

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 20 June 2018

Present: Councillor Peter Argyle (Chairperson); Dr Maggie Bochel (Vice Chairperson), Councillor Sandra Macdonald (Vice Chairperson); and Councillors David Aitchison, Philip Bell, John Cox, Ross Grant (as substitute for Councillor Jennifer Stewart), Alex Nicoll and Gillian Owen (as substitute for Councillor Colin Pike); Mr Eddie Anderson and Mr Ian Ross.

In Attendance: Rab Dickson, Derick Murray and Nicky Laird (Nestrans), Mr George Mair, Gale Beattie, Lisa Christie and Mark Masson (Aberdeen City Council), Ruth Taylor and Andrew Stewart (Aberdeenshire Council) and Anne MacDonald (Audit Scotland)

Apologies: Councillors Colin Pike and Jennifer Stewart.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 18 APRIL 2018

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 18 April, 2018 for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISER (VERBAL REPORT)

2. The Chairperson advised that Eric Owens, Professional Adviser to the Board had left his position at Aberdeen City Council, therefore the Council had recommended to the Board that Gale Beattie, Interim Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning be his replacement.

The Board resolved:-

to appoint Gale Beattie as a Professional Adviser to the Board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3. The Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans, which provided an update on liaison activity with other RTP's with the Scottish Government and other organisations.

The report recommended:-

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that the Board note the progress on liaison arrangements with other RTP's, the Scottish Government and others and the arrangements for future meetings.

The Director highlighted the following areas for members' attention:-

- Health and Transport Action Plan Networking Event;
- RTP Chairs meeting;
- National Transport Strategy Safe and Resilient meeting; and
- Future Programme of meetings.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to note that the clerk would arrange to circulate a link to the following two publications:-
 - Transport Scotland's Active Travel Task Force Report - June 2018; and
 - SCDI's Connectivity Commission (Industrial Strategy, Inclusive Growth and Future Mobility) – June report.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

4. The Board had before it a report in relation to the Annual Report which outlined Nestrans' performance against a number of agreed indicators.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the contents of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT APPRAISAL – INTERIM OBJECTIVES

5. The Board had before it a report which outlined the work that had been done and of the outcomes of the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) Pre-Appraisal undertaken as the first stage of a Strategic Transport Appraisal component of the Aberdeen City Region Deal.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the findings and outcomes of the draft Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) Pre-Appraisal – City Region Deal – Strategic Transport Appraisal; and
- (b) approve the draft interim Transport Planning Objectives identified in Appendix 2.

The Board heard from the Director, who suggested that a seminar be held in August/September 2018 for Board members, to include member substitutes to consider and prioritise projects which could be included within the Regional Transport Strategy.

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Councillor Macdonald made reference to Aberdeen Harbour Board AGM presentation in relation to the new Harbour and their community engagement process and suggested that there was good practice to be emulated by Nestrans in this regard. She also suggested that consideration should be given in terms of accessing and developing the Beach area.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations;
- (ii) to concur with the Director and agree that arrangements be made to hold a seminar to consider priorities for the Regional Transport Strategy; and
- (iii) to otherwise note the information provided and the issues which would be considered at the seminar.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

6. The Board had before it a report which provided details in relation to the Annual Monitoring Report in support of the Regional Transport Strategy.

The report recommended:-

that the Board:-

- (a) note the contents of the report and the trends emerging against many of the Regional Transport Strategy targets; and
- (b) approve the Nestrans Monitoring report 2018, which will be uploaded to the Nestrans' website.

The Transport Strategy Manager highlighted the following areas of the report:-

- an increase of traffic since 2013 primarily due to the growth of traffic in Aberdeenshire;
- a decrease in bus journeys of 11.2% on the 2016/17 figures despite fares being held or reduced;
- a reduction in the total number of injuries in road traffic collisions in the north east (53% lower than 2005); and
- an increase in the number of electric vehicle charging points and the number of electric cars across the north east.

The Director indicated that there would be a future expectation of a reduction of rail passenger figures due to the closure of the railway line between Aberdeen and Dyce for 14 weeks during the summer 2018 and further closures due in summer 2019.

