

## NORTH EAST SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

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

Aberdeen, 18 April, 2012

Present: Councillor Yuill (Chairperson), and Councillors Boulton, Dean and McCaig (Aberdeen City Council); Councillors Argyle, Clark, Robertson and Webster (Aberdeenshire Council); Eddie Anderson, Derek Provan and David Sullivan (External Members); and Dr Margaret Bochel (Head of Planning and Sustainable Development, Aberdeen City Council) (Adviser to the Board).

In Attendance: Derick Murray, Rab Dickson and Kirsty Morrison (Nestrans Office); Ewan Wallace, Julie Anderson; and Richard McKenzie (Aberdeenshire Council); Martin Allan and Rebecka Coull, Aberdeen City Council; and Dave Macdermid (BIG Partnership).

Also in attendance: Gerry Donald (Head of Physical Planning, NHS Grampian – for article 2)

Apologies: Jennifer Crow (External Member).

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

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/48/board-meetings.html>

### HEALTH AND TRANSPORT PRESENTATION

1. The Chairperson invited Mr Gerry Donald (Head of Physical Planning, NHS Grampian) to join the meeting. Mr Donald –

- (1) advised that in the last twenty years there had been a steady growth of scientific evidence linking transport (particularly motorised road transport) and the negative impact that air and noise pollution, along with traffic accidents, has on public health;
- (2) estimated that cars were responsible for 40 – 90% of the various pollutants in the air;
- (3) outlined some of the potential adverse effects on people's health as a result of certain components of air pollution, including a detrimental impact on the respiratory system or lungs, increased risk of asthma attacks (ozone), increased risk in lung cancer (particulate matter), increased risk of cardiovascular disease (carbon monoxide), detrimental affect on most organs, particularly the central nervous system of young children (lead), reduction in immune defence system of the lungs (oxides of nitrogen), increased risk of lung cancer, leukaemia and lymphoma (benzene, toluene and formaldehyde);

- (4) provided a synopsis on noise pollution and how, according to epidemiological studies, this can cause stress and disturbed sleep, which in turn can affect the attention span, memory and analytical and problem solving ability, and further that children exposed to continued loud noise showed an impaired acquisition of reading skills, attention span and problem solving abilities;
- (5) acknowledged that traffic congestion had a major impact not only on air, but also on noise pollution, and also to other behaviours, such as road rage;
- (6) suggested that there was an urgent requirement for the development of a Noise Pollution Plan akin to the Air Quality Management Action Plan; and
- (7) summarised the latest position on the parking arrangements at Foresterhill (ie that work was progressing well, and that two shuttle bus services would be operating from May).

The Board thanked Mr Donald for his informative presentation.

## **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

2. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 15 February, 2012.

### **The Board resolved:**

to approve the minute as a correct record.

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

3. With reference to article 2 of the minute of its previous meeting of 15 February, 2012, 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 –

- Regional Transport Partnership Lead Officers' meeting in Glasgow on 23 February, 2012
- HTAP Steering Group in Aberdeen on 28 February, 2012
- Transport Scotland in Inverness on 29 February, 2012
- Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum Steering Group meeting in Aberdeen on 1 March, 2012
- Regional Transport Partnership Chairs' meeting in Edinburgh on 7 March, 2012.

Officers advised that East Dunbartonshire Council had contacted Nestrans to seek political support for the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) plan for bus regulation changes. Members queried as to whether officers were working with other rural RTPs on a 'rural' plan, as an alternative to the SPT plan. Officers

confirmed that Nestrans and the PTU's of the two NE Local Authorities were preparing a response which would be discussed at the RTP Lead Officers meeting.

**The Board resolved:**

- (i) to note progress on liaison arrangements with other RTPs, the Scottish Government, and others;
- (ii) to note the arrangements for future meetings as detailed within the report; and
- (iii) to note that officers would report to the next meeting on the subject of the SPT plan.

**ANNUAL REPORT**

4. The Board had before it the annual report for 2011/12 which advised of the performance of the functions of Nestrans for the past year, and the business plan for the year ahead.

