

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

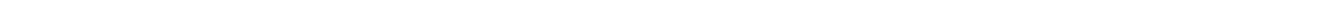
Minute of the Strategy & Programmes Committee

23 February 2024

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

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Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference* on 23 February 2024

Present Councillors Alan Moir (Chair), Holly Bruce (Substitute)*, Stephen Dornan, William Lennox*, Malcolm Mitchell*, John Ross, William Sinclair*, Duncan Townson* (from item 5) and David Wilson and appointed members Anne Follin, George Hazel*, Ed McGrachan and Andrew Walters* (from item 5)

Attending Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Lesley Aird, Director of Finance & Corporate Support; 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; Stuart Paul, Head of Finance
Jim Griffin, Senior Solicitor and Councillor Donald Reid

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, and that such recordings would be made available together with the minute of meetings.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillor Christy Mearns.

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

Cllr Moir reaffirmed his declaration of 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 24 November 2023, having been considered, approved as required and agreed at the Partnership meeting of 15 December 2023 as a correct record, was duly noted.

4. Revenue Monitoring Report as at Period 10, ending 6 January 2024 and updated Financial Forecast for Financial Year 2023/2024

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 6 February 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support advising the Committee of the net revenue position as at the end of period 10, 6 January 2024 including an updated financial forecast for the current financial year, stating the assumptions made regarding income and expenditure levels.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mrs Aird and Mr Paul in response to members' questions, the Committee noted:

- (i) the projected outturn position for 2023/2024 based on the information available at the end of P10;
 - (ii) the financial pressures which continue to impact in the current and future financial years including increased inflation, rising utilities costs and increased supported services costs; and
 - (iii) approved the transfer of the final year end underspend to reserves to fund capital projects in future financial years. The placement of the final underspend position
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23 February 2024

will be allocated across the relevant reserves based on the approved 2024/2025 capital programme.

5. Proposed Revenue Budget for 2024 / 2025

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 6 February 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support, for the Committee's scrutiny prior to submission to the Partnership, a draft revenue budget for 2024/2025, highlighting the assumptions made in the preparation of the budget, proposals for fees and charges and the draft proposed local authority requisition.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mrs Aird, Mr Dickson, Mr Kiloh, Mrs Davidson and Mr Robinson in response to members' questions, and from Mrs Davidson confirming that consideration will be given to opportunities for varying the parking offering at the Subway and that a report will be submitted to a future Committee, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Partnership of 15 March 2024 the approval of:

- (i) the draft revenue budget for 2024/2025 at Appendix 2 of the report of £36.598m subject to refinements over the coming weeks;
- (ii) requisitions totalling £35.949m, a decrease of 1.04% compared to 2023/2024 noting that this will be amended to reflect any final change in the local government settlement formula;
- (iii) an increase to Subway fares in January 2025 as outlined in section 4;
- (iv) an increase to bus station departure and parking charges in April 2024 as outlined in section 4;
- (v) an increase in the maximum permitted farescale for supported bus services in August 2024 as outlined in section 4; and
- (vi) noted that an update to the long term financial strategy and Reserves Policy is planned to be presented to the Partnership in March 2024, but that further information on levels of capital grant remain outstanding.

6. Capital Programme Monitoring and Proposed Amendments Report as at 6 January 2024, Period 10

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was a report (issued) of 5 February 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support, updating the Committee on the 2023/2024 capital programme, and 2023/2024 treasury management activities and seeking approval for grant funding awards to be made as set out in Appendix 2 thereof.

After discussion and having heard from Mrs Aird, and Mr Robinson in response to members' questions, the Committee:

- (i) approved the proposed amendments to the 2023/2024 capital programme as per Appendix 2 of the report;
 - (ii) agreed to grant fund or vary existing grant fund letters to local authorities or other bodies for those awards up to the value of £200,000 and authorised that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements;
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23 February 2024

- (iii) noted the financial performance of the 2023/2024 capital programme as at Period 10;
- (iv) noted that further work to quantify and manage risk, advance savings and re-phase existing projects is being undertaken to balance spend against budget; and
- (v) noted the 2023/2024 treasury management update as at Period 10.

7. Progress on the Development of the Capital Plan 2024/2025 to 2026/2027 including the Capital Budget 2024/2025

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 7 February 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support updating the Committee on progress made on the development of the Capital Plan 2024/2025 to 2025/2026, including the Capital Budget 2024/2025.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mrs Aird, Mr Robinson and Mrs Davidson in response to member' questions specifically in relation to the impacts of the recent decision to reduce SPTs capital grant to zero, and being updated on the ongoing discussions with Transport Scotland officials, the Committee:

- (i) noted the contents of the report;
- (ii) noted that regular discussions are ongoing with Transport Scotland to seek to secure a level of financial support particularly in relation to matters where there is a legal obligation or operational necessity to ensure availability of funding;
- (iii) noted that the subway modernisation project is legally and contractually agreed and therefore will continue, although options for in year funding were still being considered;
- (iv) noted that a full budget paper will be submitted to the Partnership on 15 March; and
- (v) agreed that the Chair and Vice Chairs, in liaison with the Chief Executive, would write to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport expressing the Committee's concern at the withdrawal of funding without discussion and stressing that ongoing funding is essential to support the work of SPT.

8. Strategic Issues Update for the SPT Area

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 13 February 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning updating the Committee on strategic level issues affecting transport in the west of Scotland.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, the Committee reaffirmed SPT's commitment to supporting active travel but that this must complement and be integrated with access to public transport as the most disadvantaged communities may be precluded from accessing active travel. The Committee noted the contents of the report.

9. Clyde Metro: Case for Investment – Case for Change and Initial Option Development – award of contract

23 February 2024

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2024 by the Head of Policy & Planning seeking the Committee's approval to approve the award of a contract for consultancy services to support the development of the Clyde Metro Case for Investment "Case for Change and Initial Option Development Stage".

After hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions, the Committee approved the award of contract for consultancy support to develop the Clyde Metro Case for Investment "Case for Change and Initial Option Development Stage" to Mott MacDonald Limited for a value of £265,480.

10. Automatic Train Inspection: Maintenance Activities and Supply of Critical Spares Package – award of contract

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 February 2024 by the Director of Transport Operations seeking the approval of the Committee to approve the award of a contract for the provision of planned maintenance activities and the supply of a critical spares package for the Automatic Train Inspection (ATI) system fitted at Broomloan Depot as part of the Subway Modernisation Programme.

Having heard from Mr Robinson, the Committee approved the award of contract for the provision of planned maintenance and the supply of critical spares to MERMEC for a value of up to £333,209.
