



Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee

26 January 2024

held in person at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference

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Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Operations Committee held at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference* on 26 January 2024

Present Councillors David Wilson (Chair), Alex Allison, Ken Andrew, Stephen Dornan, Helen Loughran (Substitute), Alan Moir, Jim Paterson* (until Agenda Item 7), Donald Reid* (until Agenda Item 8), Roza Salih, Adam Smith* (until Agenda Item 7) and appointed member Greg Beecroft

Attending Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director; Lesley Aird, Director of Finance & Corporate Support; Richard Robinson, Director of Transport Operations; Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy & Planning, Gordon Dickson, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery; Andrea Thompson, Head of Corporate Communications; Jim Griffin, Senior Solicitor; Gary Robertson, Network Analysis & Design Manager; Ewan Tait of ScotRail (for Agenda Item 4) and Chief Inspector Alasdair McWhirter of British Transport Police (for Agenda Item 6)

The Partnership agreed at its meeting of 12 March 2021, following consideration of Standing Order No 14, for the recording of Committee and Partnership meetings, and that such recordings would be made available together with the minute of meetings.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillor Michael McPake and appointed member Jenna Dickson.

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

Cllr Moir declared an interest in Agenda Item 4, citing his employment with Scotrail and as a member of ASLEF, the trade union.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 3 November 2023, having been considered and agreed at the Partnership meeting of 15 December 2023 as a correct record, was duly noted.

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

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 January 2024 by the Director reporting on the operational performance of public transport services and public transport facilities which are delivered directly by the Partnership or by others on behalf of the Partnership; and the provision of public transport services and facilities in the Partnership area more generally.

After extensive discussion and hearing from Mr Wylie, Mr Dickson and Mr Robinson in response to members' questions, specifically relating to:

- (i) The potential impact on council projects as a result of the reduction in capital funding;
 - (ii) Actions being taken by officers in an endeavour to ensure a continuity of funding; and
 - (iii) Bus station departures out of East Kilbride and Hamilton bus stations;
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and having heard from Mr Tait in relation to ScotRail services, specifically highlighting:

- (i) The continued disruption at Ayr Station and the impact on rail services;
- (ii) The impact on passenger numbers following the removal of peak time fares;
and
- (i) The lack of trains from Glasgow to north eastern England.

Thereafter the Committee noted the contents of the report and the Operations Chair thanked Mr Tait for attending.

5. Subsidised bus service contract recommendations: financial implications

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 January 2024 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support, advising the Committee of the financial implications of the subsidised bus contract recommendations being considered at the meeting.

After hearing from Mrs Aird and Mr Dickson in response to questions from members, the Committee noted:

- (i) the financial implications of the recommendations relating to the subsidised bus services budget and gave due consideration to the impact of individual decisions reported in each paper for consideration;
- (ii) the projected small positive variance reported which may require to be utilised in the remainder of the financial year to support the regional and local network;
- (iii) the impact of the current financial pressures on the subsidised bus budget in the short to medium term, including in the current and future financial years; and
- (iv) that a repayment plan with First Glasgow had been agreed which covers the additional costs of replacement contracts from February 2023.

6. Update from British Transport Police

[Click here to view the presentation](#)

Chief Inspector McWhirter provided an update to the Committee on the work of the British Transport Police in Scotland throughout the rail network and the Subway.

After hearing from Chief Inspector McWhirter, Mrs Davidson, Mr Dickson and Mr Robinson in response to members' questions, specifically relating to:

- (i) The work of the Safer Strategic Transport Group;
 - (ii) Under22 cardholders and whether this had an impact on anti-social behaviour;
 - (iii) BTP's text alert service;
 - (iv) A reduction in reported crime on the Subway in the last financial year; and
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- (v) The interaction between British Transport Police and Police Scotland in delivering a cohesive response to issues on or around transport interchanges.

Thereafter, the Operations Committee Chair thanked Chief Inspector McWhirter for the update.

7. Update on island of Arran Ferry and Bus Connections

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 10 January 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery updating the Committee on the local bus services on the island of Arran and the impact of pending changes to the ferry timetable including the relocation of ferry services from Ardrossan to Troon.

After extensive discussion and having heard from Mr Dickson and Mrs Davidson in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of the report and that in response to members' questions concerning the delivery model on the island, that the SRBS is being progressed and will be presented to the Partnership in March.

Thereafter, the Operations Committee Chair expressed thanks to SPT for the work involved.

8. Proposed award of subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 17 January 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery requesting the Committee approve the award of a number of subsidised local bus service contracts affecting East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire Council areas.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee approved the awards and noted:

- (i) the award of contract 6965G is subject to the approval of South Ayrshire Council and associated funding; and
- (ii) the award of contract W146A6 is subject to the approval of Renfrewshire Council and associated funding, utilising Section 75 funding.

9. Contracts awarded under delegated powers – for noting

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 January 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery notifying the Committee of subsidised local bus service and MyBus contracts awarded utilising delegated powers.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the subsidised local bus service and MyBus contracts awarded utilising delegated powers, thus ensuring that socially necessary gaps in public transport were provided for.

10. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts – for noting

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There was submitted a report (issued) of 8 January 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery advising the Committee of amendments to subsidised local and MyBus bus service contracts since the last Operations Committee meeting on 3 November 2023.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee noted the amendments to subsidised local bus contracts, in accordance with established corporate governance, financial regulations and contract standing orders.