Brodick – Whiting Bay (service 323)	Western Buses (package) Ref 13685			
	Contract 6523D Brodick – Blackwaterfoot/ Whiting Bay – Kildonan (services 323 and 324)	Western Buses (package) Ref 13685			

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7.					
Renewal of subsidised local bus service contracts on the Isle of Arran	Contract 6524D Brodict – Blackwaterfoot (service 322 and 323)	Western Buses (package) Ref 13685	£3121,483 total package cost	£624,297 total package cost	Contracts 6517D – 6524D and 6746E – agreed as part of package ref 13685 subject to the approval of North Ayrshire Council.
	Contract 6746E Brodhill – Pirmill (service 324 and 323)	Western Buses (package) Ref 13685			To be funded as detailed in the report.
	Contract 6628G Isle of Arran local and school service (service 321)	Western Buses	£307,138	£61,428	Accept lowest tender subject to the approval of North Ayrshire Council. To be funded as detailed in the report.
	Contract 6525E Arran late ferries connecting bus (services 321, 322, 323 and 324)	Western Buses	£30 per call out	-	Accept lowest tender subject to the approval of North Ayrshire Council. To be funded as detailed in the report
8.					
Renewal of subsidised local bus service contracts	Click here to view report Contract 4846K East Kilbride – Strathaven – Hamilton (service 13)	Henderson Travel	£44,928	£14,976	Accept lowest tender. The committee agreed that should the operator's BRDG application be successful the contract be cancelled when the BRDG funded improvements were introduced.
	Contract 4865A Lanark – Biggar (service 191)	Irvine's Coaches	£390,250	£78,050	Accept lowest tender, based on the use of a low floor vehicle.
	Contract DG/PT/07/359 Newton Stewart – Girvan (service 359)	King's of Kirkcowan	-	£14,945 annual contribution	The committee agreed that a yearly contribution be made towards the contract from 1 April 2007 for a period of five years.

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Agenda Item No.	Contract	Operator	Contract Amount	Equivalent Annual Cost	Decision
8.					
Renewal of subsidised local bus service contracts	Contract 6603L Kilmanock – Stewarton – Kilbirnie (service 337); and	Western Buses	-	£76,995 (pro-rata)	The committee agreed that due to the high cost of tenders received and in order that officers could investigate alternative methods of service delivery, that contracts 6603L and 6956 be extended from 15 July to 22 September 2007 at a pro-rata rate.
	Contract 6956 Crosshouse – Kilbirnie (service 337)	Western Buses		£7,305 (pro-rata)	
	Contract 6942T Cumnock – Dalmellington (service 356)	Smith's Coaches	£1,595 per week	-	Accept lowest tender, subject to the approval of East Ayrshire Council and based on the use of a step entrance vehicle.
	Contract 4846J Hamilton – Strathaven – East Kilbride (service 13)	-	-	-	To be funded as detailed in the report. The committee agreed that based on the award of contract 4846K dealt with at item 8 of the agenda no award be made.

7. Services 89/90 Glasgow Inner Circle: Future of evening subsidised service

[Click here to view report](#)

With reference to the minute of 17 November 2006 (page 6, paragraph 10) when the committee had

- (1) considered a report on the future of the contract 0914A Glasgow Inner Circle, hourly evening service (service 89/90) which had been awarded on a short term basis to enable First Glasgow to formalise its proposals for a Bus Route Development Grant (BRDG) application for the service; and
- (2) agreed that, in view of the strategic nature of the service and the socially necessary links that it provided between hospitals, the current funding be continued until any BRDG funding application was considered by the Operations Committee, but not later than 14 July 2007,

there was submitted a report (issued) of 1 March 2007 by the Chief Executive,

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- (a) informing members that First Glasgow had now advised that the evening service of service 89/90 would not be incorporated within their BRDG Grant; and
- (b) recommending that as service 89/90 operated over a section of route which was not covered by other bus services in the evenings, that the committee agree to extend contract 0914A Glasgow Inner Circle (service 89/90) from its current end date of 14 July 2007 to 12 July 2008 at the pro-rata annual cost of £82,472.

After discussion, the committee approved the recommendation at (b) above.

