

## **NORTH EAST TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**

### Minute of Meeting of the North East Transport Partnership

Aberdeen, 16 December 2013

Present: Councillor Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor Milne (Deputy Chairs); and Councillors Finlayson, McCaig and Taylor (Aberdeen City Council), Councillor Clark, (Aberdeenshire Council); and David Sullivan (External Member).

In attendance: Stephen Archer (Adviser to the Board), Tom Buchan (Aberdeenshire Council), Louise Calder (Marketing and Communications Officer), Kirsty Chalmers (Nestrans), Rebecka Coull (Clerk to the Board), Derick Murray (Nestrans), Ken Neil (Senior Engineer, Aberdeen City Council) and Andrew Stewart (Health and Transport Coordinator),

Apologies: Eddie Anderson (Deputy Chair), Dr Bochel (Adviser to the Board), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Councillor Latham (Aberdeenshire Council)

**The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located at the following link:**

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/59/board-meetings.html>

### **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 2013.

#### **The Board resolved:**

- (i) to approve the minute as a correct record; and
- (ii) to thank officers for providing the very helpful glossary of acronyms.

### **LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS, THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS**

2. With reference to article 2 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 2013, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on liaison with other Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs), the Scottish Government and others.

The meetings included –

- Local Authorities Bus Operating Forum steering group in Aberdeen on 25 October 2013
- Seven Cities Alliance Forum in Edinburgh on 29 October 2013

- Transport Scotland in relation to the Haudagain roundabout via videoconference on 1 November 2013
- Regional Transport Partnership lead officers in Perth on 13 November 2013

A response from Baroness Kramer, Minister for State in relation to HS2 was circulated to members.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board note progress on liaison arrangements with other Regional Transport Partnerships, the Scottish Government, and others, and arrangements for future meetings.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY REFRESH**

3. With reference to article 7 of the minute of its meeting of 28 August 2013, the Board had before it a report by the Director which advised member so on the comments received on the Regional Transport Strategy refresh from the Scottish Government, and minor amendments made to the document prior to submission to Scottish ministers for final approval.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board approve the minor wording amendments and the resubmission of the final Regional Transport Strategy back to Transport Scotland to put forward for Ministerial approval.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND – UPDATE**

4. With reference to article 3 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October, the Board had before it a report by the Director which updated members on the payments received into the Strategic Transport Fund since the aforementioned meeting.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board:

- (a) note the update on payments into the Strategic Transport Fund; and
- (b) note the prioritised list of interventions and delivery timescales currently being consulted on.

**The Board resolved:**

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to request that officers include more detail on the agreed schemes in the report to the next meeting of the Board.

## **VERBAL UPDATE ON APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE**

5. With reference to the minute of meeting of the Appointment Committee of 13 December 2013, and article 8 of the minute of its meeting of 28 August 2013, the Board heard from the Director who advised that the aforementioned meeting of the Appointment Committee had met and conducted informal interview with six candidates, and had agreed (i) to offer the two current vacant positions of non councillor member to the Nestrans' Board to Gerry Donald and Duncan Cameron, subject to the consent of Scottish Ministers; (ii) to offer the third vacant position of non councillor member to the Nestrans' Board (as of April 2015) to Sandra Macdonald, subject to the consent of Scottish Ministers; and (iii) to instruct the Director to undertake the necessary arrangements to receive the consent from the Scottish Ministers.

**The Board resolved:**

to note the update provided.

## **FREIGHT ACTION PLAN REFRESH**

6. The Board had before it a report by the Director which updated members on progress made towards a refreshed Freight Action Plan for the north east.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board:

- (a) note the responses to consultation on the Freight Action Plan refresh;
- (b) instruct officers to redraft the Plan in conjunction with Council colleagues, taking account of the comments received; and
- (c) instruct officers to submit a finalised version to a future meeting of the Board.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

## **RAIL MATTERS**

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information on (1) rail franchises; (2) overcrowding; (3) timetable changes (4) Dyce railway station and turning circle; and (5) East Coast mainline authorities. The Board was also circulated a response from the Minister for Transport and Veterans in relation to overcrowding.

