

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 9 December 2015

Present: Councillor Milne (Chairperson); Councillor Argyle (Vice Chairperson); Mr Anderson (Vice Chairperson); and Councillor Aitchison, Clark, Dunbar, Finlayson, Ford and Grant and Ms MacDonald.

In attendance: Jenny Anderson (Nestrans); Mr Brennan (Aberdeenshire Council); Rab Dickson (Nestrans); Hugh Murdoch (Aberdeen City Council); Derick Murray (Nestrans); Fiona Selbie (Aberdeen City Council); Emma Parr (Aberdeen City Council); Philip Smart (Aberdeenshire Council); and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council)

Apologies: Mr Archer, Mr Cameron and Mr Donald

OPENING REMARKS

1. The Chair proposed to take item 3f first in confidence with the public and press excluded. The presentation by Aberdeen Harbour Board was withdrawn.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to hear item 3f with the press and public excluded; and
- (ii) to note that the presentation by Aberdeen Harbour Board had been withdrawn from the agenda.

MOTION BY COUNCILLOR GRAEME CLARK

2. The board had before it a motion in the name of Councillor Clark:-

- 1. That the current Aberdeenshire Council Member who is a Deputy Chair of Nestrans be removed from that position.
- 2. In the event of the first part of the motion being carried, that the Nestrans Board Members appoint a new Deputy Chair of Nestrans.

Prior to Councillor Clark speaking to his motion, the Chair intimated that there was no impediment to Nestrans appointing a third Deputy Chair. Councillor Clark therefore withdrew his original motion and nominated Councillor Aitchison as a Deputy Chair of Nestrans.

The Board resolved:-

to appoint Councillor Aitchison as a Deputy Chair of Nestrans.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING OF 9 OCTOBER 2015 - FOR APPROVAL

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3. The Board had before it the minute of the previous meeting of 9 October 2015 for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECISION RECORDED UNDER ARTICLE 1 OF THIS MINUTE, THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS CONSIDERED WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED.

VERBAL UPDATE FROM LEGAL ADVISOR - IN CONFIDENCE

4. The legal manager from Aberdeen City Council advised the Board.

The Board resolved:-

to note the legal advice given.

RTS HABITAT REGULATIONS APPRAISAL

5. With reference to Article 5 of the minute of the meeting of 18 June 2014, the Board had before it the Habitat Regulations Appraisal for approval which was completed following its need being identified in the Strategic Environmental Assessment post adoption statement which was approved by Nestrans in June 2014.

The report recommended:-

That the Board approve the RTS Habitat Regulations Appraisal and agree to publish it on the Nestrans website.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT / COMMUNITY PLANNING

6. The Board had before it a report on the Community Empowerment Bill which advised on the impact for Community Planning and implications for Nestrans. Nestrans already have an existing statutory duty to engage in Community Planning under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005. The new bill is set to come into effect around July 2016. Nestrans will have a duty to work collaboratively with other partners in carrying out Community Planning; to take account of Local Outcomes Improvements Plan's (LOIP) in carrying out its own functions, to contribute such funds, staff and other resources as the CPP considers appropriate to improve local outcomes in the LOIP and to secure participation of community bodies in Community Planning.

The report recommended:-

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That the Board –

- (a) note the passing of the Community Empowerment Act; and
- (b) note the new duties placed on Nestrans taking into account Local Output Improvement Plans, once these are developed.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE

7. The Board had before it a report which updated the members on progress in reviewing the Strategic Transport Fund (STF) guidance and on payments received and agreements made.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) note the date of the hearing for legal challenge raised at the Court of Session to the SDPA's adoption of the Supplementary Guidance: Strategic Transport Fund; and
- (b) note the payments made into the fund to date.

With reference to Article 6 of the previous meeting of 9 October 2015 the Director advised members that a date for the hearing of the legal challenge lodged by the Elswick Development Company would be held from 9-11 March 2016.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

TRANS - EUROPEAN NETWORK - TRANSPORT

8. With reference to Article 5 of the minute of the meeting on 9 October 2015, the Board has before it a report which updated members on a number of issues in relation to the European Commission's Trans-European Network- Transport (TEN – T).

The report recommended:-

That the Board-

- (a) note the content of the report; and
- (b) instruct officers to continue to lobby for the strengthening of the position of North East of Scotland in future Network revisions.

Members were advised that although current funds have been allocated, lobbying for inclusion in the network would improve visibility for the North East for any future funding opportunities.

