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journeys

SPT

committee minute

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee meeting

5 November 2010

held at: Consort House, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow, on 5 November 2010

Present Councillors Denis McKenna (Chair), David Fagan, Jonathan Findlay, Charlie Gilbert (deputy), Bill Grant, Mark Griffin, Marie McGurk, Tommy Morrison, John Murray (deputy) and David Wilson and appointed members Tom Hart and Bill Ure.

Apologies Councillors Alan Brown (deputy), William Hendrie, Bobby McDill, Alan Moir, Eddie Phillips and Chris Thompson and appointed member Ronnie Mellis.

Attending Valerie Bowen, Senior Clerk; Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations); Neil Wylie, Director of Finance & HR; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Transport Planning; Alex Scott, Bus Contract Manager and Graham Dunn, DRT Officer.

1. Declaration of interest

The committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

2. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 3 September 2010 (issued) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. Public transport services monitoring report

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 28 October 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing the committee of the latest trends in the number of passengers carried and the reliability of services directly operated and supported by the Partnership and on ScotRail services in the SPT area; and
- (2) providing information on the current status of SPT's six point bus action plan for the continuing improvement of bus service delivery within the region, together with regulating and fleet profile statistics.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the contents of the report.

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4. Competition Commission decision on the relaxation of ScotRail undertakings

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 28 October 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing members that on 15 October 2004 the Competition Commission had accepted certain undertakings given by First Group plc with regard to the proposed acquisition of the Scottish Passenger Rail (ScotRail) franchise which had included a restriction on altering service levels and fares on certain bus routes (the controlled routes) for the duration of the rail franchise, ie until 2014;
- (2) advising members of the outcome of a recent review by the Competition Commission of a request by FirstGroup for a relaxation of those undertakings, in order that they could withdraw seven of the controlled routes and modify certain others; and
- (3) explaining that, despite representations from SPT expressing the concern of the Partnership that the relaxation of the undertakings was likely to require unanticipated additional funding to maintain essential social transport links, the Competition Commission had concluded that, by reason of the change of circumstances, it was appropriate to vary the undertakings to allow FirstGroup to make the proposed withdrawals and proposed modifications to the services detailed in the report.

5. Subsidised local bus service contract recommendations – financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 28 October 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) advising the committee of the financial implications of members' possible decisions relating to further items on the agenda.

After discussion, the committee noted the report in relation to the financial implications of awarding any contracts and agreed to give due consideration to these implications when making decisions on these contracts.

6. Paisley Statutory Quality Partnership Scheme

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With reference to the minute of the Partnership of 11 June 2010 (page 4, paragraph 6) when the Partnership had

- (1) considered a report on the Statutory Quality Partnership Scheme which had been introduced by the Scottish Parliament under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 as the preferred mechanism to improve the quality of bus service provision; and
- (2) approved the formation of a Statutory Quality Bus Partnership jointly with Renfrewshire Council for Paisley Town Centre,

there was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 28 October 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (a) intimating

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- (i) that following new guidelines issued by the Scottish Government for the introduction of Quality Bus Partnership Schemes, Renfrewshire Council had decided to defer the introduction of the proposed scheme to permit consideration of these guidelines and ensure that the processes previously undertaken complied with those suggested; and
 - (ii) that the opportunity had been taken also to consider further additional submissions made by bus operators in belated response to the earlier consultation;
- (b) advising members that, as a result of this review, some changes had been made to the proposals and a further, short consultation exercise was currently being undertaken with a view to introducing the Quality Partnership in March 2011;
- (c) summarising the changes which had been made to the proposals; and
- (d) informing members that, having agreed the changes in principle and delegated officers to finalise proposals following the consultation, which had ended on 27 October, Renfrewshire Council would formalise these revised arrangements at their first available committee meeting scheduled for 17 November 2010.

7. Award of subsidised local bus service contracts

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 19 October 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) on tenders received for the award of new subsidised local bus service contracts, the committee agreed to the award or otherwise of the undernoted contracts:-

Contract	Operator	Contract amount	Decision
Contract LS058A Gartcosh Station – Coatbridge – Cliftonville (services 232 & 233)	WJC Buses	£82,000	Accept. Lowest tender. Contract period 28 November 2010 to 16 July 2011.
Contract LS063 Silverburn – Kinning Park (service 53)	First Glasgow (No 1) Ltd	£15,494	Accept. Lowest tender. Contract period 6 February 2011 to 13 July 2013.
Contract LS064 Toryglen – Castlemilk Service 74)	First Glasgow (No 1)	£63,360	Accept. Lowest tender. Contract period 30 January 2011 to 13 July 2013.
Contract LS065A Duntocher/Baljaffray – Glasgow City Centre (service 118)	First Glasgow (No 1)	£18,560	Accept. Lowest tender. Contract period 30 January 2011 to 13 July 2013.

