

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee

31 January 2025

held in person at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference

Contact:
Amy Bryceland amy.bryceland@spt.co.uk



Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference* on 31 January 2025

Present Councillors David Wilson (Chair), Alex Allison, Ken Andrew, Maureen Devlin* (until Agenda Item 4), Stephen Dornan, Alan Moir, Donald Reid*, Roza Salih*, Adam Smith* and appointed member Greg Beecroft

Attending Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Richard Robinson, Director of Transport Operations; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning, Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery; Andrea Thompson, Head of Corporate Communications; Amy Bryceland; Solicitor / Clerk and Ewan Tait and Mark Wilson of ScotRail (for Agenda Item 5)

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.

The Chair welcomed Ewan Tait and Mark Wilson of Scotrail to the meeting.

Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair requested the Chief Executive to provide an update on the impact of Storm Éowyn to SPT's services. Mrs Davidson expressed thanks to all staff, particularly those who assisted passengers taking refuge within Buchanan Bus Station.

The Chair acknowledged this and asked that thanks were fed back to SPT staff on behalf of the Committee.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillor Andy Steel.

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

Cllr Moir declared an interest in Agenda Item 4 and 5, 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 8 November 2024, having been considered and agreed at the Partnership meeting of 13 December 2024 as a correct record, was duly noted.

4. Monitoring Report on public transport services and facilities in the SPT area

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 January 2025 by the Director of Transport Operations reporting on the operational performance of public transport services and facilities which are delivered directly by the Partnership or others on behalf of the Partnership and the provision of public transport services and facilities in the Partnership area more generally.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Robinson in response to members' questions, specifically relating to:

- (i) The effectiveness of marketing strategies in correlation to the patronage numbers rising in the Christmas period and plans for future marketing; and
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- (ii) If there was consideration to reporting more qualitative centric data reporting as opposed to quantitative,

and having heard from Mr Tait in relation to ScotRail services, specifically highlighting:

- (i) the launch of the “tap and go” app;
- (ii) acknowledgement of the disruption to rail services due to Storm Éowyn and confirmation that the majority services have resumed; and
- (iii) the frequency of trains and on board train information in particular relation to services in the Inverclyde area,

the Committee noted the contents of the report and the Chair thanked Mr Tait and Mr Wilson for attending.

5. East Kilbride Line Upgrade

Mr Wilson provided an update as to the closure of stations on the East Kilbride line for a period of 16 weeks and alternative travel options that have been arranged by Scotrail for passengers affected. Mr Tait outlined the rail replacement services on offer and said these will be monitored continually. It was noted there will be continued engagement with schools whose pupils’ travel has been affected.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Tait in response to members’ questions, specifically relating to:

- (i) the frequency and management of replacement buses; and
- (ii) how the buses are paid for and tickets that are accepted on rail replacement bus services,

the Committee noted the contents of the report and the Chair thanked Mr Tait and Mr Wilson of ScotRail for attending.

6. Subsidised bus service contract recommendations: financial implications

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 January 2025 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support, advising the Committee of the financial implications of the subsidised bus contract recommendations being considered at the meeting.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson and in response to members’ questions specifically relating to the awareness of external bodies and the public as to SPT’s contributions in the bus sector, the Committee noted:

- (i) the financial implications of the recommendations relating to the subsidised bus services budget in the following papers and give due consideration to this in the course of the decision making - the impact of individual decisions is reported in each paper for consideration;
 - (ii) the projected negative variance reported which reduces the scope SPT has to support the regional and local network in the remainder of the financial year; and
 - (iii) the impact of the current financial pressures on the subsidised bus budget in the short to medium term, including in the current and future financial years. As a result of this, an
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assessment of the current supported bus service provision will continue with a view to reducing the current overspend in 2024/2025 and future financial year costs. Options will be assessed and reported to a future committee with a view to reducing the impact on future year budgets.

7. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 January 2025 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery recommending the Committee approve the award of a number of subsidised local bus service contracts delivered in Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire council areas.

After hearing from Mr Dickson the Committee noted the subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers, in accordance with established corporate governance, financial regulations and contract standing orders.

8. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 January 2025 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery reporting on amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts since the last Operations Committee on 8 November 2024.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee noted the amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts in accordance with established corporate governance, financial regulations and contract standing orders.

9. Contracts awarded under delegated powers

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 January 2025 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery reporting on subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee noted the subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers, in accordance with established corporate governance, financial regulations and contract standing orders.
