

Partnership minute



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of meeting

28 June 2024

held at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow and via Video Conference

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow and via Video Conference* at 10am on 28 June 2024

- Present** Councillors Stephen Dornan (Chair), Alex Allison, Ken Andrew*, Maureen Devlin, Helen Loughran*, Christy Mearns, Malcolm Mitchell, Alan Moir, Donald Reid*, John Ross*, Roza Salih* (from Agenda Item 8), Adam Smith*, Andy Steel, Duncan Townson*, David Wilson and appointed members Greg Beecroft, Jenna Dickson*, George Hazel* (from Agenda Item 8), Ed McGrachan* and Andrew Walters* (from Agenda Item 7)
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Lesley Aird, Director of Finance & Corporate Support; Richard Robinson, Director of Transport Operations; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; David Fielder, Head of Subway Projects; Mark Toner, Head of Engineering; Amy Sullivan, Solicitor (Clerk) and Ryan Sorley, Chair of the ZoneCard Forum (until Agenda Item 13)

Chair's Remarks

Partnership Standing Order No 14 requires the agreement of the Partnership to record meetings. The Chair reiterated to the Partnership that the meeting would be recorded and potentially viewed multiple times. The Partnership members noted this.

The Chair also congratulated all staff noting that SPT had been awarded Transport Authority of the year at the recent Transport Awards.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Gordon Blair, William Lennox, Owen O'Donnell, Sandy Watson and appointed members Kirsty Orr and Anne Follin.

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

Cllr Moir declared an 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 15 March 2024 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. Committee Minutes

The minutes (issued) of the undernoted committees were noted and approved as an accurate record:

- (a) Chairs Committee of 26 March 2024;
- (b) Operations Committee of 26 April 2024;
- (c) Personnel Committee of 26 April 2024;
- (d) Strategy & Programmes Committee of 14 June 2024, noting in response to members questions Mrs Davidson's update on the recent Ministerial meeting and further discussions relating to capital funding for SPT; and
- (e) Audit & Standards Committee of 14 June 2024.

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5. Update on Membership

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 May 2024 by the Chief Executive/Partnership Secretary providing the Partnership with an update on membership changes since the last Partnership meeting of 15 March 2024, noting:

- (i) Cllr Patterson had been replaced by Cllr Steele from Renfrewshire Council;
- (ii) Cllr Sinclair had been replaced by Cllr Blair from Argyll & Bute Council; and

after hearing Mrs Davidson advise Cllr Currie had recently been replaced by Cllr Watson from North Lanarkshire Council, the Partnership noted the updated membership.

6. Audit & Standards Committee annual report 2023/2024

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 14 June 2024 by the Chief Executive recommending the Partnership note the Audit & Standards Committee annual report for 2023/2024 which detailed the scope and extent of the work of the Committee.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson and Cllr Donald Reid, the Audit & Standards Committee Chair, the Partnership noted the Audit & Standards Committee annual report 2023/2024, welcoming the contribution this made to the sound governance of the organisation.

7. SPT Annual Report 2023/2024

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 7 June 2024 by the Chief Executive recommending the Partnership consider and approve the final draft of the SPT for 2023/2024 Annual Report. In addition, Mrs Davidson highlighted that the report captured a snapshot of key activities in the last financial year and highlighted the efforts made by staff to delivering successful outcomes.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson, the Partnership approved the final draft of the SPT Annual Report 2023/2024 for publication.

8. Subway Modernisation – progress update

[Click here to view the report and presentation](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 June 2024 by the Director of Transport Operations updating the Partnership on the progress to date on the Subway Modernisation programme.

Having received a full presentation in support of the report, and after considerable discussion and having heard from Mr Robinson, Mr Fielder and Mr Toner in response to members' questions, specifically relating to:

- the deliverability of Subway Modernisation within the programme budget;
- the purpose and plans for Sunday closures in support of modernisation works;
- the availability and reliability of the new trains in service and the support arrangements in place via the TSSSA contract;
- more details of the operation of onboard announcements and screens on the new trains; and

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- that arrangements will be made for a Partnership visit to the depot to see the progress of works including the Operational Control Centre,

the Partnership:

- (i) noted the continued progress made on all Subway Modernisation and improvements works since the last update to the Partnership in December 2023;
- (ii) noted the ongoing progress on the MSA contract including introduction to passenger service of the first 12 trains running on the existing signalling system, the ongoing Fault Free Running and acceptance programme for the remainder of the fleet and the ongoing hardware installation work in readiness for the new signalling system;
- (iii) noted the challenges of introducing a new fleet to passenger service and delivering reliability growth;
- (iv) noted the continued challenge towards performance improvement on the TSSSA contract;
- (v) noted the progress made on operational readiness and delay mitigation actions including existing infrastructure and fleet maintenance improvements;
- (vi) noted the modernisation programme remains within overall budget and funding;
- (vii) noted the commitment and performance of the SPT, ANSTA and other contractors delivering the work;
- (viii) noted that a further report on progress will be presented to the Partnership meeting in December 2024; and
- (ix) approved the requirement to extend and vary the Atkins CTA contract and approved the overall budget extension up to the value of £5.5m.