8. Additional journeys on service 253 Coalburn - Hamilton

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With reference to the minute of 19 January 2007 (page 5, paragraph 10) when the committee had agreed that further investigations be made into the provision of an early Sunday morning service on contract 9581 Coalburn to Hamilton (service 253), there was submitted a report (issued) of 7 March 2007 by the Chief Executive,

- (1) seeking the committee's view on the possible extension of the Sunday timetable of service 253 by the provision of additional early Sunday morning journeys for an experimental period of one year from 15 July 2007; and
- (2) explaining that as the contract was awarded on a gross cost basis, any ticket revenue arising from those proposed journeys would revert to SPT and would offset its cost of operations.

After discussion, the committee agreed that contract 9581A be amended to incorporate new journeys on service 253 on Sundays at 0637 from Coalburn and 0750 hours from Hamilton at a cost of £80 per Sunday which was equivalent to £4160 per annum, for an experimental period of one year to assess demand.

9. Operation of late Friday night journeys on the Isle of Cumbrae (contract 6801T)

[Click here to view report](#)

With reference to the minute of the Partnership of 21 April 2006 (page 9, paragraph 14), when the Partnership had agreed that contract 6801T Millport – Cumbrae Slip (service 320) be awarded to Cumbrae Coaches at a cost of £80 per Friday to operate on an experimental basis between 28 April and 20 October 2006, there was submitted a report (issued) of 7 March 2007 by the Chief Executive,

- (1) reminding members that the journeys on service 320 only operated on Friday nights when the summer ferry timetable was in operation and provided connections with the new late night ferry journeys; and
- (2) recommending that, based on limited experience to date with the operation of this experimental service, it was proposed that these journeys continue during Summer 2007.

After discussion, the committee approved the recommendation at (2) above.

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10. Proposed change to subsidised bus service 2, Barrhead local, contract 5663B

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 March 2007 by the Chief Executive,

- (1) reminding members that SPT currently provided a subsidy to Riverside Transport to operate contract 5663B Barrhead local (service 2) on a Saturday which was due to expire on 14 July 2007 and had been renewed at the Operations Committee on 17 November 2006;
- (2) informing members that Gulliver's Travels Ltd operated Service 2 without subsidy Monday to Friday and had received approval by the Scottish Traffic Commissioner to vary its current registration to include a Saturday service from 31 March 2007; and
- (3) recommending that as a commercial service was to be provided on an existing subsidised route the committee agree
 - (a) that contract 5663B Barrhead Local (service 2) be terminated on Saturday 24 March 2007, providing an annual saving of £3,324 with two months lieu of notice given; and
 - (b) that contract 5663C Barrhead Local (service 2), approved by the committee on 17 November 2006, should also now not proceed.

After discussion, the committee approved the recommendations at (3) above.

11. Award of new subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 March 2007 by the Chief Executive seeking the committee's views on the award of new subsidised bus services.

After discussion, the committee agreed

- (a) that no award be made for contract 0918 Southpark Village – Nitshill (service 48);
- (b) that contract 4700A Coltness West - Wishaw General Hospital (service 93) be awarded to Stuarts Coaches based on the use of the optional tender submitted at a cost of £66,300 for the contract period, equivalent to £46,800 per annum, from 15 April 2007 to 6 September 2008; and
- (c) that temporary contact 4700T Coltness West - Wishaw be terminated on 14 April 2007.

12. Audio Visual on-bus information system

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 March 2007 by the Chief Executive,

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- (1) informing members that, as part of an ongoing programme of action designed to ensure that in its delivery of service, SPT met its responsibilities under equalities legislation - in particular the Disability Discrimination Act, it was proposed to trial an on bus passenger information system which would be of benefit to the visually impaired and hard of hearing; and
- (2) recommending that the committee
 - (a) agree to the installation of an on-bus audio visual passenger information system on a trial basis on contract 3164D Stobhill Hospital - Glasgow (service 329) from 15 July 2007, by way of grant funding £4,000 to Henderson Travel; and
 - (b) authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) to sign a grant funding letter to Henderson Travel.

After discussion, the committee approved the recommendation at (2) above.

13. **Requests for subsidised local bus services**

[Click here to view report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 6 March 2007 by the Chief Executive, advising members of various requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the committee

- (1) agreed not to take any further action in respect of the local subsidised bus service requests at paragraphs (a) - (h), and (j) - (o) of the report; and
- (2) approved the recommendations in respect of the undernoted request: -

Request	Decision
Provision of an additional Monday – Friday bus journey on subsidised bus service 135 at 0850 hours from Lanark Interchange to the Marches, Lanark and return.	The committee agreed that the journeys be incorporated within the Lanark Ring'n'Ride service at no additional cost.
(item i)	