

## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

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

**28 August 2020**

held by Video Conference

**contact officer:**

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## **Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held by Video Conference on 28 August 2020**

**Present** Councillors Alan Moir (Chair), Dr Martin Bartos, Maureen Devlin, Gordon Jenkins (Substitute), Alan Lafferty, Anna Richardson, Collette Stevenson (Substitute), David Wilson and appointed members Brian Davidson, Ann Faulds, Anne Follin, Alex Macaulay and Jim McNally.

**Attending** Gordon Maclennan, Chief Executive; Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive/Partnership Secretary; Antony Smith, Director of Subway; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Antony Smith, Director of Subway; Stuart Paul, Chief Accountant; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery and Andrea Thompson, Media & Public Affairs Manager

### **Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed the Committee via the Microsoft Teams video conferencing facility which was being utilised due to the COVID-19 crisis and explained some of the platform's options for contributing to the meeting.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Ian Cochrane, Lee Lyons (Substitute), Jim Roberts and David Shearer.

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

The committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. Minute of previous meeting**

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 7 February 2020, having been considered at the Partnership meeting of 6 March 2020, was submitted and approved as a correct record.

#### **4. Updated Financial Forecast for financial year 2020/21**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 August 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive providing members with an updated forecast deficit for the current financial year, stating the assumptions made, and to advise of discussions with Transport Scotland regarding continued financial support.

After considerable discussion centred mainly on the significant financial impact of Covid-19 on SPT's income generating base, and Transport Scotland's financial support for 3 months only, that the financial projection at this stage assumed no second wave or local lockdowns and having heard from Mrs Davidson in answer to members' questions, the Committee:

- (a) noted the forecast outturn at this stage and the level of expenditure required to assist with the deficit;
  - (b) noted that discussions continue with Transport Scotland over continued financial support for the current financial year,
  - (c) noted that the financial position report would be shared with the full Partnership given the significant implications for services; and
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- (d) agreed that an update on the projections with implications for the 2021/2022 budget are presented to a forthcoming committee.

## **5. Capital Programme Monitoring and Proposed Amendments Report as at 18 July 2020, Period 4**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 August 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive:

- (a) providing a progress update on the 2020/21 capital programme;
- (b) seeking approval for proposed amendments to the 2020/21 capital programme; and
- (c) seeking approval to Grant Fund as detailed in sections 6(b) and 6(c) of this report.

After having heard from Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, specifically about the deliverability of SPT capital funded projects in the current circumstances, together with a clarification regarding Partnership approvals of grant awards greater than £200,000 cumulatively, the Committee considered the report and:

- (a) approved the proposed amendments to the 2020/21 capital programme as per Appendix 2 of the report;
- (b) 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 the Assistant Chief Executive to complete the award letters;
- (c) agreed to recommend to the Partnership meeting of 18 September 2020 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;
- (d) noted the financial performance of the 2020/21 capital programme as at Period 4; and
- (e) 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. Annual Treasury Management Report 2019/20**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 August 2019 by the Assistant Chief Executive advising the Committee that:

- SPT is required by regulations issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to produce an annual report reviewing treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury management indicators for 2019/20; and
- the report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the "Code of Practice") and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the "Prudential Code").

The Committee extended its thanks to the SPT Finance team and particularly to Mr Paul for the treasury work undertaken, and after discussion and hearing further from Mr Wylie and Mr Paul in response to members' questions, the Committee:

- (a) noted the contents of the report, and
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- (b) noted the prudential and treasury management indicators for 2019/20 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

## **7. Glasgow City Region Transport Transition Plan – SPT progress update**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 August 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive providing an update on the development of a Transport Transition Plan (TTP) for the Glasgow city region.

After discussion and clarification on the relationship between the TTP and the Regional Transport Strategy, and the Committee Chair highlighting the constructive contribution played by SPT in bringing a regional perspective to the document and having heard from Mr Kiloh in answer to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

## **8. Strategic Issues Update for the SPT area**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 6 August 2020 by the Assistant Chief Executive providing an update on strategic-level issues affecting transport in the west of Scotland.

Specifically, the Committee:

- discussed the work underway with COSLA to draft a blueprint for local government and the need for this also to be inclusive of regional transport, highlighting that SPT should take this forward; and
- requested and agreed that some initial research be undertaken into the level of Barnett consequential arising from funding of transport at a UK level be undertaken.

Thereafter and having heard Mr Kiloh in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to the two actions noted.

## **9. Tunnel Lining Improvement Works – award of contract**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 August 2020 by the Director of Subway recommending the Committee approve the award of a contract for tunnel lining improvement works to Freyssinet Limited.

After discussion and hearing from Mr Smith, Mr Maclennan and Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Committee approved the award of a contract to Freyssinet Limited for a five-year term contract for tunnel lining works with a contract budget of up to £13,000,000 (excl. VAT).

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