NORTH EAST TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Transport Partnership

Aberdeen, 20 February 2012

Present: Councillor Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor Milne (Deputy Chair); Eddie Anderson (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Finlayson, Grant, and McCaig (Aberdeen City Council), Councillors Buchan, Clark, and Latham (Aberdeenshire Council); Jennifer Craw (External member); Stephen Archer and Maggie Bochel (Advisers to the Board).

In attendance: Martin Allan (Aberdeen City Council), Tom Buchan (Aberdeenshire Council), Rebecka Coull (Aberdeen City Council), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Kirsty Morrison (Nestrans), Derick Murray (Nestrans) and Ewan Wallace (Head of Transportation, Aberdeenshire Council).

Apologies: Derek Provan (External Member), and David Sullivan (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

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012.

The Board resolved:
(i) to approve the minute as a correct record; and
(ii) to agree that the final meeting of the Board in 2013 would be held on 16 December at 2pm.

PRESENTATION – AVIATION ISSUES

2. The Director advised that Laurie Price (Director of Aviation Strategy – Mott MacDonald) was unable to attend today's meeting, but had provided his presentation to Mr Murray, who spoke through the slides, which covered (a) airport charges – Civil Aviation Authority remit), (b) night movement policy, (c) the Davies Airports Commission, (d) the role of the EU and (e) Public Service Obligation agreements.

The Board resolved:
to note the information provided, and to request that the slides be made available for members to view on the Nestrans website.

LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS, THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

3. With reference to article 2 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 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 –

- Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group in Aberdeen on 18 December 2012
- Aviation Summit in Aberdeen on 29 January 2013
- Regional Transport Partnership lead officers in Edinburgh on 1 February 2013 and in Perth on 13 February 2013
- Community Rail Partnership Conference in Edinburgh on 19 February 2013

The Board resolved:
to note progress on liaison arrangements with other Regional Transport Partnerships, the Scottish Government, and others.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY REFRESH

4. With reference to article 4 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, the Board had before it a report by the Director which brought members up to date with the refresh of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) that was being undertaken, and presented the draft refresh document.

The report advised that the next steps were as follows –

- to complete the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) environmental report and equalities impact assessment
- to provide Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils with a formal opportunity to comment on the refresh of the strategy, environmental report and equalities impact assessment
- to provide further opportunity to North East Transport Consultative Forum members to comment on the draft refreshed document
- to submit the environmental report, proposed RTS to the SEA consultation authorities for comment, as well as making this available to stakeholders and the public
- to take on board the comments of SEA consultation authorities, partner councils and stakeholders
- to report the final refresh back to this Board for approval, and
- submit the RTS to Scottish Ministers for approval.

The Board resolved:
(i) to note the content of the report; and
(ii) to approve the proposed next steps as outlined above.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND – UPDATE

5. With reference to article 5 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, 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 Board resolved:
to note the update on payments into the Strategic Transport Fund.

COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

6. The Board had before it a report by the Director which updated the Board on proposed amendments to the arrangements and structures for community planning in Aberdeen city, and on progress made in updating the Single Outcome Agreements (SOA) for Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire. The Director noted that transport had been identified as a multi lateral priority within the SOA, and advised that as a statutory partner, Nestrans was currently represented on the Community Planning Aberdeen Board, but that he had also requested representation at a management team level.

The Board resolved:
(i) to note the proposed changes in structure for Community Planning in Aberdeen;
(ii) to note the work being undertaken to review and update the Single Outcome Agreements in Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire; and
(iii) to request that the RTS refresh be placed on the agendas for the next Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire Community Planning Boards.

CYCLING ACTION PLAN FOR SCOTLAND (CAPS) – REFRESH

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director which brought members up to date on the Scottish Government's Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS), and presented the response provided by officers on behalf of Nestrans on the consultation document.

The Board resolved:
(i) to note the content of the report;
(ii) to homologate the attached response to the consultation on the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland refresh as Nestrans' view.

PROGRESS REPORT

8. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 2 February 2013.

The Board resolved:
to note the content of the progress chart.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

9. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 2012, 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 responses as appropriate –

- Scottish Government: Ferries Plan
- Network Rail: Strategic Business Plan 2014 – 19
- Transport Scotland: Community Rail Partnerships
- Night Time Flying
- Ethical Standards in Public Life
- Davies Commission

The Board resolved:
to note the report and the documents referred to therein.

