

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee

3 October 2014

held in Consort House, Glasgow

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Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held in Consort House, Glasgow on 3 October 2014

- Present** Councillors Denis McKenna (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Jim Coleman, Duncan Cumming (substitute), Kaye Harmon, Robert G MacIntyre, and David Wilson.
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Secretary/Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support); Valerie A Bowen, Senior Committee Officer; Gordon MacLennan, Chief Executive and Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Tony Buchanan, Charlie Gilbert (Deputy), Bill Grant, Bobby McDill, Alan Moir, Lawrence O'Neill and Hamish Stewart and appointed member Graham Johnston.

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

The committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

3. Minute of previous meeting

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The minute of the meeting of 15 August 2014 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. Monitoring report on public transport services in the SPT area

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 24 September 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) informing the committee of the latest trends in the number of passengers carried and the reliability of services directly operated and supported by the Partnership and on ScotRail services in the SPT area; and
- (2) providing information on the current status of SPT's bus action plan for the continuing improvement of bus service delivery within the region, regulating and fleet profile statistics and details of subsidised local bus service vehicle inspections.

After discussion and having heard Mr Stewart in further explanation and in answer to members' questions, the committee noted the terms of the report.

5. Subsidised local bus service contract recommendations – financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 September 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support) advising the committee of the financial implications of members' possible decisions relating to further items on the agenda.

After discussion, the committee

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- (1) noted the report in relation to the financial implications of awarding any contracts; and
- (2) agreed to give due consideration to the implications when making decisions on those contracts.

6. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 24 September 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) detailing changes to subsidised local bus services arising from changed circumstances, the committee noted the amendments as detailed below:-

| Contract | Amendment |
|---|---|
| Contract 9593D Hamilton – Strathaven – East Kilbride (service 13) | Provision of additional journeys on a temporary basis, with effect from 31 August 2014, to fill gaps in the network (additional cost of £750 per week) |
| Contract LS009C Dumbarton – Tullichewan/Balloch (service 206) | Alteration to route with effect from 31 August 2014 as a result of the introduction of a one way system in Dumbarton town centre (no additional cost) |
| Contract 9571F Silverton - Dumbarton – Brucehill/ Westcliff (services 208/218) | Alteration to route with effect from 31 August 2014 as a result of the introduction of a one way system in Dumbarton town centre (no additional cost) |
| Contract LS022C Helensburgh/Vale of Leven – Royal Alexandra Hospital (service 340) | Alteration to route with effect from 31 August 2014 as a result of the introduction of a one way system in Dumbarton town centre (no additional cost) |
| Contract LS074 Coatbridge – Moodiesburn – Shettleston (service 245) | Alteration to timetable with effect from 4 August 2014 as a result of a traffic regulation condition introduced in South Circular Road, Coatbridge, which restricted set down and uplift times for buses (no additional cost) |
| Contract 6266R Ayr – New Cumnock (service 343) | Alteration to route with effect from 25 August 2014 to commence journeys from Ayr Bus Station rather than Douglas Street in order to coordinate with the commercial element of the service (no additional cost) |
| Contract W046A Greenock – Midton (service 507) | Alteration to route with effect from 8 September 2014 as a result of the imposition of a bridge weight restriction in Union Street, Greenock (no additional cost) |

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7. Community Transport projects: grant funding

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 24 September 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing a brief summary of the following Community Transport projects which had been awarded grant funding during the period 1 February to 31 August 2014:-
 - British Red Cross Society;
 - Coalfield Community Transport;
 - Community Transport Glasgow;
 - Getting Better Together;
 - NATA (North Area Transport Association);
 - Glasgow City Hospital Evening Visitor Service; and
 - South West Community Transport; and
- (2) appending a table detailing the amount of grant funding awarded to each of the projects.

8. Requests for subsidised local bus services

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 24 September 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) advising members of two requests for the provision of subsidised local bus services and recommending no action in respect of each request.

9. SPT vehicle purchase framework

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 15 September 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) reminding members
 - (a) that over recent years, SPT had purchased buses which had been leased to operators of subsidised bus services and this initiative had realised substantial savings in contract costs; and
 - (b) that the buses had, in the main, been purchased via third party framework agreements such as Scotland Excel or Bath & North East Somerset;
- (2) intimating that, in order to ensure that SPT could benefit from greater functional flexibility in acquiring the types of vehicle it sought, it was felt appropriate to establish a specific SPT framework agreement for vehicle purchase;
- (3) outlining the tender assessment procedure for the vehicle purchase framework;
- (4) explaining
 - (a) that tenderers had been notified that, if successful in being appointed to the framework, purchases of between 1 – 5 vehicles would be by direct award and for greater numbers, the award criteria for future 'mini-tendering' exercises would be on

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- the basis of the most economically advantageous tender and would be evaluated using a quality/cost ratio of 40/60; and
- (b) that each vehicle purchase invitation to tender subsequently advertised under the Framework would be subject to a follow on mini competition via Public Contracts Scotland, using the quick quote facility; and
- (5) recommending that all five companies, within the categories as detailed in the appendix to the report, be included in the SPT Vehicle Framework in line with the tender assessment.

After consideration and having heard the Chief Executive explain that it was proposed that he, the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) and 1 other officer visit the premises of Wrightbus Ltd in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, the committee approved

- (i) the attendance of the officers at the visit; and
- (ii) the recommendation at (5) above.