

Minute of Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee

12 March 2021

Held via Video Conference

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Minute of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee held via Video Conference at 1.30pm on 12 March 2021

Present Councillors Dr Martin Bartos (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Ian Cochrane, Graham Hardie, Alan Lafferty, Cathy McEwan, Marie McNair, Michael McPake, Alan Moir, Donald Reid, Jim Roberts, David Shearer and David Wilson.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive and Treasurer/Secretary; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Stuart Paul, Chief Accountant; Martin Breen, Senior Transport Planner; Tony Jones, Contact Centre Manager; Andrea Thompson, Media & Public Affairs Manager and Karen Jones of Azets.

Chair's Remarks

The Joint Committee members agreed that the meeting could be recorded in line with SPT process for Partnership and Committee meetings.

1. Apologies

The Committee noted there were no apologies submitted.

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

The Committee noted there were no declarations of interest.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 18 September 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. External Audit Plan 2020/21

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 February 2021 by the Treasurer/Secretary advising the Committee of the External Audit Plan for 2020/21 from Azets, SCTS's external auditors.

After discussion and hearing from Ms Jones, the Committee expressed thanks to the SPT Finance team for their work in maintaining strong governance during the period of working from home and noted the details of the External Audit Plan for 2020/21.

5. Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Review: Progress Update and Recommendations

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 March 2021 by the Treasurer/Secretary updating the Committee on progress and recommendations relating to the review of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme and recommending:

- (i) No fare change to be implemented during 2021/22; and
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(ii) The current concessionary fare structure be replaced as follows:

- half standard is applied to subway and rail journeys that are not wholly within the rural zone;
- Half standard fare, with a fare cap is applied for wholly rural rail journeys and all ferry journeys;
- The fare cap is set at £2.50 (single) and £4 (return);
- All fare changes to be effective from 2022/23, and increased annually inline with the relevant fare inflation applied;
- The fare cap to be effective from 2022/23 and increased annually in line with fare inflation or at the discretion of the Joint Committee; and
- A minimum fare of £1 (single) and £1.50 (return) be applied to all modes with effect from 2022/23.

After viewing a short presentation from Mr Breen there was extensive discussion, particularly on the potential impact from the recently announced free travel for under 22s could have on the Scheme, notwithstanding the impact on other travel operators. After hearing further from Mrs Davidson, the Committee:

- (i) approved the recommendations within the report; and
- (ii) requested that the Treasurer/Secretary write to Transport Scotland regarding the unintended consequences of extending free travel to groups not covered by the current local concession scheme.

6. Revenue Monitoring Report as at 30 January 2021, Period 11

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 23 February 2021 by the Treasurer/Secretary advising members of revenue expenditure incurred at the end of Period 11 (30 January 2021), including the projected outturn at the end of the current financial year.

After hearing from Mr Paul, the Committee noted the projected outturn position for 2020/21 based on the information available at the end of P11.

7. Performance and Reimbursement Update on 2020/21 Quarter 1 to Quarter 3 Results

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 March 2021 by the Treasurer/Secretary updating the Committee of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme's performance and reimbursement results for 2020/21, financial quarters 1-3 (April-December 2020).

After hearing from Mr Breen, the Committee noted the contents of the paper and in particular the impact of Covid-19 on concessionary travel demand and on operator reimbursement costs.

8. Proposed Revenue Budget 2021/22

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 February 2021 by the Treasurer/Secretary updating the Joint Committee on the award of contract and on the current progress of the Review of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme.

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After hearing from Mrs Davidson that the requisition level would be increased by 0.9% reflecting the final local government settlement, the Committee approved:

- (i) the proposed budget of £4.039m plus 0.9% for financial year 2021/22;
- (ii) requisitions totalling £4.039m as shown in the papers plus 0.9%; and
- (iii) that the draft 2022/23 indicative budget would be updated to reflect the decisions taken regarding the revised fare structure.

9. Travel Card Unit – Update on Performance and Progress on Digital Enhancements

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 18 February 2021 by the Treasurer/Secretary updating the Committee on the performance of the Travel Card Unit and advising the Committee of progress regarding digital enhancements to support Travel Card Unit administrative processing.

After discussion and having heard Mr Jones and Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of this paper, the progress made with digital enhancements and further future integration to improve the service further and noted that Mr Jones will forward council specific information to members as requested.
