



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee

25 November 2022

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 25 November 2022

- Present** Councillors Alan Moir (Chair), Gordon Currie, Mark Horsham*, William Lennox*, Christy Mearns, Lawrence O'Neill, William Sinclair*, Duncan Townson* (from Agenda Item 4), David Wilson and appointed members Anne Follin, George Hazel*, Ed McGrachan and Andrew Walters*.
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance & Corporate Support; Antony Smith, Director of Subway; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery and Andrea Thompson, Media & Public Affairs Manager

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, and that such recordings would be made available together with the minute of meetings.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Stephen Dornan and Owen O'Donnell.

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.

George Hazel declared an interest due to his role as an adviser to North Ayrshire Council.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 9 September 2022, having been considered and approved at the Partnership meeting on 30 September 2022 as a correct record, was duly noted.

4. Revenue Monitoring Report as at Period 7, ending 15 October 2022 and updated Financial Forecast for Financial Year 2022/2023

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted and discussed a report (issued) of 4 November 2022 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support advising members of the net revenue position as at the end of Period 7, 15 October 2022 and providing an updated financial forecast for the current financial year, stating the assumptions made regarding income and expenditure levels.

After considerable discussion, particularly relating to the impact of passenger income and increased returns on revenue balances, and after hearing from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Committee considered the report and noted:

- (i) the forecast outturn at this stage;
- (ii) that significant uncertainties remain in relation to the year end projection; and
- (iii) the projected positive variance reported will be assessed at year end and any underspend will be transferred to reserves to support future financial years.

5. Capital Programme Monitoring and Proposed Amendments Report as at 15 October 2022, Period 7

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[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 November 2022 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support:

- (i) Providing members with a progress update on the 2022/23 capital programme;
- (ii) seeking approval for proposed amendments to the 2022/23 capital programme; and
- (iii) seeking approval to Grant Fund as detailed in sections 6(ii) and (iii) of the report.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Wylie and Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions relating to the impact of delivery as a result of limited resources in some local authorities, the Committee:

- (i) approved the proposed amendments to the 2022/2023 capital programme in Appendix 2;
- (ii) 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 authorised that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements;
- P** (iii) agreed to recommend to the Partnership meeting of 16 December 2022 approval to Grant Fund or to vary existing Grant Fund letters to the Local Authorities or other bodies for those awards over a cumulative value of £200,000;
- (iv) noted the financial performance of the 2022/23 capital programme as at Period 7; and
- (v) noted that further work to quantify and manage risk, advance savings and re-phase existing projects is being undertaken to balance spend against budget.

6. Mid-Year Treasury Management Report

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 November 2022 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support detailing the treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury management indicators for the first half of financial year 2022/2023.

After hearing from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions and hearing that SPT does engage the services of external treasury advisers, the Committee:

- (i) noted the content of the report; and
- P** (ii) agreed to recommend to the Partnership meeting of 16 December 2022 approval to revise the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/2023, as detailed in Section 4 of the report.

7. A Call to Action: SPT's Transport Summit 2022 – Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 November 2022 by the Chief Executive updating the Committee on the outcome of SPT's Transport Summit 'A Call to Action' which was held on 27 October 2022.

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The SPT Chair noted the Summit was a very successful event, with the date chosen to accommodate the Transport Minister who unfortunately but understandably then could not attend due to ministerial diary pressures.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Kiloh and Mrs Davidson in response to members' questions, and hearing the key message was to support the SPT activities which will contribute to a sustainable transport network – delivering infrastructure, but also funding the delivery of services – and that this is a challenge due to public finances currently being extremely stretched.

The Strategy & Programmes Chair also extended thanks to staff for a successful event on a tight schedule, and acknowledged there are difficult decisions ahead. Thereafter, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

8. Development of the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy & Delivery Plan

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 November 2022 by the Chief Executive informing the Committee of the proposed development process and structure of the future Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS) and the associated Delivery Plan, arising from and in line with the new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), when approved.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Kiloh, Mr Dickson and Mrs Davidson, specifically relating to:

- (i) that any Bus Strategy has to be address the perception of buses as an alternative to cars;
- (ii) the need for the Strategy and Delivery Plan to focus on outcomes and to ensure adequate due diligence over future decisions;
- (iii) the need for a robust process;
- (iv) the difference between consultation and co-design; and
- (v) that Transport Scotland have planned a national campaign to support the return to the use of public transport.

Thereafter, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

9. Active Travel Report

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 25 November 2022 by the Chief Executive updating the Committee on SPT initiatives to support active travel (walking, cycling and wheeling) including:

- (i) the latest policy developments;
 - (ii) progress on the Regional Active Travel Strategy;
 - (iii) investment in Active Travel across the SPT area; and
 - (iv) the key principles of SPT's proposed response to the current Scottish Government consultation on a new Cycling Framework for Scotland.
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After hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

10. Ramp Retaining Wall Improvement Works – award of contract

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 1 November 2022 by the Director of Subway seeking the Committee's approval of the award of a contract for ramp retaining wall improvement works to Restek UK Limited.

After hearing from Mr Smith and Mr Wylie about the considerable price increases faced following the pandemic, the Committee approved the award of a contract value of £621,689 excluding VAT to Restek UK Limited for ramp retaining wall improvement works.