

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Strategy & Programmes Committee

13 November 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 13 November 2015

Present Councillors Kaye Harmon (Chair), Gilbert Davidson, Bill Grant, Pauline McKeever and Denis McKenna and appointed members Ann Faulds, Anne Follin, 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.

Also attending John Yellowlees, ScotRail.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors John Bruce, Eddie Devine, Margaret Devine (substitute), Frank McNally and Paul Welsh.

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) Anne Follin in respect of her advisory role in relation to planning matters concerned with Fastlink; and
- (2) Ann Faulds in respect of her firm's role in acting for Glasgow City Council in relation to proposals for resident parking at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

3. Minute of previous meeting

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The minute of the meeting of 11 September 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. Mid-Year Treasury Management report 2015/2016

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 3 November 2015 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support)

- (1) informing members that, in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Treasury Management in Public Services Code and SPT's Financial Regulations, a mid-year report required to be produced to present an overview of treasury activities undertaken in the first half of the year;
- (2) summarising the Treasury Management performance for the first six months of the financial year 2015/2016; and
- (3) concluding that, during the first half of 2015/2016, SPT had operated within the Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Treasury Policy Statement and annual Treasury Management Strategy.

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5. Revenue monitoring report as at 10 October 2015 (period 7)

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 4 November 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 10 October 2015 (period 7) 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 £0.926m; and
- (4) informing members that all expenditure heads would continue to be monitored to ensure that this positive variance was achieved and that proposals for achieving the required year end break-even position would be submitted to a future committee meeting.

6. Capital programme monitoring report and proposed amendments as at 10 October 2015 (period 7)

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 November 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 10 October 2015 (period 7) totalled £21.850m compared to a planned spend position of £23.368m;
- (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 an increase of £2.050m on Subway modernisation and a reduction of £0.670m related to General Capital;
- (5) explaining
 - (a) that analysis of the capital programme as at period 7 had indicated a potential risk to spend of minus £1.864m; and
 - (b) that, for general capital funding, once the risk value had been taken into account, the projected variance equalled £3.506m (or 15%); and
- (6) requesting that the committee

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- (a) approve the proposed amendments to the 2015/2016 capital programme as detailed in appendix 2 to the report; and
- (b) 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. Report on "Maximising the role of RTPs in further improvements to transport in Scotland"

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 21 October 2015 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations),

- (1) intimating that, in March 2012, a Working Group consisting of RTP Lead Officers, Transport Scotland and CoSLA had been tasked by the Minister for Transport and Veterans and the Chairs of the Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) to examine how RTPs could further assist the Scottish Government in delivering the National Transport Strategy and the Government's wider Strategic Objectives, and to maximise the role of RTPs in delivering their Regional Transport Strategies;
- (2) appending a copy of the output from that Working Group, a report entitled "Develop to deliver: Maximising the role of RTPs in Scotland in furthering improvements to transport in Scotland";
- (3) summarising SPT's progress within the context of the key recommendations contained within the "Develop to Deliver" report;
- (4) reminding members that SPT's achievements and the added value delivered to the transport network of the west of Scotland by focusing on the delivery of integrated, co-ordinated, cross-boundary, inter-modal, robust transport solutions in pursuit of the outcomes of the statutory Regional Transport Strategy were documented in SPT's Transport Outcome Reports and Annual Report;
- (5) informing members that, although it was important to note that any further implementation of recommendations would be dependent on local circumstances and applicability, and the approval of the Scottish Government, RTP Boards, constituent Councils and/or other organisations, as appropriate to each RTP area, officers would continue to engage with the Scottish Government, the RTPs and other stakeholders to make progress on these and would inform the Committee of progress in future; and
- (6) recommending approval of the report.

After discussion as to whether or not the report could be enhanced by ensuring it complemented other Scottish Government reports, and having noted various other comments by members, the committee approved the report "Develop to deliver: Maximising the role of RTPs in Scotland in furthering improvements to transport in Scotland".

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8. Rail update in SPT area

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 20 October 2015 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) updating members on strategic rail issues in the SPT area, particularly in relation to timetable changes which would take effect from 13 December 2015, Smartcard developments, the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvements Project and Glasgow Queen Street rail station high level closure;
- (2) providing information on a number of other projects/initiatives in which SPT had an involvement; and
- (3) informing members that SPT would continue to engage actively with rail industry partners, including through the West of Scotland Rail Forum.