Thereafter, the Chair, supported by all Partnership members, congratulated all members of the team on the successful introduction of the new train fleet into passenger service.

9. Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy – progress update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 19 June 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning updating the Partnership on the development of the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy & Delivery Plan (SRBS) and recommending the Partnership note a summary of responses to the recent public consultation on recommended options for improving the bus network.

After considerable discussion and hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions highlighting:

- (i) the consultation responses received favoured franchising and small scale municipal operations over BSIP and voluntary partnerships;
- (ii) the limited support for the business as usual model;
- (iii) that a full assessment and consultation report would be made available to the Partnership in September 2024; and

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- (iv) that further consideration was necessary to consider what actions would be necessary to ensure a strong bus network was in place during the interim period should the proposal be to change delivery model,

Cllr Mearns proposed a motion under Standing Order 3.10.2 seeking an amendment to the recommendation to note the consultation response update, to include “and agree to cease progressing work on developing the case for a BSIP, in line with the clear majority of consultation responses received from the public.”

Having heard from the Chair and Mrs Davidson and outlining that the report was for noting, that the final recommendation would be brought forward in September 2024, the motion (unseconded) was not considered urgent as required by Standing Order 3.10.2.

Thereafter, the Partnership noted the consultation update as reported.

10. Regional Transport Strategy – Transport Governance Workstream – progress update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 June 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning recommending the Partnership note:

- (i) the report;
- (ii) the progress update on the RTS Transport Governance workstream; and
- (iii) the update on other relevant workstreams, specifically the recommencing of the national transport governance workstream, and the ‘refresh’ of the “Develop to Deliver” report from 2015 by the Chairs of the Regional Transport Partnerships of Scotland attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh, the Partnership noted the report, the progress update and the update on other relevant workstreams.

11. Regional Active Travel Strategy & Delivery Plan – draft for consultation

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 6 June 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning recommending the Partnership:

- (i) note the development of the SPT Regional Active Travel Strategy and Delivery Plan (ATS); and
- (ii) approve the draft strategy attached at Appendix 1 for public consultation.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members’ questions, specifically in relation to the level of priority the delivery of the active travel projects received relative to other public transport projects, the Partnership:

- (i) reaffirmed its support to active travel in a balanced hierarchy of transport interventions; and
- (ii) subsequently noted the contents of the report and approved the draft Active Strategy as attached at Appendix 1 of the report for consultation.

12. ZoneCard Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 7 June 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support reporting on the rollout of the new Smart ZoneCard tickets.

After hearing from Mrs Aird and Mr Sorley in response to members' questions, specifically addressing:

- (i) whether there would be a further review of ZoneCard boundaries, pricing and ticket types following comments received;
- (ii) concerns raised with regards to pricing of the new ticket;
- (iii) confirmation that alternative options to online registration for a ZoneCard existed;
- (iv) specific geographical area concerns (Lochwinnoch) and a request that the ZoneCard Forum consider alternate solutions,

the Partnership noted the contents of the report while highlighting concern with regards to ticket pricing increases affecting some ZoneCard users.

13. Clyde Metro – Professional and Technical Services Framework

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 June 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning recommending the approval of the Clyde Metro Professional and Technical Services Framework and the appointment of successful tenderers to the Lots within the Framework and to provide a brief update on progress on the Clyde Metro programme.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, including:

- (i) clarification on whether SPT staffing and resources in support of the project required to be reviewed; and
- (ii) noting the availability of SPT in-house expertise to assist in the delivery of Clyde Metro would be considered as the project developed over time,

the Partnership approved the appointment of the consultancy organisations detailed at Appendix 1 of the report and noted the Clyde Metro Position Statement at Appendix 2 of the report.

14. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 19 June 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery recommending the Partnership approve the award of a number of subsidised local bus service and MyBus contracts affecting East Ayrshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Council areas.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson, the Partnership agreed the award of contract as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

15. Proposed Lease of Unit 7 Buchanan Bus Station & former ticket office at St Enoch

It was proposed that the press and public be excluded for Item 15 above, it being considered that otherwise there would be disclosure to them of exempt information in terms of paragraph 9 of Schedule 7a to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 7 June 2024 by the Director of Transport Operations recommending the Partnership approve that the Director of Transport Operations in consultation with the Senior Solicitor conclude negotiations for a lease renewal for the Old Ticket Office at St Enoch Square and Unit 7 Buchanan Bus Station.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson, the Partnership approved:

- (i) a lease for a period of 10 years with the proposed tenant at Unit 7 Buchanan Bus Station on the terms outlined in the report; and
- (ii) a lease for a period of 10 years with an option to extend for a further 5 years with the proposed tenant at the former ticket office at St Enoch as detailed in the report presented.