**The Board resolved:**

- (i) to approve the draft 2011/12 annual report and business plan 2012/13;
- (ii) to instruct that the annual report and business plan be published on the Nestrans website, and submitted to Scottish Ministers and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils once the 2011/12 financial information has been confirmed and included within the report.

**FIVE YEAR REVIEW**

5. The Board had before it a report by the Director which presented a detailed review of the transport developments in the north east over the past five years. The report outlined the policy development which had taken place, detailed the processes that had been completed, advised of the issues that Nestrans had ensured had been discussed at a national level to ensure north east interests were considered, set out the infrastructure projects that had been delivered, and outlined the strategic road improvements which had been undertaken.

Members noted the impressive list of achievements, and thanked the Director and his team for their commitment and hard work over the past five years.

**The Board resolved:**

to note the main achievements towards delivery of the Regional Transport Strategy between 2007 and 2012.

**REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT**

6. The Board had before it a report by the Director which presented monitoring information in relation to the agreed indicators and targets for the Regional Transport Strategy.

Members noted that 2011/12 information for the airport was not included within the report. Officers undertook to include this in the final report which would be published on the Nestrans website.

**The Board resolved:**

to note the positive trends emerging against many of the targets, and the progress towards meeting the targets that had been set.

## **FARES AND TICKETING STRATEGY**

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director which presented the draft fares and ticketing strategy. The report advised that the draft strategy had been discussed by the Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum, which included representatives from Nestrans, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils, First Aberdeen and Stagecoach Bluebird.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the draft strategy and refer it to Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils for their consideration and approval.

## **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**The Board resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in paragraph 6 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

## **DYCE SHUTTLE BUS**

8. With reference to article 6 of the minute of its previous meeting of 15 February, 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which sought approval for funding to be granted to continue the Nestrans funded shuttle bus linking the station to the airport and industrial estates.

**The Board resolved:**

- (i) to note the content of the report;
- (ii) to homologate the appointment of Stagecoach Bluebird as the operators of the Dyce service 80 shuttle bus for the year 2012/13; and
- (iii) to homologate the expenditure of £22,250 on start up costs and a £1 per year subsidy.

## **BRIDGE OF DEE**

9. With reference to article 7 of the minute of its meeting of 5 October, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which summarised progress to date with the Bridge of Dee study.

**The Board resolved:**

- (i) to note the progress made with the Bridge of Dee study;
- (ii) to agree to the process and timetable outlined within the report, which had been designed to minimise delay over the summer period, and maximise progress with the study using the allocated budget in 2012/13; and
- (iii) to agree that the study be published on the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council websites when it is available, and that it be reported back to the next meeting of 20 June, 2012.

**PROGRESS REPORT**

10. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its previous meeting of 15 February, 2012, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 10 April, 2012.

**The Board resolved:**

to note the content of the progress chart.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

**Dave Macdermid (Press Officer, BIG Partnership) declared an interest in the subject matter of the following article due to the nature of the business to be transacted therein, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

11. The Board had before it a report by the Director which brought members up to date with discussions which had taken place between Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum (ACSEF) in relation to the suggestion that a joint tender be issued by ACSEF and Nestrans for a Public Relations contract. It was noted that Nestrans' current contract, with the consultant BIG, expired at the end of July, 2012.

Members were very clear that they wanted any new contractor to be very pro active, and requested that the tender include both qualitative and quantitative elements, and that a statement of intent be requested from all tenderers.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the tender proposal detailed within the report.

**APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR AS PROPER OFFICER**

**12.** The Board had before it a report by the clerk to the Board which explained that legal advice had been sought now that the Strategic Transport Fund (STF) had been approved, as in order to receive STF funding directly into the fund, Nestrans would have to become a signatory to the appropriate Section 75 agreements. The legal advice from Aberdeen City Council stated that it would be a conflict of interest for the Head of Legal and Democratic Services at Aberdeen City Council (appointed proper officer for legal matters) to sign Section 75 agreements on behalf of two different organisations. The Board had therefore been requested, by email, to agree that the Director be appointed proper officer for the purpose of signing the Section 75 agreements, and were now being requested to homologate this decision.

**The Board resolved:**

to homologate the decision taken via email to appoint the Director as proper officer, and to note that as proper officer, the Director would be able to sign the appropriate Section 75 agreements on behalf of Nestrans as detailed in the report.