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The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9. 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 presented the report and highlighted key points.

HS2 recently were attending the SNP conference in Aberdeen and they offered the High Speed Rail (HSR) Scotland group a meeting to update on current progress and to discuss the work of HSR Scotland Group. It is anticipated that a report on the section of HS2 to central Scotland will be completed in February 2016.

At the National Transport Strategy refresh stakeholders event held on 29 October, the Minister for Transport emphasised the potential for an integrated and smart ticketing system.

Northern Isles Ferry Study is being carried out and Nestrans partner in Shetland would like to include the North East.

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:-

- (i) to note the report; and
- (ii) to thank Don Kent, Nestrans Travel Planning Executive for his 5 years of service and best wishes for retirement.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Deputy Chair, Eddie Anderson, declared an interest in the following article by virtue of his profession in the freight industry but did not feel it required him to leave the meeting.

FREIGHT UPDATE

10. The Board had before it a report which informed members of progress in respect of freight matters.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the content of the report.

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Eddie Anderson, Deputy Chair gave a verbal update on the Forth Road Bridge situation. Current emergency plans in place are helping but buses are being underused. There are cost implications for the diversion in place adding on and extra 70miles each way which also has time delays.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the content of the report; and
- (ii) to make representations to the Scottish Government for compensation for companies citing examples of case history when the Erskine Bridge was closed for a number of weeks.

PROGRESS REPORT

11. The Board had before it the Progress Report.

There was reference to the extension of the platform at Inch railway station, however there are no plans to make this disabled access and Aberdeenshire Council are keeping up pressure for this to be an option.

There was a client group meeting held on 2 December in regards to the Fraserburgh – Peterhead to Aberdeen Strategic transport corridor study. The meeting was attended by both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council representatives and a report will come to the Board meeting in February making recommendations for 1-2 options to be further investigated for viability.

Nestrans are still putting pressing on the Scottish Government for dual tracking between Aberdeen and Inverurie and the Director will clarify whether the figures used in forecasting numbers are the most recent.

The Board resolved:-

to note the progress report.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

12. The Board had before it a report which informed members of recent publications and consultations of interest.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

note the content of the report and approve the appendix as Nestrans's response to the consultation on Scotland's Rail Freight Strategy.

The Board resolved:-

to revise the response and circulate again to members for comment before the deadline of 22 January 2016

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BOARD MEETING DATES - 2016

13. The Board had before it proposed dates for meetings in 2016.

The report recommended:-

that the Board consider and agree to the proposed dates for 2016.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the dates.

BUDGET MATTERS

14. The Board had before it a report which presented the Partnership's 2015/16 monitoring and forecast outturn position.

The report recommended:-

That the Board -

- (a) note the monitoring position and forecast presented in Appendix 1;
- (b) approve the carry forward of unspent budget on projects listed in Appendix 2 to 2016/17; and
- (c) approve the proposed virements presented in Appendix 3.

Aberdeenshire's Chief Accountant advised that expenditure had been lower than expected due to timescales running over for some projects.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

15. The Board had before it a report which provided members with information and updates on a number of matters.

Since the last Board meeting the Scottish Government had announced that BAM had been appointed as principal contractor for the first phase upgrade of improvement so the Aberdeen – Inverness railway line, and it was noted that BAM had been the contractors that undertook the work on the Border's railway.

Transport Scotland have released its latest figures on Casualties in Road Traffic Accidents with casualties in the North East representing around 8% of the national total with death and serious injuries at 15.5% and 15.6% of the national total. The Board were advised that the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership was set up to tackle these figures and will have a report published on initiatives in the Spring. There is already a

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great deal of work and education being done with Aberdeenshire Community Planning on this matter.

Concerns were raised over the new Buchan Xpress coaches not being suitable for those with mobility issues due to the high stairs into the vehicles and the steep stairway to the toilet facilities on-board. The Board was advised that bus drivers are putting into practice not pulling away too soon before people have climbed the stairs and sat down.

Nestrans currently share a social media account with ACSEF. Following the replacement of ACSEF with ONE, Nestrans will keep that social media account. ONE will be making their own arrangements.

The Board resolved:-

to note the contents of the report.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the costs for the recent and forthcoming conferences; and
- (ii) to approve the cost of the training qualification for the Cycle Officer.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

17. The Board had before it a report which advised members of progress on pending business requested by the Board and major reports scheduled for forthcoming Board meeting.

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.