

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, 20 June, 2012

Present: Councillors Finlayson, Grant, McCaig and Milne (Aberdeen City Council); Councillors Argyle, Buchan, Clark, and Latham (Aberdeenshire Council); Eddie Anderson, Jennifer Crow, and David Sullivan (External Members); and Stephen Archer (Director of Infrastructure Services, Aberdeenshire Council) and Dr Margaret Bochel (Head of Planning and Sustainable Development, Aberdeen City Council) (Advisers to the Board).

In Attendance: Derick Murray, Rab Dickson and Kirsty Morrison (Nestrans Office); Tom Buchan and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council); Martin Allan (Aberdeen City Council); and Laura Grant (The Big Partnership).

Apologies: Derek Provan (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>

In the absence of a Chairperson, Eddie Anderson (Depute Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the first meeting of the Board following the recent local government elections.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

1. Councillor Milne, seconded by Councillor Latham, proposed that Councillor Argyle be appointed as Chairperson of Nestrans.

The Board resolved:
to appoint Councillor Argyle as Chairperson.

At this juncture, Councillor Argyle took the Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR

2. The Chairperson, seconded by Councillor Grant, proposed that Councillor Milne be appointed as a Deputy Chair of Nestrans.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to appoint Councillor Milne as a Deputy Chair; and
- (ii) to reaffirm Eddie Anderson as Deputy Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF A PROFESSIONAL ADVISER

3. The clerk to the Board advised that the relevant legislation and guidance relating to the membership and operation of Regional Transport Partnership's allows for the appointment of Advisers to the Board, for periods of four years, unless otherwise specified at the time of the appointment(s).

The Board resolved:

that due to the Council term being five years, to appoint Dr Margaret Bochel (Head of Planning and Sustainable Development, Aberdeen City Council) and Stephen Archer (Director of Infrastructure Services, Aberdeenshire Council) as Advisers to the Board for a period of five years.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 18 April, 2012.

The Board resolved:

to approve the minute as a correct record.

LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS AND THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

5. With reference to article 3 of the minute of its previous meeting of 18 April, 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 Perth on 16 May, 2012
- Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group in Aberdeen on 22 May, 2012 and 5 June, 2012
- Freight Forum in Aberdeen on 21 May, 2012
- Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum Steering Group meeting in Aberdeen on 24 May, 2012
- Scottish Transport Awards in Glasgow on 14 June, 2012
- Scottish Government Health Directorate in Edinburgh on 15 June, 2012
- Nestrans member induction in Aberdeen on 18 June, 2012

The Director advised that the information hubs for health transport were to be linked into appointments for patients; however, there was currently no Government

funding available for this. The Scottish Ambulance Service was keen to progress this and had suggested that two members of its staff look at developing this system for six months. It was further suggested that Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, NHS Grampian contribute £6,000 each to fund these two posts for a further six months. This was contained within the Health and Transport Action Plan budget and would require its approval.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to agree to the proposal to fund posts to develop information hubs at a cost of £6000 (to be met from the Health and Transport Action Plan budget);
- (ii) to note progress on liaison arrangements with other RTPs, the Scottish Government, and others; and
- (iii) to note the arrangements for future meetings as detailed within the report.

STRATHCLYDE PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPORT – BUS REGULATION

6. With reference to article 3 of the minute of its previous meeting, the Board had before it a report by the Director which set out the north east response to the proposals by the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) on the regulation of buses.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the joint north east response to the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) proposals;
- (ii) to instruct officers to send a copy of this response to East Dunbartonshire Council in response to their letter requesting political support for these proposals; and
- (iii) to note that some of the issues detailed in the letter from East Dunbartonshire Council do not affect Nestrans but will require to be considered by the two local authorities.

ABERDEEN – INVERNESS RAIL ENHANCEMENTS

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director which updated members on the proposal to enhance journey times and frequencies on the Aberdeen – Inverness railway line.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the report and instruct officers to continue dialogue with Transport Scotland and Network Rail, and report back on the Aberdeen – Inverness enhancement project when the report is published; and
- (ii) to request that officers investigate the possibility of a case being made for an additional railway station at either Newtonhill or Persley.

PROGRESS REPORT

8. With reference to article 10 of the minute of its previous meeting of 18 April, 2012, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 12 June, 2012.

The Sub Committee resolved:

to note the content of the progress chart.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

9. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its meeting of 15 February, 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 –

- the airport masterplan
- new railway stations fund
- Reforming our Railways: Putting the Customer First
- rail fares and ticketing review
- rail decentralisation
- Network Rail – alternative solutions scoping document
- A96 Inveramsay Bridge Improvement

The Board resolved:

to note the report and the documents referred to above, and to endorse the comments as Nestrans' response to the consultations.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Laura Grant (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

10. With reference to article 11 of the minute of its previous meeting of 18 April, 2012, 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) regarding a joint Public Relations contract.

The Board resolved:

to approve the tender proposal as detailed within the report.

BOARD MEETING DATES

11. The Board had before it proposed dates and times of future meetings for consideration. It was noted that two of the previously agreed dates (22 August, and 10 October) now clashed with meetings of Aberdeen City Council.

The Sub Committee resolved:

to agree that meetings would be held on the following dates, and that all meetings would commence at 2pm –

- Wednesday 29 August
- Tuesday 9 October
- Wednesday 12 December.

EQUALITIES DUTIES

12. The Board had before it a report by the Director which provided members with an update on Nestrans' Equalities Duties, and presented an annual report in this regard.

The Board resolved:

to approve the report and the appendix as the Partnership's report on Equalities.

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN

13. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which presented the unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2011/12, and a plan by Audit Scotland proposing audit arrangements for the 2011/12 audit.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the unaudited financial statements for 2011/12;
- (ii) to approve the issuing of these statements to the external auditor and the Controller of Audit; and
- (iii) to note the Nestrans' 2012 audit planning report, as appended to this minute.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

14. With reference to article 15 of the minute of its previous meeting of 18 April, 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 –

- ScotRail Customer Forum
- Flights to London City / easyJet event in Parliament
- Aviation consultation update / UK all party Parliamentary Group on Aviation
- English review of strategic road network
- Scottish Government review of community planning
- Update on Northern Isles ferry services tender

- Bridge of Dee study
- ScotRail timetabling
- A944 / B9119 junction improvements
- Nestrans' press releases
- Getabout events
- Dyce Shuttle Bus

The Board resolved:

- (i) to request that the Director arrange a meeting between the press and the new Chairperson at an early date in order to get the key messages from Nestrans across;
- (ii) to request that the Director updates the Board on his proposal to organise an event for MPs in relation to the aviation policy;
- (iii) to note that the Director would speak to Derek Provan about the possibility of reinstating flights to Stansted;
- (iv) to note that a report on the possible reduction of congestion at Dyce Station associated with the shuttle bus (by utilising a different area of the station for turning of the bus) would be presented to a future meeting of the Board;
- (v) to note that for the shuttle bus the Director would provide information on customer feedback following a customer satisfaction survey and investigate whether the advertising of the bus within the airport could be improved and report back to a future meeting of the board; and
- (vi) to otherwise note the content of the bulletin.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

15. With reference to article 16 of the minute of its previous meeting of 18 April, 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

16. With reference to article 17 of the minute of its previous meeting of 18 April, 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.**