**BUDGET MATTERS**

**13.** With reference to article 10 of the minute its previous meeting of 15 February, 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which provided an update on spend and programming of the Partnership's 2011/12 budget and forecast outturn in this regard.

The report advised that the Chair and Vice Chair had been asked to approve expenditure, in an attempt to make best use of the budget available within the financial year as follows –

- transfer £40,000 from the Ellon Park and Ride project to strategic maintenance works on the A98
- £20,000 to be added to the budget for the strategic maintenance works on the A98 from expected underspend elsewhere
- Contribution of £5,800 (50%) of the costs of an initiative to install audio/visual announcements in the JET 727 Airport bus service.

The report further advised that as Regional Transport Partnerships were not permitted to have a general fund balance or reserve, Nestrans could not retain a surplus in any year. Therefore, partners had been asked if they had any completed works in the year that complied with Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy, which could legitimately be funded by Nestrans and the following sections of strategic maintenance had been suggested –

- Great Southern Road, between bridge of Dee and King George VI Bridge
- A98 Portsoy (additional contribution)
- A93 – various sections between Banchory and Ballater.

**The Board resolved:**

- (i) to note the monitoring position and forecast;
- (ii) to note that the approval for the expenditure as detailed above had been agreed by the Director in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Board and to therefore homologate this expenditure; and

- (iii) to approve the inclusion of the strategic maintenance as detailed above, limited to the budget available from underspend on other projects highlighted in the report.

## **AUDIT PROCEDURES**

**14.** The Board had before it a report by Deloitte which provided a synopsis of their approach for the audit process and for identifying key areas in their approach for the year ahead.

### **The Board resolved:**

to note audit planning report by Deloitte.

## **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

**During discussion of the item below relating to the takeover of BMI by IAG (BA), Derek Provan declared an interest due to his position as Managing Director at Aberdeen Airport. Mr Provan chose to remain in the meeting during this discussion.**

## **INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**15.** With reference to article 13 of the minute of its previous meeting of 15 February, 2012, 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 –

- The ScotRail Customer Forum
- Takeover of BMI by IAG (BA)
- Aviation consultation
- The Department for Transport announcements on rail
- Cross border train travel
- Airport masterplan
- £30 million investment for rail stations
- The Competition commission
- The Real Time bus app
- The Scottish Transport Awards
- Nestrans' Press Releases
- Getabout events
- Events in 2012/13

Members noted that responses to the consultation on 'Rail Fares and Ticketing Review', 'Rail Decentralisation' and 'Airport Masterplan' would be presented to a future meeting.

### **The Board resolved:**

to note the content of the bulletin.

## **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

16. With reference to article 14 of the minute of its previous meeting of 15 February, 2012, 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.

Members noted that in addition to the list provided, that a meeting of the Local Committee of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry was taking place on 8 May, 2012 and that the Director was making a presentation to it.

**The Board resolved:**

to note the information as presented.

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

17. With reference to article 15 of the minute of its previous meeting of 15 February, 2012, 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 Board resolved:**

to note the information.

## **AOCB**

18. Councillor Boulton advised that she had been contacted by a number of elderly constituents who had complained at buses taking off too quickly, causing injury in a number of instances. She understood that there was pressure on drivers to adhere to timetables, but added that customer care had to be a high priority, particularly when there was now such an emphasis on encouraging members of the public to utilise public transport.

**The Board resolved:**

to note that the Director will raise these concerns at the next meeting of the Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum.

## **VALEDICTORY**

19. The Chairperson took the opportunity, at this, the final meeting before the local government elections, to thank the two Vice-Chairs and all members of the Board and officers for their encouragement and support during his time as Chair. He said that he had enjoyed his time as Chair of the Board.

The Board then heard from Councillor Robertson who thanked the Chair for his work on behalf of the Board. She also paid tribute to the Nestrans officers who had

progressed a number of key projects over the last 5 years. She also praised the working relationship between the two authorities and explained that the hard work of the members of the Board had made significant differences to communities in the North East. She concluded by expressing her gratitude to the knowledge and work of the external members who had helped develop the work of the Board in the last 5 years.

- IAN YUILL, Chairperson.