

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 13 February 2019

Present: Councillor Peter Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor Sandra Macdonald (Vice Chairperson) and Dr Margaret Bochel (Vice Chairperson); and Councillors Philip Bell, Alex Nicoll and Jennifer Stewart (Aberdeen City Council), Councillors David Aitchison, John Cox and Ian Mollison (substituting for Councillor Colin Pike) (Aberdeenshire Council); and Mr Gerry Donald.

In Attendance: Rab Dickson, Louise Calder, Kirsty Chalmers Derick Murray and Kelly Wiltshire (Nestrans); Gale Beattie, Mark Masson, Joanna Murray and Robert Templeton (Aberdeen City Council); and Paul Finch, Andrew Leil and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council).

Apologies: Councillor Colin Pike, Ian Ross and George Mair.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found at:-
<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/about-nestrans/board-meetings/>

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Members were requested to intimate any declarations of interest in respect of the items on today's agenda, thereafter the following was intimated:-

- (1) The Chairperson declared an interest in relation to item 6(b), (Publications and Consultations), specifically relating to the Cairngorms National Park – Proposed Local Development Plan update by virtue of him being a Council appointed Board member of Cairngorms National Park Authority. He considered the nature of his interest did not require him to leave the meeting and therefore chose to remain in the meeting for consideration of the item;
- (2) Councillor Cox declared an interest in relation to item 3(b), (Aberdeen International Airport Consultative Committee) by virtue of him being a Council appointed member of the aforementioned Committee. He considered that the nature of his interest did not require him to leave the meeting and therefore chose to remain in the meeting for consideration of the item; and
- (3) Gerry Donald declared an interest in relation to item 11, (Health and Transport Coordinator) by virtue of him being an employee of NHS Grampian and also as Chair of the Health Transport Action Plan which has an accountability to the Coordinator post. He considered that the nature of his interest required him to leave the meeting and he therefore took no part in the consideration of the item.

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MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 12 DECEMBER 2018

2. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2018, for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

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:-

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 amongst other items, the following areas for members' attention:-

- Transport Scotland and RTP's meeting held in Dundee on 9 January 2019 in relation to workplace parking charges; and
- City Region Deal Transport Working Group meeting held in Aberdeen on 22 January 2019.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

BOARD APPOINTMENT TO THE ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

4. The Board had before it a report which sought approval of the appointment of a Nestrans representative on the Aberdeen International Airport Consultative Committee.

The report recommended:-

that the Board agree a Nestrans nomination to the Airport Consultative Committee.

The Board resolved:-

to nominate Dr Maggie Bochel as the Nestrans representative on the Airport Consultative Committee.

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MEARNS STATIONS CAR PARKING STUDY

5. The Board had before it a report which detailed the outcomes from the Mearns Railway Stations Car Parks study that took place in 2018 and recommended options to move forward.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the outcomes of the Mearns Stations Car Parking Study; and
- (b) instruct officers to:-
 - (1) continue to work in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and with ScotRail and Network Rail to progress a potential small extension to provide additional parking spaces at Portlethen;
 - (2) continue to work with ScotRail, Network Rail and Aberdeenshire Council to progress potential new parking spaces as an extension to the existing car park at Stonehaven;
 - (3) consider future options for a small extension to car parking in Laurencekirk;
 - (4) make representations in respect of the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan that the stations and car parking should be identified as key issues for each of these towns; and
 - (5) make representations that the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan should protect the land at Kirkton Road, currently used as a Roads Depot as a potential long-term location for a further car park to serve Stonehaven station.

The Board heard from Rab Dickson who outlined the key findings of the survey and study.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

CIVITAS PORTIS PROJECT UPDATE

6. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the European project Civitas Portis.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note progress on the Civitas Portis project.

The Board heard from Rab Dickson who highlighted progress in relation to (1) a Freight Distribution Strategy which had now been completed and would be uploaded to the Nestrans website; (2) the appointment of a Freight Advisor who would liaise with Aberdeen Harbour Board and freight companies; (3) Park and Ride Research including the preparation of an action plan to increase patronage; (4) travel planning to encourage modal shift from single occupancy car drivers in the North Dee area indicating that the next engagement event would be held on 20 March 2019 in Aberdeen Altens Hotel; and (4) improving walking and cycling opportunities.

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The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

RAIL ACTION PLAN UPDATE

7. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on a number of rail related issues.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the contents of this report and progress in regard to rail matters; and
- (b) authorise officers to progress car park proposals at Dyce station in partnership with Aberdeen City Council and Abellio ScotRail and report back to a future meeting with detailed proposals.

