

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of the Strategy & Programmes Committee

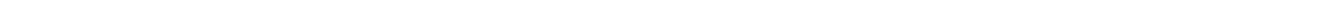
21 February 2025

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 Strategy & Programmes Committee held at 131 St Vincent Street and via Video Conference* on 21 February 2025

Present Councillors Alan Moir (Chair), Gordon Blair*, Stephen Dornan, Christy Mearns*, Malcolm Mitchell*, David Wilson, Sandy Watson and appointed members Anne Follin, Ed McGrachan and Andrew Walters*.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Chief Executive; 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; Paul McMullan, Accountant, Amy Bryceland, Solicitor and Paul McKay and Phil Campbell, both of Scotrail.

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.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Cllrs William Lennox and Owen O'Donnell and appointed member George Hazel.

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

Cllr Moir reaffirmed his declaration of interest 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 29 November 2024, having been considered, approved as required and agreed at the Partnership meeting of 13 December 2024 as a correct record, was duly noted.

4. Revenue Monitoring Report as at Period 10, ending 4 January 2025 and updated Financial Forecast for Financial Year 2024/2025

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 February 2025 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support advising the Committee of the net revenue position as at the end of period 10, 4 January 2025 including an updated financial forecast for the current financial year, stating the assumptions made regarding income and expenditure levels.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mrs Aird in response to members' questions, the Committee noted:

- (i) the projected outturn position for 2024/2025 based on the information available at the end of P10;
 - (ii) the financial pressures which continue to impact in the current financial year including increased supported service contract costs and inflationary pressures which will impact on internal and external costs in future financial years; and
 - (iii) approve the transfer of the final year end underspend to the Subway Infrastructure Fund and the Transport Future Investment Fund to provide
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financial resilience to SPT for future financial years and support key transport developments in the future.

5. Capital Programme Monitoring and Proposed Amendments Report as at 4 January 2025, Period 10

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 3 February 2025 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support updating the Committee on the 2024/2025 capital programme and seeking approval for proposed amendments to the 2024/2025 capital programme.

After hearing from Mrs Aird, the Committee:

- (i) approved the proposed amendments to the 2024/2025 capital programme as per Appendix 2 of the report;
- (ii) agreed to Grant Fund or vary existing Grant Fund letters to the Local Authorities or other bodies for those awards up to the value of £200,000 and authorised that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements;
- (iii) noted the financial performance of the 2024/2025 capital programme as at Period 10;
- (iv) noted that further work to resolve the funding gap, quantify and manage risk, advance savings and rephase existing projects is being undertaken to balance spend against budget; and
- (v) noted the 2024/2025 treasury management update as at Period 10.

6. Proposed Revenue Budget for 2024/2025

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 February 2025 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support, for the Committee's scrutiny prior to submission to the Partnership, a draft revenue budget for 2025/2026, highlighting the assumptions made in the preparation of the budget, proposals for fees and charges and the draft proposed local authority requisition.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mrs Aird, and Mrs Davidson in response to members' questions, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Partnership of 14 March 2025 the approval of:

- (i) the attached draft revenue budget for 2025/2026 at Appendix 2 of £37.267m, subject to refinements over the coming weeks;
 - (ii) requisitions totalling £36.650m, an increase of 1.95% compared to 2024/2025, noting that this will be amended to reflect any final change in the local government settlement formula;
 - (iii) an increase to Subway fares effective from January 2026 as outlined in section 4 of the report;
 - (iv) an increase to bus station departure and parking charges effective from April 2025 as outlined in section 4 of the report;
 - (v) an increase in the maximum permitted fare scale for supported bus services effective from April 2025 as outlined in section 4 of the report;
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- (vi) the update to the LTFS in Appendix 3 of the report; and
- (vii) the current Reserves Policy in Appendix 4 of the report.

7. Progress on the Development of the Capital Plan 2025/2026 to 2027/2028 including the Capital Budget 2025/2026

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 5 February 2025 by the Director of Finance & Corporate Support for the Committee's scrutiny prior to submission to the Partnership of the Capital Plan, including the Capital Budget 2025/2026.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mrs Aird, Mr Robinson and Mrs Davidson in response to member' questions specifically in relation to the impacts of the previous decision to reduce SPT's capital grant to zero, and being updated on the ongoing discussions with Transport Scotland officials, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Partnership:

- (i) the proposed Capital Plan for financial years 2025/2026 to 2027/2028;
- (ii) the Capital Budget for financial year 2025/2026; and
- (iii) to Grant Fund to the Local Authorities or other bodies as per Appendix 4 and authorise that grant award letters be concluded in line with approved governance arrangements.

8. Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy - update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 February 2025 by the Head of Policy & Planning recommending the Committee's approval of the draft Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy for public consultation.

After extensive discussion and having heard from Mr Kiloh, Mrs Davidson and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, particularly relating to:

- (i) the availability of survey questions in advance of the consultation being open;
- (ii) accessibility of the consultation; and
- (iii) whether a condensed, version of the contents of the draft SRBS could be made available,

the Committee approved the draft SRBS at Appendix 1 of the report for public consultation.

9. West Street Subway Station – Clyde Metro Interchange Feasibility Technical Study

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 11 February 2025 by the Head of Policy & Planning to update the Committee on the findings of a technical study carried out examining feasibility of creating a fully accessible interchange linking West Street Subway with a potential Clyde Metro network station utilising adjacent railway facilities.

After hearing from Mr Kiloh in response to members' questions relating to this report and possible linking with other workstreams, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

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10. Strategic Issues Update for the SPT area

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 31 January 2025 by the Head of Policy & Planning updating the Committee on strategic level issues affecting transport in the west of Scotland.

After considerable discussion and having heard from Mr Kiloh and Mr Campbell in response to members' questions, specifically relating to Scotrail ticket office opening times, including the availability of a multi-modal ticket, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

11. Merchant Services, Mass Transit Transactions – Award of Contract

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 31 January 2025 by the Director of Transport Operations seeking the approval of the Committee to award a contract for a Merchant Provider for Mass Transit Transactions.

Having heard from Mr Robinson, the Committee approved the award of contract of the Merchant Services, Mass Transit Transactions contract to Elavon Merchant Services at an estimated cost of £825k for a period of 5 years.

12. Implementation of Track Alignment Improvements – award of contract

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 28 January 2025 by the Director of Transport Operations seeking the approval of the Committee to award of a contract to Story Contracting Limited of a contract for implementation of track alignment improvements within the Subway.

Having heard from Mr Robinson, the Committee approved the award of contract for the implementation of track alignment with value up to £4,250,000 (excl. VAT) and noted contract spend will be dependent on outcomes of the initial contract works (tasks 1 and 2) and will be subject to available budget provisions.
