

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of meeting

18 June 2021

held via Video Conference

Contact:

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Minute of the meeting of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport held via Video Conference at 11am on 18 June 2021

- Present** Councillors Dr Martin Bartos (Chair), Richard Bell, Colin Cameron, Graham Campbell, Ian Cochrane, Brian Davidson, Maureen Devlin, Jim Finn (until Agenda Item 11), Willie Goldie, Graham Johnston (until Agenda Item 11), Alan Lafferty, Michael McPake (until Agenda Item 9), Richard Nelson, Jim Roberts, David Shearer, David Wilson and appointed members Greg Beecroft, Jenna Dickson, George Hazel, Ed McGrachan and Andrew Walters.
- Attending** Gordon Maclennan, Chief Executive; Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive, Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Antony Smith, Director of Subway; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning; Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery; and Andrea Thompson, Media & Public Affairs Manager.

Chair's Remarks

Partnership Standing Order No 14 requires the agreement of the Partnership to record meetings. The Chair sought and the Partnership agreed for the recording of SPT Partnership and Committee video conference meetings to commence.

Following Councillor McNair's of West Dunbartonshire Council election to Scottish Parliament, the Chair welcomed Councillor Finn to the Partnership.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Malcolm Balfour, Graham Hardie, Alan Moir, Marie McGurk and Donald Reid and appointed members Anne Follin and Jim McNally.

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

Councillor Cameron declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 as a current Nevis Technologies Ltd Board member.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 12 March 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. Committee Minutes

The minutes (issued) of the undernoted committees were noted and approved as an accurate record:

- (a) Operations Committee of 30 April 2021;
- (b) Personnel Committee of 30 April 2021;
- (c) Strategy & Programmes Committee of 21 May 2021

The Chair advised that with reference to Agenda Item 5 of the Minute, an additional Partnership meeting would be scheduled in August 2021 to discuss feedback on the "Transport for Strathclyde" paper previously issued by the Chair and Vice Chairs;

- (d) Audit & Standards Committee of 4 June 2021; and

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(e) Chair's Committee of 8 June 2021.

5. Audit & Standards committee annual report 2020/2021

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 4 June 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive recommending the Partnership note the Audit & Standards Committee annual report 2020/2021.

After hearing from Mr Wylie, the Partnership noted the Audit & Standards committee annual report 2020/2021, and thanked the members of the Committee for their work.

**6. Current Regional Transport Strategy: Delivery Plan 2018/19-2021/22 Update
New Regional Transport Strategy: progress update**

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 May 2021 by the Chief Executive recommending the Partnership consider the progress made in relation to the current Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), and approve the RTS Delivery Plan 2018/19-2021/22 Update, and furthermore providing the Partnership with an update on the development of the new RTS.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions specifically highlighting the need for all agencies to have improved co-ordination with regards to fleet management and more effective and efficient utilisation, the Partnership:

- (i) noted the contents of the report; and
- (ii) approved the RTS Delivery Plan 2018/19-2021/22 Update attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

7. Climate Change and Carbon Management – SPT progress update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 26 May 2021 by the Chief Executive updating the Partnership on SPT progress in relation to climate change and carbon management.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh, Mr Dickson and Mr Maclennan in response to members' questions relating to consideration of alternative fuels, the Partnership noted:

- (i) the contents of the report; and
- (ii) that member Carbon Awareness Training would be arranged and delivered, potentially in conjunction with the next "On Board" training sessions.

8. Update on Transport Data Project

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 June 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive providing the Partnership with an update on SPT's Transport Data Project.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Partnership welcomed the report and the significant improvements in public transport information that could be delivered, including at hospital sites and noted:

- (i) progress made in respect of the Transport Data Project;

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- (ii) SPT's role in supporting public health messaging and facilitating live bus capacity information to passengers during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (iii) continued input by SPT officers to support the development of regulations & guidance pertaining to the bus information provisions within the 2019 Transport (Scotland) Act;
- (iii) the intention to consult on revisions to SPT's Bus Information Standards included in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (iv) that the outcome of the consultation process and further details on the implementation of the revised standards would be presented to a future Operations Committee.

9. 5G Trial Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 20 May 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive providing the Partnership with an update on the progress of the 5G trial project to test 5G signalling within Subway tunnels and to advise that discussions are continuing with the University of Strathclyde to progress to a further stage aimed at investigating the benefits of 5G to Subway Operations and Maintenance.

After hearing from Mr Wylie, Mr Smith and Mr MacLennan in response to members' questions, the Partnership noted:

- (i) the international pilot project to assess the introduction of 5G connectivity within a subterranean environment was completed and proven to be successful;
- (ii) that discussions are now underway to seek a further project focused on the maintenance benefits of 5G connectivity; and
- (iii) that a project to improve data access for passengers within the subway network using 4G connectivity was being implemented at this time.

10. SPT representation on Nevis Technologies Ltd

Councillor Cameron, having expressed an interest at the start of the meeting, took no part in the discussion.

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 27 May 2021 by the Assistant Chief Executive to seek and agree nominations from the Partnership to the Board of Nevis Technologies Ltd (NTL).

After hearing from Mr MacLennan and Mr Wylie in response to members' questions, the Partnership:

- (i) approved Antony Smith as a nomination to the NTL Board as an Executive Director; and
- (ii) sought two nominations from appointed members to act as Non-Executive Directors of NTL.

11. Subway Modernisation - progress update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 31 May 2021 by the Director of Subway providing the Partnership with the latest progress update on the Subway Modernisation programme.

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After hearing from Mr Smith and Mr Wylie, the Partnership noted:

- (i) the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on modernisation activity;
- (ii) the continued progress made on all Subway Modernisation and improvements since the last written update to the Partnership in December 2020;
- (iii) ongoing progress (with delays) on the MSA contract;
- (iv) successful challenge towards performance improvement on the TSSSA contract;
- (v) impacts and likely further delay and claims to both MSA and TSSSA contracts from Covid-19 as a Force Majeure event;
- (vi) the ongoing discussions with the ANSTA JV on MSA claims and delays;
- (vii) progress made on operational readiness and delay mitigation actions including existing infrastructure and fleet maintenance improvements; and
- (viii) the modernisation programme remains within overall budget and funding.

Closing Remarks

The Chair expressed thanks on behalf of Partnership to Mr Davidson for his contribution to the work of SPT, wished him well for the future and reiterated a standing invitation to departing Board members to attend the unveiling of the new trains when they come in to service.