

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of Operations Committee

8 November 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 8 November 2024

- Present** Councillors David Wilson (Chair), Alex Allison, Ken Andrew*, Stephen Dornan, Alan Moir, Donald Reid*, Adam Smith and appointed member Greg Beecroft*
- 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; Amy Bryceland; Solicitor, and Ewan Tait and Lynne Reilly of ScotRail (for Agenda Item 4)

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.

The Chair welcomed Ewan Tait and Lynne Reilly of Scotrail to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Maureen Devlin, Helen Loughran and Andy Steel and appointed member Kirsty Orr.

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 23 August 2024, having been considered and agreed at the Partnership meeting of 6 September 2024 as a correct record, was duly noted.

4. Monitoring Report on public transport services and facilities in the SPT area

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 October 2024 by the Director of Transport Operations reporting on the operational performance of public transport services and facilities delivered directly by the Partnership or 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 Robinson and Mr Dickson in response to members' questions, specifically relating to:

- (i) operators' use of Axiom to report to SPT for example, when a road closure affects an Operator's ability to deliver a service;
- (ii) contract monitoring in relation to the availability of subway trains; and
- (iii) SPT's continued work to identify areas where services are limited whilst acknowledging the challenges in funding such services,

and having heard from Mr Tait in relation to ScotRail services, specifically highlighting:

- (a) recent timetable changes that have resulted in positive feedback in certain areas whilst acknowledging in other areas there is dissatisfaction with the frequency and
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level of service. There was an acknowledgement that financial constraints are a challenge in planning services;

(b) the continued communication and input from Transport Scotland; and

(c) how and when timetable changes are communicated to passengers,

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

5. Subsidised bus service contract recommendations: financial implications

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 21 October 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, the Committee noted:

- (i) the financial implications of the recommendations relating to the subsidised bus services budget and the impact this has on the decision-making process;
- (ii) the projected negative variance reported which reduces the scope SPT has to support the regional and local network in the remainder of the financial year; and
- (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. As a result of this, an assessment of the current supported bus service provision will continue with a view to providing potential options to further reduce the current overspend in 2024/2025 and future financial year costs and that this will be reported to a future committee.

6. Bus and Coach Sector: Patronage trends and economic impact

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 29 October 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery, updating the Committee on the findings of a series of recent reports by the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) and the Confederation of Public Transport (Scotland) and advising the Committee consider the implications for public transport in the SPT area.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions specifically relating to the levels of awareness of external bodies and the public as to SPT's contributions in the bus sector, the Committee noted:

- (i) the findings from the three reports published by CPT;
- (ii) the potential impacts of the trends described on the wider bus industry in the UK; and
- (iii) that the three CPT reports provide further useful background information in support of the further development of the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS)

Thereafter the Committee agreed it would be beneficial to invite the Director of the CPT to present at a future meeting of the Committee or Partnership.

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7. Transport Data Project Phase 2 - Update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 October 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery updating the Committee on progress with the Transport Data Project Phase 2.

After hearing from Mr Dickson in response to members' questions particularly relating to:

- (i) ongoing communication with Transport Scotland regarding capital funding to support the ongoing work; and
- (ii) work being carried out to improve SPT Bus Information Standards and the roll out of compliant Roadside Bus information panels,

the Committee noted the progress in scoping and developing Phase 2 of the Transport Data project and that further updates will be provided to the Committee in due course.

8. Amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 29 October 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery advising the Committee of amendments to subsidised local bus service contracts since the last Operations Committee on 23 August 2024.

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

9. Contracts awarded utilising delegated powers – for noting

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 October 2024 by the Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery notifying the Committee of subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers.

After hearing from Mr Dickson, the Committee noted the subsidised local bus service contracts awarded utilising delegated powers, in accordance with established corporate governance, financial regulations and contract standing orders.

10. Renewal of Subway Temporary Resource Framework

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 22 October 2024 by the Director of Transport Operations recommending the Committee approve the award of a contract to a single supplier for the supply of temporary engineering and labour resources in support of:

- (i) Subway operational maintenance; and
- (ii) ongoing Subway modernisation programme

After hearing from Mr Robinson, the Committee approved the award of a framework contract with a four-year duration and estimated value not to exceed £2.4m to Venesky Brown Ltd.
