



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee

11 November 2016

held in 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held in 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, on 11 November 2016

Present Councillors Kaye Harmon (Chair), Allan Falconer, Bill Grant, Denis McKenna, Michael McPake, Donald Reid and Paul Welsh and appointed members Brian Davidson, Ann Faulds, Anne Follin, Alex Macauley, Jo MacLennan, Alan Malcolm and Jim McNally.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Secretary/Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support); Valerie A Bowen, Senior Committee Officer; Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive; Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations); Charlie Hoskins, Senior Director; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance and HR and Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning.

1. Remembrance Day

The committee observed a period of silence as a mark of respect for those members of the armed forces who had died in the line of duty.

2. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Martin Bartos, Eddie Devine and Jonathan Findlay.

3. Additional item

The Chair advised the Committee that Mr Stewart would give an update on the Strathclyde Bus Alliance at the end of the meeting.

4. 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.

5. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the meeting of 9 September 2016 was submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Brian Davidson in the list of apologies.

6. Revenue monitoring report as at 15 October 2016 (period 7)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 October 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the Partnership had approved a core revenue budget for 2016/2017 of £38.418m;
- (2) appending the revenue monitoring report for the period to 15 October 2016 (period 7) which detailed the main variances, together with a detailed budgetary control report;
- (3) explaining that, as anticipated, there had been an impact on Subway income as a result of the Subway suspension during July 2016. However, it was hoped that with a strong focus on recovering the Subway patronage base in the coming months, the Subway income budget for 2016/2017 would be achieved;

11 November 2016

- (4) informing members that, with the assumption of Subway income being achieved and the on-going savings programme, net income growth/savings of £1.264m was currently forecast; and
- (5) intimating that all expenditure heads would continue to be monitored to ensure this positive variance was achieved and proposals for achieving the required year end break-even position would be submitted to a future committee meeting.

After consideration and having heard Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the terms of the report.

7. Capital programme monitoring report and proposed amendments as at 15 October 2016 (period 7)

There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 1 November 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the 2016/2017 capital programme had been approved by the Partnership on 4 March 2016 against known capital grant and other sources of funding;
- (2) intimating that actual expenditure as at 15 October 2016 (period 7) totalled £32.174m compared to a planned spend position of £32.894m;
- (3) providing a detailed financial analysis of individual projects contained within the programme, split by department;
- (4) appending proposed amendments to the capital programme, together with reasons for the adjustments listed against each project, which represented a net reduction of £0.18m; and
- (5) requesting that the committee
 - (a) approve the proposed amendments to the 2016/2017 capital programme as detailed in appendix 2 to the report;
 - (b) agree to the award of Grant Funding or to vary existing Grant Funding letters to Local Authorities or other bodies for those awards up to the value of £200,000;
 - (c) authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) to sign the grant funding letters to expedite all of the projects; and
 - (d) otherwise note the terms of the report.

8. Mid year Treasury Management Report 2016/2017

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 1 November 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) informing members

11 November 2016

- (a) that SPT was required to produce a mid-year report reviewing treasury management activities undertaken in the first half of the financial year through regulations issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and
 - (b) that this report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
- (2) summarising the Treasury Management performance for the first six months of the financial year 2016/2017; and
 - (3) concluding that, during the first half of 2016/2017, SPT had operated within the Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the annual Treasury Management Strategy.

9. Accessible Travel Framework

There was submitted a report (issued) of 12 October 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing members
 - (a) of the publication in September 2016 of “Going Further – Scotland’s Accessible Travel Framework” by Transport Scotland in partnership with the National Transport Accessibility Steering Group, whose membership included representatives of disabled groups, COSLA and RTPs; and
 - (b) that the Framework, aimed at improving the accessibility of Scotland’s transport system for disabled people, set out a vision and outcomes for accessible transport in Scotland, details of a proposed action plan together with governance arrangements for driving and monitoring progress and highlighted the extensive role that local authorities and RTPs had to play with respect to accessible transport;
- (2) intimating that a key driver for the Framework was the report “Develop to Deliver” which had been prepared by the Scottish Government, COSLA and RTPs and had highlighted a number of roles for RTPs in future policy and project delivery, including the suggestion that RTPs should play an enhanced role in improving access to health and social care, building on the outcomes and pilot schemes established as a result of the previous Short-Life Working Group on Access to Health and Social Care;
- (3) appending a summary of the Framework;
- (4) providing examples of where SPT had a strong track record of delivering effective solutions to maximise accessibility for the travelling public and meeting the specific needs of disabled people;
- (5) highlighting the fact that, whilst the reference to the role of RTPs was welcome with regard to access to healthcare and to the integration of health and social care, there was little in the Framework regarding future actions for this and whilst the focus on the needs of disabled people was very much welcomed, SPT believed also that the Framework could have benefitted from reference to the wider access needs of other groups – e.g. parents with buggies – in line with the RTS outcome of ‘Access for All’; and

11 November 2016

- (6) confirming that SPT would continue to work closely with Transport Scotland and the National Transport Accessibility Steering Group to take the Framework forward and that officers would update the Committee as work progressed.

Following discussion and having heard Messrs Stewart and Kiloh in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the terms of the report.

10. Rail update in the SPT area

There was submitted a report (issued) of 13 October 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) updating members on strategic rail issues in the SPT area, particularly in relation to the Edinburgh-Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP), new rolling stock, a proposed new Community Rail Partnership RAIL74, the establishment of a Regional Transport Integration Group (RTIG), the proposed new station at Robroyston and timetable changes due to take place in December 2016;
- (2) appending an executive summary of Transport Scotland's report entitled 'Commercial Assurance Review of the Rail Major Projects Portfolio' which had been published on 26 October 2016;
- (3) informing members that the key headline from that report was that the total forecast cost of the Portfolio had increased by £379m, from £1.131bn to £1.510bn;
- (4) recommending that the committee support the establishment of RAIL74 Community Rail Partnership which covered the section of line between Rutherglen and Hamilton within South Lanarkshire; and
- (5) confirming that, at a strategic level, SPT continued to engage actively with rail industry partners, including through the West of Scotland Rail Forum and the new Regional Transport Integration Group.

After consideration and having heard Mr Kiloh in answer to members' questions, the committee

- (a) approved the recommendation at (4) above; and
- (b) otherwise noted the terms of the report.

11. Update on Strathclyde Bus Alliance

Mr Stewart updated members on proposals for a Strathclyde Bus Alliance.

Following considerable discussion and having heard that the Chair of the Partnership was in the process of writing to all of Scotland's MSPs asking them to take action to reverse the decline in the bus industry by taking the opportunity presented by the proposed Transport Bill to reform the Bus Industry in Scotland, the Committee noted that a copy of the letter would be circulated to members once finalised.