**The report recommended –**

that the Board agrees the contribution of £1250 to the East Coast mainline authorities business case, and otherwise note the content of the report.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

## **ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN: CYCLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

8. The Board had before it a report by the Director which advised member of progress in relation to developing an Active Travel Plan and recommended that the Board establish an agreement with Sustrans to enable the appointment of a Cycling Development Officer.

### **The report recommended –**

that the Board –

- (a) note the content of the report;
- (b) agree in principle to appoint a Cycling Development Officer, subject to further discussions with Sustrans, and with officers in legal and personnel; and
- (c) agree to consider the financial implications outlined above in deliberations of the budget in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

### **The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendations.

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

9. With reference to article 5 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 2013, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 6 December 2013.

### **The Board resolved:**

to note the content of the progress chart.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS**

10. With reference to article 6 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 2013, the Board had before it a report by the Director which summarised and advised on a number of different publications and consultations as follows and sought approval of draft and/ or final responses as appropriate –

- Aberdeen City Council local transport strategy questionnaire
- Aberdeenshire Council local development plan main issues report
- Night flying restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted: stage 2 consultation
- A96 dualling Inverness to Aberdeen public exhibition feedback form
- Draft Scottish Planning Policy: Sustainability and Planning.

### **The report recommended –**

that the Board note the content of the report and the documents referred to therein.

### **The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

## **BUDGET MATTERS**

11. With reference to article 7 of the minute its previous meeting of 30 October 2013, the Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which provided an update on the Partnership's budget and forecast outturn in this regard, and outlined one proposed virement to the budget.

### **The report recommended –**

that the Board:

- (a) note the monitoring position and forecast as at 30 November 2013; and
- (b) note the virement of £20,000 within the budget sub head of Bus Improvements.

### **The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendations.

## **2014/15 FUNDING**

12. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which outlined the revenue and capital requests for 2014/15 and asked that members agree the proposals for preparing draft capital and revenue budgets for future consideration.

### **The report recommended –**

that the Board:

- (a) instruct the Director to write to the local authorities outlining the Board's considerations and requesting that contributions be allowed for in the Councils' budgets; and
- (b) instruct a further report detailing the proposed 2014/15 capital and revenue budget expenditure for consideration at the next meeting of the Board.

### **The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendations.

## **INFORMATION BULLETIN**

13. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 2013, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring a decision as follows –

- Prestwick Airport
- Access to Laurencekirk study
- Inveramsay bridge roads orders
- Bus passenger satisfaction survey trend analysis 2009 – 2013
- Social transport collaboration solutions project
- Nestrans' press releases
- Getabout events.

**The report recommended –**  
that the Board note the content of the report.

**The Board resolved:**  
to approve the recommendation.

## **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

14. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 2013, the Board had before it a report by the Director summarising recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to the Partnership along with presentations by Nestrans and its partners.

**The Board resolved:**  
to note the information as presented.

## **PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

15. With reference to article 10 of the minute of its previous meeting of 30 October 2013, the Board had before it a report by the Director detailing pending business and information on reports to be submitted to future Board meetings.

**The report recommended –**  
that the Board note the content of the report and agree the provisional scheduling of major reports to future meetings.

**The Board resolved:**  
to approve the recommendation.

## **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

16. The Board has before it a list of proposed dates of future meetings.

**The Board resolved:**  
to agree that future meetings would be held on the following dates at 2pm in Woodhill House:

- Wednesday 12 February 2014
- Wednesday 2 April 2014
- Wednesday 18 June 2014
- Thursday 21 August 2014
- Thursday 9 October 2014
- Tuesday 9 December 2014.

## **THANKS TO OFFICERS**

17. The Chairperson thanked officers for their hard work over the past year. His comments were echoed by all members.

- **PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson**