

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 3 August 2016

Present: Councillor Milne (Chairperson); Councillor Aitchison (Vice Chairperson); Mr Anderson (Vice Chairperson); Councillor Argyle (Vice Chairperson); and Councillor Dickson, Mr Donald, Councillor Finlayson, Councillor Ford, Councillor Grant, and Councillor Mollison (substitute for Councillor Clark)

In attendance: Stephen Archer (Aberdeenshire Council); Linda Cameron (Aberdeen City Council); Rab Dickson (Nestrans); David Jennings (SDPA); Pete Leonard (Aberdeen City Council); Derick Murray (Nestrans); Andrew Neil (Aberdeenshire Council); Emma Parr (Aberdeen City Council); Sarah Rochester (Aberdeenshire Council); and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council)

Apologies: Councillor Clark and Ms MacDonald.

OPENING REMARKS

1. The Chair proposed that the first part of item 6b, Aberdeen International Airport Capital Investment Plan be taken after the presentation by Carol Benzie and Yvonne Birch.

The Board resolved:-

to take the first part of item 6b after item 2.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 8 JUNE 2016

2. The Board has before it the minute of the previous meeting of 8 June 2016 for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

PRESENTATION BY CAROL BENZIE, MANAGING DIRECTOR & YVONNE BIRCH, HEAD OF PROPERTY & RETAIL OPERATIONS, ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

3. Carol Benzie, Managing Director at Aberdeen International Airport presented to the Board. Ms Benzie gave an overview of the 2015 performance including passenger's numbers, new routes introduced and key statistics regarding punctuality. Ms Benzie went onto to highlight the challenges the Airport was facing due to the economic downturn and highlighted the importance of retaining key hubs. Ms Benzie presented

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

3 August 2016

graphics and photos regarding the airport expansion and current work and welcomed any assistance from the members in getting the message out that they were expanding.

Members then asked questions to the representatives before the presentation was concluded.

Ms Benzie stated that they were happy with improvements currently being carried out in Dyce and added with the by pass close to completion it is hoped it will assist travel times for those travelling from the South.

Ms Benzie clarified that the Jet bus service was operating every 10 minutes out of the terminal during peak times and the shuttle bus service from Dyce rail station was meeting trains getting in.

Ms Benzie highlighted that retaining connections to hub airports was critical.

Ms Benzie clarified that any noise complaints received were checked on their noise monitoring system and Mr Anderson emphasised that noise complaints were discussed regularly on the Aberdeen Airport Consultative Committee which he attends.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

During the course of discussions, Councillor Ford declared an interest by virtue of his joint ownership of an air plot on the path of the proposed third runway at Heathrow

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS - ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

4. In accordance with the decision taken at Article 1 of this minute, the Board had before it a report which informed members of recent publications and consultation papers of interest and to agree a response where appropriate.

The Director advised that the Board had commented on provision of car parking in the plan and suggested that development of a surface access strategy should be devised. This would mean that any future need for car parking could be considered in the context of overall access to the airport around current development around the airport and the considerable success over recent years in increasing the public transport share of access movements.

The report recommended:-

That the Board agree that a response based on the comments in the report are sent to Aberdeen International Airport.

The Board resolved:-

(i) to approve the recommendation; and

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

3 August 2016

- (ii) to consider the rest of the report and remaining recommendation at 6b on the agenda.

PRESENTATION ON NEW GETABOUT WEBSITE, KELLY WILTSHIRE

5. The Board were given an overview of the new Getabout website that was due to launch this week.

Members then asked questions before the presentation concluded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6. The Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans which advised the members on liaisons with other Regional Transport Partners, Scottish Government and other organisations.

The Director highlighted key points in the report including an update received at the recent RTP Chair meeting in June regarding a pilot hosted by Tactran involving the employment of a cycle training officer funded 50/50 by Tactran and Cycling Scotland. The Director also advised that the RTP Chairs had written to Humza Yousaf requesting a meeting and the Director stated that Nestrans have done so too.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note progress on liaison arrangements with other RTP's, the Scottish Government and others and arrangements for future meetings.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE

7. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on matters relating to the Strategic Transport Fund guidance and on payments received and agreements made in relations to the Strategic Transport Fund to date.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) note the decision of the Inner House of the Court of Session in refusing the application to appeal and timescales within which to seek leave to appeal from the Supreme Court; and
- (b) note the payments made into the fund to date.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

3 August 2016

- (ii) to note that the SDPA had sought leave to appeal to the Supreme Court last week.