BUDGETS 2013 – 14

10. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which presented the capital and revenue budgets for 2013/14, and a breakdown of the budgets was appended to the report.

The Board noted that the 2011/12 capital programme, agreed by the Board on 16 February 2011 (article 7(B) refers) had included a provision of £356,000 to progress the land purchase and other works for the Inverurie Transport Interchange. £343,000 had been held on the balance sheet for this year but this work had not been able to progress. Given the level of challenges facing this project, officers were now of the opinion that it would be appropriate for the funds to be released in 2013/14 and principally used to fund the purchase of land at Kintore for the development of a rail station. Negotiations with the land owners were at an advanced stage and while it had been hoped to conclude the bargain this year, it was likely that the sale would be concluded in April 2013.

The budget available for Capital projects in 2013/14 was therefore estimated to be £2,397,000 made up of £2,054,000 from partner Councils and £343,000 carried forward from previous years.

The Board was advised that the proposed budgets may still be subject to amendment following final confirmation of budget allocations by the Councils and formal confirmation of the Government grant.

The Board resolved:
to approve the 2013/14 revenue and capital budgets of £1,026,350 and £2,397,000 with programmes as detailed in appendices 2 and 3, subject to anticipated funding levels being confirmed.

BUDGET MATTERS

11. With reference to article 12 of the minute its previous meeting of 12 December 2012 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 a number of virements for both the capital and revenue budgets as follows –

(1) civils works on the A947 Route Action bend improvement strategy would not be completed by the end of the current financial year. Materials were being purchased, but it was proposed that the **Nestrans contribution be reduced by £65,000**. It was unlikely that the full budget allocated for the A90 (S) Park and Ride project would be required this year and a further **reduction in budget of £15,000** was suggested. The contract for the Fraserburgh bus station refurbishment had been awarded and would commence on 25 February, but the 12 week construction period would continue into next financial year. It was therefore proposed **to reduce the Nestrans contribution to this project by £22,000**.

(2) the scheme costs for the Peterhead Cycle Demonstration project had increased as a result of a need to upgrade the lighting facilities and the costs associated with purchasing and installing new lighting columns. It was proposed that the **budget be increased by £25,000**. It was suggested that the remaining predicted underspends be used to **increase the contribution to Ellon Park and Ride by £77,000 to £152,000**.

The report further advised that £111,000 had been received from developers to date towards the Strategic Transport Fund (STF) and that this money would be retained in the fund in the balance sheet and would not be shown as income in the accounts until works associated with STF projects commenced. Members noted that the fund would release monies to match the level of expenditure as it is incurred.

The Board resolved:
(i) to note the monitoring position and forecast; and
(iii) to approve the proposed budget virements detailed above.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

12. With reference to article 13 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 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 –

- May 2013 rail timetable
- Dyce station update
- Franchising
- A96 dualling and Laurencekirk junctions
- Concessionary fares
- Perth consolidation centre

In relation to the update provided in relation to the May 2013 rail timetable, members noted that ScotRail were developing proposals to increase the Sunday Aberdeen – Dyce – Inverurie service, and noted that the Board had previously agreed to fund any revenue shortfall, up to £25,000 (article 5(A) of the minute of meeting of 16 February 2011 refers).

Members intimated their disappointment at the response received from Transport Scotland in relation to the Laurencekirk junction.

Members raised concerns in relation to congestion in the Dyce area, and officers advised that traffic signals were being looked at in order to ensure they were set at the best fixed time cycle, but added that a link road to the airport was a priority.

In relation to the issues raised at the previous meeting in relation to taxi queues at the Aberdeen International Airport and Aberdeen Railway Station, officers advised that (1) the airport would be incorporating this into the tendering process for the next taxi contract; and (2) they had raised the issue with the railway station.

At this juncture, the Chair advised that Colin Parker (Chief Executive, Aberdeen Harbour Board), had hosted members on a tour of the harbour by boat, and intimated the Board's thanks to the Harbour Board for the helpful and informative tour.

The Board resolved:
(i) to note the information as presented;
(ii) to agree, in terms of the previous decision of the Board at its meeting of 16 February, 2011 to allocate £25,000 to enable the proposal to increase the Sunday Aberdeen – Dyce – Inverurie service to proceed on a one year pilot.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

13. With reference to article 14 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 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.

The Board resolved:
to note the information as presented.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

14. With reference to article 15 of the minute of its previous meeting of 12 December 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.
- PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson