



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

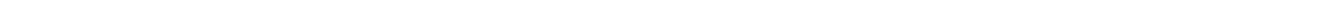
Minute of Operations Committee

26 August 2022

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 Operations Committee held at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference on 26 August 2022

- Present** Councillors Alex Allison, Ken Andrew, Ralph Barker (Substitute), Stephen Dornan, Joanne Katy Keltie, Michael McPake, Alan Moir, Jim Paterson, Donald Reid, Roza Salih, David Wilson and appointed members Greg Beecroft, Jenna Dickson and Andrew Walters (via video conference from Agenda Item 6).
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance & Corporate Support; Antony Smith, Director of Subway; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery; Gary Robertson, Network Analysis & Design Manager; Karen O'Donnell, School Transport & Compliance Manager; Andrea Thompson, Media & Public Affairs Manager and Ewan Tait, Business Development Executive, ScotRail (until Agenda Item 6).

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.

Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting by addressing the recent issue with Schools Transport in the Lanarkshire areas, the difficulties faced by SPT when operators fail to deliver contracts and that the Chief Executive and respective SPT teams have worked tirelessly to find solutions, noting this topic would be discussed in detail at Agenda Item 6.

1. Appointment of Chair

The SPT Chair nominated Cllr Wilson as Operations Committee Chair. Cllr Moir seconded the nomination.

It was noted there were no other nominations and Cllr Wilson was duly appointed as Operations Committee Chair.

2. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Maureen Devlin and appointed member Graham Johnston.

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

Cllr Moir declared an interest in Agenda Item 5, citing his employment with Scotrail and as a member of ASLEF, the trade union.

Jenna Dickson declared an interest in Agenda Item 5, citing her employment with Scotrail Holdings.

Cllr Keltie declared an interest in Agenda Item 6, citing a relative employed by Parks of Hamilton but not associated with any SPT contracts.

Cllr McPake declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 on the grounds of being a taxi owner and operator in North Lanarkshire, although not involved in any SPT contracts.

Cllrs Allison and Barker both advised relative to Agenda Item 6 that they were SLC appointments to the Rural Development Trust, although the Trust was not delivering any SPT school contracts.

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4. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 28 January 2022, having been considered at the Partnership meeting on 18 March 2022 as a correct record, was duly noted.

5. Monitoring report on public transport services & facilities in the SPT area

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted and discussed a report (issued) of 17 August 2022 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support reporting on:

- (a) the operational performance of public transport services and public transport facilities which are delivered directly by the Partnership or by others on behalf of the Partnership; and
- (b) the provision of public transport services and facilities in the Partnership area more generally.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mr Tait on ScotRail commuter services, timetables, fares and industrial action and after hearing from Mr Wylie, Mrs Davidson and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions regarding SPT services and particularly concerning the SPT request for operator data from Transport Scotland, the Committee noted the details of the report.

The Operations Chair thanked Mr Tait for attending and noted Mr Tait would provide responses directly to specific local member questions.

6. Mainstream Home to School Transport – Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 25 August 2022 by the Chief Executive, updating the Committee in relation to mainstream home to school transport and the recent challenges faced by SPT in securing school transport in the two Lanarkshire areas.

Following a question relative to Glasgow City Council organised ASN school provision, members were advised the report did not relate to Additional Support Needs (ASN) school transport, which is managed directly by individual councils.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Dickson, Mrs Davidson and Mr Kiloh in answer to members' questions, the Committee:

- (i) noted that SPT teams had worked tirelessly to find solutions in an incredibly difficult environment;
 - (ii) noted an apology had been issued for late communication from the Schools team to stakeholders;
 - (iii) noted the challenges faced by SPT in relation to the unstable operator market post pandemic including the bus, coach and taxi driver shortage faced by operators nationwide;
 - (iv) noted that an indepth internal review exercise will be undertaken on School Transport contracts, procurement and communication channels;
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- (v) noted the Chief Executives of SPT and North Lanarkshire Council respectfully had agreed to undertake a review of market arrangements longer term and an update would be provided before the year end;
- (vi) noted that communication with the Partnership Board collectively would also be reviewed relative to when significant adverse issues arise; and
- (vii) agreed to a request that the internal review report is also presented to the Audit and Standards Committee.

The Operations Chair thanked the Chief Executive for her own extensive personal involvement in resolving the recent issue and expressed thanks to all of the team for their commitment during this time.

7. MyBus – Review of Service Design and Operation – progress update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 August 2022 by the Chief Executive updating the Committee on the progress of the MyBus review (Stage 1) of service design and operation.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

8. Subsidised bus service contract recommendations: financial implications

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 August 2022 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 Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Committee noted:

- (i) the financial implications of the recommendations relating to the subsidised bus services budget in the following papers and agreed to give due consideration to this in the course of the decision making, noting the impact of individual decisions is reported in each paper for consideration;
- (ii) the projected positive variance reported (£297,020) which may require to be utilised later in the financial year to support the regional and local network; and
- (iii) key concerns identified which may impact on the subsidised bus budget in the short to medium term, including in the current and future financial years.

9. Amendment to community transport grant award: Larkhall & District Volunteer Group

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 August 2022 by the Chief Executive recommending the Committee approve an amendment to the grant award to Larkhall & District Volunteer Group to support MyBus services.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee approved an amendment to the grant award to Larkhall & District Volunteer Group to support MyBus services.

10. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts

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[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 August 2022 by the Chief Executive advising the Committee of amendments to subsidised local and MyBus bus service contracts since the last Operations Committee meeting on 28 January 2022.

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

11. Contracts awarded under delegated powers

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 16 August 2022 by the Chief Executive notifying the Committee of subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, particularly in relation to service 101/102 and a request to consult with the local community, the Committee noted the subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers, thus ensuring that socially necessary gaps in the public transport are provided for.

12. Provision of immutable storage solution for SPT Digital backups – Award of Contract

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 9 August 2022 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support seeking the Committee's approval to award the contract for introducing an immutable storage device solution to Insight UK.

After hearing from Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Committee approved the award of a contract for introducing an immutable storage device solution to Insight UK, at a total value of £307,312.

13. Conference Attendance

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 July 2022 by the Chief Executive/Partnership Secretary seeking the agreement of the Committee for member attendance at external conferences as follows:

Conference	Date	Cost	Attendance by
Next steps for Glasgow's economy The Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy, the City Region Deal, and priorities for investment, communities, businesses, transport, climate & R&I	31 August 2022	£260 plus VAT	David Wilson, Vice Chair

After hearing from Mrs Davidson, the Committee agreed member attendance at the external conferences as noted above.
