

## **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport**

### **Minute of Operations Committee**

**15 August 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 15 August 2014

- Present** Councillors Denis McKenna (Chair), Malcolm Balfour, Tony Buchanan, Jim Coleman, Bill Grant, Alan Moir, Robert G MacIntyre, Bobby McDill, Niall McGrogan, Lawrence O'Neill, Hamish Stewart and David Wilson.
- Attending** Valerie Davidson, Secretary/Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support); Valerie A Bowen, Senior Committee Officer; Eric Stewart, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) and Neil Wylie, Director of Finance and HR.
- Also attending** Charlie Gilbert (substitute) and John Yellowlees, ScotRail.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Kaye Harmon and Chris Kelly.

### 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 30 May 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 6 August 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 5 August 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

- (1) noted the report in relation to the financial implications of awarding any contracts; and

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- (2) agreed to give due consideration to the implications when making decisions on those contracts.

## 6. Temporary contracts awarded under delegated powers

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There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 18 July 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) appending a list of temporary contracts awarded under delegated authority since the beginning of July 2014, to ensure that gaps in the network arising from commercial market changes, together with the non-acceptance by Henderson Travel Ltd of an awarded package of contracts, were filled; and
- (2) advising members that the tendering process would continue to ensure that the contracts were replaced on a more long term basis.

## 7. Renewal of Isle of Arran bus service contracts

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 5 August 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing background information on the tendering exercise for the renewal of contracts for the provision of a network of bus services on the Isle of Arran which provided not only local links, but integral connections with ferry services in Brodick and Lochranza and home-to-school transport on the island on behalf of North Ayrshire Council;
- (2) informing members
  - (a) that the renewal of the contracts provided SPT with an opportunity to introduce a number of concurrent initiatives, such as smart ticketing, which would bring substantial benefits to the island and its residents;
  - (b) that SPT had provided capital funding of around £350,000 to North Ayrshire Council to assist the council in carrying out road improvement works on the island to ensure compatibility with the low floor buses which would require to be used on the contracts as, during the life of the contracts, the Equality Act 2010 would come into effect;
  - (c) that the tender under consideration was based upon SPT purchasing up to 12 new low floor buses at a total cost of approximately £1.6m for use on the services, the cost of which would be recovered within the lifetime of the contract by virtue of substantially reduced contract costs when compared with the option of the contractor supplying the buses; and
  - (d) that as the vehicle purchase being proposed for the Arran network would prove suitable for consideration under the Scottish Government's Bus Investment Fund, SPT would submit an application for up to £500,000, the maximum permitted under the scheme, to help offset the cost;
- (3) intimating that SPT recognised the inherently close links that the bus network had with the island community and would work with the contractor to provide training and employment opportunities by establishing a Modern Apprenticeship scheme; and

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- (4) recommending that the committee
  - (a) approve acceptance of the tender submitted by the sole tenderer, Stagecoach Western Buses, in the sum of £3,553,615 for contract package 16000 which contained contracts 6517G, 6518G, 6519G, 6520G, 6521G, 6522G, 6524G, 6628J and 6747M for the period from 26 October 2014 to 26 October 2019;
  - (b) agree the award of contract 6525H to Stagecoach Western Buses at a cost of £2.21 per mile for the provision of a bus service when late ferries at Brodick resulted in local service journeys being delayed and when the same vehicles were required to operate school transport journeys at the same time; and
  - (c) note
    - (i) that the award of the package at 4(a) above would be subject to a funding contribution of £1,954,488 from North Ayrshire Council in respect of home to school transport; and
    - (ii) that the award of the contracts was subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for EU advertised public sector contracts.

**8. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contract**

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 August 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

- (1) providing information on the tenders received for a subsidised local bus service contract (Newton Stewart – Girvan (service 359)) which was required as a result of a decision by the Traffic Commissioner to revoke the operating licence of King's of Kirkcowan who had been awarded the contract in March 2012 for a period of 5 years;
- (2) that the contract had been administered by Swestrans with funding from SPT and South Ayrshire Council;
- (3) advising members that the replacement contract, again administered by SWestrans with funding from SPT and South Ayrshire Council, had been arranged at short notice as the service also provided school transport for pupils travelling to and from Girvan Academy;
- (4) that Stagecoach Western Buses had submitted the lowest compliant tender in the sum of £228,466 per annum for the period 12 July 2014 to 2 April 2017; and
- (5) recommending that the committee agree to an annual contribution from SPT to Swestrans of £77,678 per annum, which represented an increase of £19,722 on the current annual figure of £57,956 (subject to approval of a contribution of £27,818 by South Ayrshire Council to reflect the school transport element).

After discussion, the committee agreed to the recommendation at (5) above.

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**9. Proposed amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts**

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 17 July 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 WO77 Wishaw General Hospital – Law – Carluke (service 10/10A)	Alteration to timetable to provide early morning journey to Wishaw General Hospital with effect from 13 July 2014 (additional cost of £50 per week)
Contract LS022C Helensburgh – Vale of Leven – Royal Alexandra Hospital (service 340)	Alteration to timetable to amend the time of the last journey to allow a better connection in Helensburgh for onward travel with effect from 14 July 2014 (no additional cost)
Contract LS080E Glasgow – Parkhead – Carmyle - Halfway (services 64/164) Newton Farm – Cambuslang – Parkhead (service 364)	Contract cancelled with effect from 13 July 2014 as a result of commercially operated service being introduced which overlapped a large proportion of the contract.

**10. Enhanced DRT funding application: Community Transport Glasgow**

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After consideration of a report (issued) of 1 August 2014 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) providing background information in relation to a funding application by Community Transport Glasgow, the committee agreed to the award of grant funding of £105,000 for the current financial year.

**11. Requests for subsidised local bus services**

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There was submitted and approved a report (issued) of 6 August 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.

**12. Commonwealth Games**

Following a request from members, Mr Stewart gave the committee a brief post Commonwealth Games update on the critical role played by SPT in ensuring transport for the Games was a success.

The members thanked Mr Stewart and all staff and noted that a full report would be submitted to the Partnership in due course.