

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee

11 September 2015

held in Consort House, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Strategy & Programmes Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow on 11 September 2015

Present Councillors Jim Coleman (Chair), John Bruce, Gilbert Davidson, Eddie Devine, Bill Grant, Pauline McKeever, Denis McKenna and Frank McNally and appointed members Ann Faulds, Tom Hart, Jim McNally, Alan Malcolm and Gavin Scott.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)/Secretary; 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. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillor Kaye Harmon and appointed member Anne Follin.

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

The Committee noted the following declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda:-

- (1) Alan Malcolm in respect of his role as a director of Cycling Scotland; and
- (2) Ann Faulds in respect of her firm's role in acting for Land Securities in relation to proposals affected by the rail update referred to in the paragraph below.

3. Minute of previous meeting

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The minute of the meeting of 15 May 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minute with reference to page 3, paragraph 7, Mr Hoskins provided members with an update with regard to recent developments for EGIP and the SPT subway travelator box, viz.

- (1) Network Rail had written to advise SPT that there had been a change in the consultation related to the proposed works at Queen Street Station and the red line boundary for the TAWS application to Scottish Ministers had now been extended to include the station car park area that previously had been within the separate planning application by Buchanan Partnership for the proposed Buchanan Galleries development;
- (2) officers would review this new information and bring an update to the next Partnership meeting; and
- (3) further discussions would take place with Land Securities in relating to the delays to the proposed development over the travelator box and the requirements for the developer to reinstate the travelators and refurbish the box in accordance with the dates set out in the contract requirements.

4. Annual Treasury Management report 2014/2015

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 2 September 2015 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

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- (1) informing members that, through regulations issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, an annual report required to be produced to present an overview of treasury activities undertaken in the previous financial year, together with actual prudential and treasury indicators;
- (2) summarising the Treasury Management performance for the financial year 2014/2015 which covered
 - the economy and interest rates;
 - capital expenditure and financing;
 - the overall treasury position as at 31 March 2015;
 - compliance with treasury limits and prudential indicators;
 - investment strategy for 2014/2015; and
 - investment outturn for 2014/2015;
- (3) appending SPT's Prudential Indicators; and
- (4) concluding
 - (a) that during the financial year 2014/2015, SPT had operated within the treasury limits and prudential indicators set out in the Treasury Policy Statement and Annual Treasury Strategy; and
 - (b) that the Investment Strategy for 2014/2015 had been followed in full apart from a short term breach of the individual counterparty limit with one UK institution.

5. Revenue monitoring report as at 15 August 2015 (period 5)

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 2 September 2015 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the Partnership had approved a core revenue budget for 2015/2016 of £38.418m;
- (2) appending the revenue monitoring report for the period to 15 August 2015 (period 5) which detailed the main variances, together with a detailed budgetary control report;
- (3) intimating that the on-going savings programme continued to deliver significant savings, with all opportunities being taken to maximise efficiencies. In particular, strong subway income growth and careful management of employee costs, partially offset by increased subway fleet enhancement and tunnel enabling works, had contributed to forecast net income growth/savings of £0.76m; and
- (4) informing members that all expenditure heads would continue to be monitored to ensure that this positive variance was achieved and proposals for achieving the required year end break-even position would be submitted to a future committee meeting.

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6. Capital programme monitoring report and proposed amendments as at 15 August 2015 (period 5)

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P* There was submitted a report (issued) of 2 September 2015 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) reminding members that the 2015/2016 capital programme had been approved by the Partnership on 13 February 2015 against known capital grant and other sources of funding;
- (2) advising members that actual expenditure as at 15 August 2015 (period 5) totalled £11.756m compared to a planned spend position of £13.177m;
- (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 increase of £1.415m in the programme;
- (5) explaining
 - (a) that analysis of the capital programme as at period 5 had indicated a potential risk to spend of minus £2.230m; and
 - (b) that, for general capital funding, once the risk value had been taken into account, the projected variance equalled £3.810m (or 16%); and
- (6) requesting that the committee
 - (a) approve the proposed amendments to the 2015/2016 capital programme as detailed in appendix 2 to the report;
 - *(b) agree to recommend to the Partnership the award of grant funding over the value, or cumulative award value, of £160,000 to the local authorities and other identified bodies as detailed in the report; and
 - *(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.

After discussion and having heard Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, the committee approved the recommendations at (6) above

7. Active travel – progress update

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 14 August 2015 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

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- (1) reminding members that as the Regional Transport Partnership for the west of Scotland, SPT had a statutory responsibility to prepare and implement the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), which had been published in 2008 and had included a walking & cycling sub-strategy;
- (2) intimating
 - (a) that in 2014, Transport Scotland had published the National Walking Strategy, “Let’s Get Scotland Walking” followed by the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland in 2015 which had included a vision to increase the number of cycling trips to 10% of everyday journeys by 2020; and
 - (b) that the Cycling Action Plan had required local authorities to publish Active Travel Strategies demonstrating commitment to sustainable travel and the achievement of National Outcomes;
- (3) providing information on £2.7m worth of investment (a sizeable proportion of which was match funded by Sustrans) in walking and cycling projects across the west of Scotland during 2015/2016; and
- (4) explaining
 - (a) that to help deliver the RTS and to support the Scottish Government’s vision for active travel, SPT intended to refresh its earlier RTS sub-strategy documents on walking & cycling into a formalised Active Travel Strategy;
 - (b) that the Strategy would emphasise the need to support walking and cycling for everyday travel, including shorter distance and commuting journeys and promote modal shift, policies on health, the environment and land use; and
 - (c) that, in developing the Strategy, SPT would undertake focused consultation with Councils, Transport Scotland, Sustrans, Cycling Scotland and a range of other partners to ensure that the Strategy was robust, that it integrated with wider transport strategy (including the emerging SPT Bus Strategy referred to in a separate report to the Committee) and represented value for money.

8. Bus Strategy – Progress update

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With reference to the minute of the Partnership of 12 September 2014 (page 2, paragraph 7) when the Partnership had noted SPT's Bus Strategy and Outline Investment Programme and that an update on progress would be submitted to a future meeting, there was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 18 August 2015 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations),

- (1) intimating
 - (a) that Officers continued to monitor the bus market in the west of Scotland and sought to work with partners to identify and deliver appropriate solutions to any issues identified; and
 - (b) that, in addition, officers continued to monitor proposed changes to bus policy and legislation at Scotland and UK level through forums such as the national Bus Stakeholders Group and PTEG;

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- (2) providing examples of progress towards the key themes of the Bus Strategy and Outline Investment Programme;
- (3) advising members that although progress had been very positive, there remained much to be done to improve bus services, standards and infrastructure across the west of Scotland; and
- (4) informing members
 - (a) that English regional transport bodies had been actively pursuing initiatives such as statutory Quality Contract Schemes to enable an improvement in the bus market in their areas;
 - (a) that SPT had recently commissioned research comparing the approach to bus strategy in England with that in Scotland, and what lessons and best practice could be learned from experience south of the border; and
 - (c) that Officers were currently reviewing the draft outcomes of this research and would formulate a programme for the development of a more detailed plan for bus, building on the high level framework provided by the Bus Strategy and Outline Investment Programme previously approved by the Partnership.

9. Proposed award of contract for works at 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 28 August 2015 by the Chief Executive on tenders received for works required to facilitate SPT's move to 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, the committee

- (1) agreed to the award of a contract to McLaughlin and Harvey Construction Ltd. for a sum up to £1,799,263; and
- (2) approved the amendment to the capital budget and plan to accommodate the project.