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Contract	Operator	Contract amount	Decision
Contract LS066 Lanark – Hamilton Interchange (service 231)	First Glasgow (No 2)	£18,924	Accept. Lowest tender. Contract period 31 January 2011 to 14 July 2012.
LS067 Caldercruix – Airdrie – Coatbridge (service 262)	-	-	Due to a registration being received for a new local service to commence on 8 November 2010, the committee agreed that no contract be awarded and to terminate the current temporary arrangements for this service on 6 November 2010.

8. Community Transport Projects: grant funding update

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 19 October 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) reminding members that since April 2008, SPT had been managing funding for community transport projects on behalf of constituent authorities;
- (2) providing a brief summary of the following community transport projects which had been awarded grant funding during the period 1 April 2010 to 6 October 2010:-
 - British Red Cross Society - North Ayrshire & Arran Community Transport & Escort Project;
 - Create Ltd – CamGlen NHS Car Sharing Project ;
 - Getting Better Together – Community centred health initiative in the Greater Shotts and surrounding areas;
 - Glasgow City Council hospital evening visitor service;
 - North Area Transport Association – Community transport services in North Glasgow; and
 - Stepping Stones for Families – Travel Connections - Girvan and Maybole schemes; and
- (3) appending a table detailing the amount of grant funding awarded to each of the projects.

After discussion and having heard Councillor McKenna advise of the successful launch of MyBus on the Isle of Arran and Councillor Grant thank Graham Dunn for his hard work and efforts made towards the extension of the Travel Connections Community Transport Project until 31 December 2010, the committee noted the terms of the report.

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9. Requests for subsidised local bus services

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 28 October 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), advising members of various requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services.

After discussion, the committee agreed

- (1) not to take any further action in respect of the local subsidised bus service requests at paragraphs (a) and (b) and (d) to (f); and
- (2) in relation to the request for improvements to bus service levels in parts of Lochfield (item c), that as a MyBus service was already operating in that area, Councillor McGurk would be provided with additional information in relation to eligibility criteria.

10. Transport Summit 2010: Connect to Compete

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With reference to the minute of 3 September 2010 (page 6, paragraph 10) when the committee had

- (1) approved member attendance at the Transport Summit Conference 2010 to be held in Glasgow on 10 September 2010 which had been organised primarily by Glasgow Chamber of Commerce in order to attain a business perspective on transport priorities for Glasgow; and
- (2) agreed that a report on the conference would be submitted to a future committee,

there was submitted a report (issued) of 26 October 2010 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (a) advising members that the conference had consisted of a series of panel 'question and answer' sessions and had focused on the following key themes:-
 - Maritime;
 - Land Freight;
 - Land Passenger; and
 - Public sector;
- (b) appending a summary of research into business attitudes to transport and the provision of key statistics and trends on transport in Glasgow and the west of Scotland which had been prepared by SPT for the conference;
- (c) highlighting that the conference had been successful in stimulating debate amongst the private sector as to what their priorities for transport were currently and in the future; and
- (d) explaining
 - (i) that Glasgow Chamber of Commerce was compiling a note of the key outcomes of the conference, with a view to preparing a 'Business Priorities for Transport' document later in the year; and

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- (ii) that SPT officers would continue to liaise with Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and provide assistance where necessary.

After discussion and having heard Mr Kiloh in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the terms of the report.

11. "Shared services and the Scottish public sector: Supporting and delivering new models in an age of austerity" conference

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 21 October 2010 by the Secretary

- (1) informing members that papers had been received inviting member attendance at the "Shared services and the Scottish public sector: Supporting and delivering new models in an age of austerity" conference 2010 to be held in the EBC Briefing Centre, Linlithgow on Wednesday, 8 December 2010;
- (2) advising members that this conference would give delegates a clear strategic picture of how the overall budget reduction challenge would unfold in the years ahead, an understanding of what the various forms of shared services options were and the opportunity to learn how to support successful development and change when developing a shared service; and
- (3) requesting that the committee consider whether or not it would be appropriate for members to attend.

After discussion, the committee agreed

- (a) that a maximum of 3 members should attend the conference; and
- (b) that a report on the conference would be submitted to a future committee.