The Director also made reference to a recent press report which advised that there was a significant reduction in footfall on Union Street, particularly caused by the recent industrial action by First Aberdeen bus drivers.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and

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- (ii) to note that data could be obtained in relation to footfall in the city centre and would be reported back to a future meeting of the Board.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

7. The Board had before it a report which provided information on the work which had been completed to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation.

The report recommended:-

that the Board:-

- (a) approve the Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice as implemented: and
(b) note the contents of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

HTAP ANNUAL REPORT

8. The Board had before it a report which provided information in relation to the Health and Transport Action Plan (HTAP) Annual Report for the financial year 2017-2018.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the content of the report and the HTAP Annual report 2017-2018; and
(b) request that the report be forwarded to each of the Community Planning Partnerships.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

PROGRESS REPORT

9. The Board had before it a progress report which outlined the status of various activities in support of the Regional Transport Strategy.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the progress report.

CONSULTATIONS

10. The Board had before it a report which provided information on the recent publications and consultation papers of interest and sought to agree a response where appropriate.

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The report recommended:-

that the Board note the consultation on Easier Rail Fares and approve the responses included in Appendix A of the report as Nestrans' response to the consultation.

In response to Councillor Macdonald's view of the difficulty in obtaining seating in the same rail carriage with friends/family who have purchased tickets separately and also the requirement to purchase another ticket when you lose one, even if you can provide emails showing purchase, the Transport Strategy Manager advised that the best use of technology and a move away from paper tickets was being explored and was one of the key consultation points.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

11. The Board had before it a report which provided details of other recent publications and consultation papers of interest.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the progress regarding the Planning (Scotland) Bill; and
- (b) note the publication of the final report appraising options for specifying the 2018 Northern Isles Ferry Services.

The Director made reference to the Transport (Scotland) Bill which had been published following the circulation of today's agenda. He indicated that there would be a full summary report provided for the next meeting of the Board including the impact arising from the Bill, specifically in relation to low emission zones, bus services, ticketing, pavement parking/double parking and roadworks - working better for road users.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to otherwise note that a report would be submitted at the next meeting in relation to the Transport (Scotland) Bill.

2018/19 BUDGET MATTERS

12. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership's 2018/19 monitoring and forecast outturn position and sought consideration of any budget or monitoring issues that may arise.

The report recommended:-

that the board note the monitoring position and forecast presented in Appendix 1 of the report.

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The Finance Officer made reference to the £154,665 expenditure advising that the forecast remained at the budgeted level.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2017-2018

13. The Board had before it a report which outlined details of the 2017/18 Annual Audit Plan provided by Audit Scotland which set out the audit work to be undertaken to provide an opinion on the Partnership's financial statements.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the audit plan provided by Audit Scotland.

The External Auditor explained that this was year two of the Auditors five-year appointment. She made reference to Audit Scotland's Code of Practice and also to governance and transparency arrangements and financial sustainability.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2017/18

14. The Board had before it a report which outlined details of the unaudited annual accounts for 2017/18 and sought approval of the final delay in drawdown.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) consider the unaudited annual accounts for 2017/18 and approve their issue to external Auditor and the Controller of Audit; and
- (b) approve the final delay in drawdown for 2017/18 as per Appendix 3 of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

15. The Board had before it a report which provided information and updates on a number of matters not requiring a decision.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the contents of the report.

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The Board heard the Transport Strategy Manager provide details in relation to Gender Equality within the Nestrans Board and office; Civitas Portis update; the Freight Forum; Greengauge21; the Aberdeen to Inverness Rail Upgrade; the new Car Park at Kintore Railway Station which had been approved by the Garioch Area Committee recently; the Local Rail Development Fund Bid; Sustrans funding and Getabout.

In response to a question from Ian Ross, he provided a breakdown of the funding situation for the Kintore station, which amounted to £12M. He indicated that the station would be opening in December 2019.

In relation to Sustrans funding, the Director explained that a significant resource was required from local authorities (both financial and personnel) in order to submit bids for projects.

The Board resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

16. The Board had before it a list of recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to Nestrans.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the list.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

17. The Board had before it a report which (1) provided information on the progress on pending business and major reports scheduled for forthcoming Board meetings; and (2) provided the opportunity for the Board to add to or amend the scheduling.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the report on pending business and agree the provisional scheduling of major reports for future Board meetings.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

- COUNCILLOR PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson.