PLANNING REVIEW

8. The Board had before it a report which presented the recommendations from the Independent Review of Planning and the Scottish Government's response.

The Director presented the report and highlighted the areas of concern regarding the recommendations that had been put forward by the Independent Panel, these included recommendations to replace Strategic Development Plans with an enhanced National Planning Framework, local development plans moving to a 10 year cycle and introduction of a National Infrastructure Fund. One of the recommendations referred to the special circumstances of the island authorities and that they should be given flexibility which would reflect the distinctive local context for planning in an island setting, and it was noted that a one size doesn't fit all approach should be used for the North East of Scotland.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) instruct the Director to liaise with SDPA and Council colleagues to provide the Boards view on the issues raised in this report;
- (b) write to the Minister for Local Government and Housing expressing the Boards considered view following discussion on the issues raised in this report; and
- (c) raise the issues in this report with the RTP Chairs to determine if there is a consensus amongst RTP's with a view to the RTP Chairs writing to the Minister for Local Government and Housing offering RTP involvement in the issues raised by the Independent Panel's recommendations as far as they affect the work of the RTP's.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve recommendations (a) subject to the change instruct the Director to consult with the SDPA, Council colleagues and Council leaders to provide the Boards view on the issues raised in this report;
- (ii) to circulate the draft letter to the Board members in advance; and
- (iii) to approve recommendations (b) and (c).

FRASERBURGH AND PETERHEAD TO ABERDEEN STRATEGIC TRANSPORT STUDY UPDATE

9. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Director circulated an amended minute to the Buchan Area Committee meeting of 31 May 2016 which was contained within Appendix 1.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

3 August 2016

The Board had before it a report which provided an update regarding progress with the Fraserburgh and Peterhead to Aberdeen Strategic Transport Study and to make recommendations regarding the next stages for the study.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) note the contents of this report and that key stakeholder discussion have been held on the options and packages; and
- (b) instructs officers to report back with the results of this further Client Group consideration to a future meeting of the Board.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

BUS ACTION PLAN UPDATE REPORT

10. With reference to Article 3 of the previous meeting of 8 June 2016, the Board had before it a report which outlined the process set out for the review and development of the Bus Action Plan.

The Transport and Strategy Manager advised that there was a meeting of the Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum (LABOF) scheduled for next week. The Transport and Strategy Manager also presented two publications which referred to bus provision.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) notes the steps being taken to review the current bus action plan; and
- (b) note the recent publications by Greener Journeys and Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations;
- (ii) to instruct the Director to circulate the 24 hotspots that the bus companies had identified previously as an issue; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director to invite the Traffic Commissioner to a future Board meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT

11. The Board had before it the progress report.

The Board resolved:-

to note the contents of the report.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

3 August 2016

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

12. The Board had before it a report which provided information of recent publications and consultation papers of interest and sought agreement for a response where appropriate.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the comments in the report and Appendix 1 in terms of Network Rail's Scotland Route Strategy.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

2016/17 BUDGET MATTERS

13. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership's 2016/17 monitoring and forecast outturn position and to consider 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; and
- (b) approve the proposed virements presented in Appendix 2.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

14. The Board had before it a report which provided information and updates on a number of matters not requiring decision.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the contents of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

15. The Board had before it a list of recent and forthcoming conferences with representatives from Nestrans attending.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

3 August 2016

The Director advised that there was an additional conference scheduled for 7 September in Edinburgh which the Director and the Vice Chair, Councillor Argyle would be in attendance for.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the report.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

16. The Board had before it a report advising Members on pending business requested by the Board and major reports scheduled for forthcoming Board meetings.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the report on pending business and agree the provisional scheduling of major reports to future Board meetings.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

- **COUNCILLOR RAMSAY MILNE, Chairperson**