Rab Dickson highlighted the following items for members' attention:-

- Insh Station access – consultants to be appointed following tender exercise to undertake an options appraisal for improving access particularly for passengers with mobility difficulties;
- Revolution in Rail - a breakfast briefing event on Monday, 4 March 2019, in the Jurys Inn Hotel, Aberdeen about the forthcoming Aberdeen to Inverness railway works, the closure of the line between May and August 2019, and the plans that are being made for the rail replacement buses; and
- Dyce Station improvements – A meeting has been organised with Abellio ScotRail who are considering the implementation of a possible extension to the car park.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations;
- (ii) to note that a report in relation to the Fraserburgh and Peterhead to Aberdeen Strategic Rail Study would be submitted to the next Board meeting in April 2019; and
- (iii) to note that Alex Haynes, Managing Director of the ScotRail/Network Rail Alliance would be attending the next Board meeting in April 2019.

PROGRESS REPORT

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

Rab Dickson provided an update in relation to a query regarding the A96 dualling route from Aberdeen to Inverness, indicating that he and Ewan Wallace had attended a meeting on 31 January 2019 with Transport Scotland and their consultants. He indicated that the project was being progressed in four sections with Amey Arup appointed as lead contractor on the section between east of Huntly and the AWPR. He intimated that options would be issued for stakeholder consultation between Spring and Autumn 2019 following which a preferred option would be identified.

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The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the progress report.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

9. 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.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) approve the proposed response in Appendix A as Nestrans' representation on Aberdeenshire Council's Local Development Plan 2021 Main Issues Report; and
- (b) approve the proposed response in Appendix B as Nestrans' representation on the Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

2018/19 BUDGET MATTERS

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

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the monitoring position and forecast presented in Appendix 1;
- (b) approve the virements set out in Appendix 2;
- (c) approve the request for delay in drawdown presented in Appendix 3;
- (d) note the change of strategic maintenance funding to Great Northern Road;
- (e) note the Strategic Transport Fund position; and
- (f) note the projects for which Nestrans will receive funding from Sustrans for delivery by mid May 2019.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

2019/20 BUDGET PROPOSALS

11.

The Board had before it a report which sought approval of the 2019/20 budget, subject to funding being confirmed.

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The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) approve the 2019/20 Budgets of £1,026,350 and £5,808,315 with programmes as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2, subject to funding levels being confirmed and making any appropriate adjustments following the Board's consideration;
- (b) note the potential for additional funding for cycle schemes by Sustrans; and
- (c) note the reserve list of projects detailed in Appendix 3.

Andrew Leil advised that the proposed budget may be subject to future amendment by the Board, following final confirmation of budget allocations by both local authorities when setting their budgets.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

12. 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.

Rab Dickson made reference to the agreed changes to safety camera site prioritisation criteria, Transport Scotland's traffic forecasts 2014-2037 and the Getabout website.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

13. 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

14. 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:-

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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.

In terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Board agreed to consider the following item with the press and public excluded from the meeting, so as to avoid disclosure of information of the classes described in paragraph 1 of Schedule 7(A) to the Act.

HEALTH & TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATOR - EXEMPT

15. The Board had before it a report which sought approval to extend continuation of Nestrans part funding the post of Health and Transport Co-ordinator and to agree to part funding the post as a permanent post rather than a contract position.

The report recommended:-

that the Board agree to commit funding from future budgets under the Health and Transport line of a sum equal to half the employment costs of a Health and Transport co-ordinator.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

As described in paragraph 50A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the following item contained personal or sensitive personal information about a particular person(s), therefore the press and public were excluded from the meeting.

TEMPORARY DELEGATION OF NESTRANS DIRECTOR POWERS - CONFIDENTIAL

16. The Board had before it a report which sought approval for the temporary delegation of the powers granted to the Nestrans Director to the Transport Strategy Manager for 'housekeeping' purposes during an anticipated prolonged period of absence.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) approve that during a planned period of prolonged absence of the Director, that the Director may sub-delegate the following powers and appointment temporarily to the Transport Strategy Manager:-
 - (1) the delegation of powers granted to the Director as set out in Appendix 1;and

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- (2) the appointment as Nestrans' proper officer;
all subject to the following conditions:- (i) the period of planned absence of the Director is greater than 3 weeks; (ii) the date of commencement and planned end of that absence is notified to the Board; and (iii) that where an extension of the sub-delegations contained in recommendations (1) and (2) above is required for a period greater than that so notified, that the extension is approved by the Board;
and
- (b) instruct a review of the Director's delegated powers to be undertaken and reported back for consideration later this year.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

- **COUNCILLOR PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson.**