

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Friday, 30 September 2016

Present: Councillor Milne (Chairperson); and Councillor Clark, Councillor Dickson, Mr Donald, Councillor Finlayson, Councillor Ford, Ms MacDonald, Councillor Mollison (substitute for Councillor Argyle), Councillor Smith (substitute for Councillor Aitchison)

In attendance: Gale Beattie (Aberdeen City Council); Linda Cameron (Aberdeen City Council); Mr Corrigan (Deloitte); Rab Dickson (Nestrans); Paul Finch (Aberdeenshire Council); David Jennings (SDPA); Derick Murray (Nestrans); Andrew Leil (Aberdeenshire Council); Sarah Rochester (Aberdeenshire Council); Mr Smith (Deloitte); Allison Swanson (Aberdeen City Council); Tom Walsh (SDPA)

Apologies: Councillor Aitchison, Councillor Argyle, Mr Anderson and Councillor Grant.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 3 AUGUST 2016

1. The Board has before it the minute of the previous meeting of 3 August 2016 for approval.

The Board resolved:

to approve the minute as a correct record subject to the inclusion of an addition at article 3 that "The question of whether a rail link to the airport was advisable was discussed. Members were advised that despite being a strategically sensible aspiration there were significant obstacles to achieving a viable solution including high construction costs and low passenger numbers providing operational difficulties."

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2015/16 AND THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE PARTNERSHIP 2015/16

2. The Board had before it the audited Statement of Accounts for 2015/16 for approval by the Partnership Board and the independent auditors report.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) approve for signature the audited Statement of Accounts for 2015/16;
- (b) consider the Independent Auditors Report; and
- (c) agree that a £10 charge for a printed copy of the Statement of Accounts be made and that the Statements can be accessed and downloaded free of charge from the Nestrans website.

The Board resolved:-

to agree the recommendations.

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PRESENTATION BY JYLL SKINNER , CHAIR OF ABERDEEN CYCLE FORUM

3. Jyll Skinner, Chair of Aberdeen Cycle Forum presented to the Board.

Ms Skinner gave an overview of the benefits of cycling including the health related benefits from research carried out at Foresterhill Hospital in Aberdeen. Ms Skinner highlighted some key figures from recent surveys including 80% of people did not feel safe cycling in a city and a comparison study with Bristol showed that they had 8% of all journeys carried out by bike compared to 1-2% in Aberdeen.

Ms Skinner highlighted that there were still barriers in regards to funding and more feasibility studies needed to be carried out particularly for King Street and Westhill cycle path as they were still problem areas and they wanted to make these gold standard routes. Also by completing feasibility studies it would mean that if funding did become available, more cycle routes could be implemented quickly.

Members then asked questions to the Chair of Aberdeen Cycle Forum before the presentation was concluded.

The Director explained that Nestrans had spent significantly more on cycling than the national average and a new Cycling Officer had just been appointed.

The Members thanked Ms Skinner for her presentation and resolved to look into the possibility of Councils getting a cycle champion officer.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

4. The Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans which advised the members on liaisons with other RTP's and with the Scottish Government and other organisations.

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 Director highlighted the developments in recruitment including the Appointment Panel meeting of 29 August which shortlisted 3 candidates for the vacant non-Councillor Member post and the appointment of a new Cycling Development Officer and Graduate Transport executive.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

5. The Board has before it a draft Nestrans Annual Report for 2015/16 and Business Plan for 2016/17.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) Consider the attached draft 2015/16 Annual Report and Business Plan 2016/16;
- (b) approve publication of this report on the Nestrans website once design has been completed;
- (c) instruct a link to the published report to be sent to Scottish Ministers and the Chief Executives at Aberdeen City and Shire Councils; and
- (d) approve separate publication on the Nestrans website of the information required under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to make amendments to the Annual Report to reflect the aims of the RTS.

RTS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2016

6. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Annual Monitoring Report in support of the Regional Transport Strategy.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) note the contents of the report and the trends emerging against many of the RTS targets; and
- (b) approve the Nestrans Monitoring report 2016, which will be uploaded to the Nestrans' website.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to note that a report on Park and Ride's in the City will come to the Board in January 2017.
- (iii) to make amendments to the RTS targets where appropriate to highlight where these are partners targets (i.e. airport targets) and note that these are reported to show the implications flowing from these targets.

ANNUAL CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTING ON NESTRANS' EMISSIONS

7. The Board had before it a report which provided an overview on the responsibilities being placed on Nestrans as a public body in respect of their duties in relation to the Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009.

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The report recommended:-

That the Board note the report and the requirement for Nestrans to report on its activities and policies in respect of Climate Change duties.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE

8. 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 relation 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 that permission for leave to appeal has now been sought from the Supreme Court; and
- (b) note the payments made into the fund to date.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

9. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on developments in Air Quality Management and the links to transport.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the content of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

FRASERBURGH AND PETERHEAD TO ABERDEEN STRATEGIC TRANSPORT STUDY UPDATE

10. With reference to Article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 3 August 2016, the Board had before it a report which provided an update on 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:-

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That the Board –

- (a) note the contents of the report and the key stakeholder input on the Options and Packages considered;
- (b) agrees to instruct the further pieces of work outlined above and the elements suggested;
- (c) authorises officers to commission appropriate consultants to undertake the work, through the Scotland Excel framework; and
- (d) report back to Nestrans Board with the outcomes of these studies.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to assess the viability of park and rail a couple of miles north of Ellon; and
- (ii) to otherwise agree the recommendations.

BUS ACTION PLAN UPDATE

11. With reference to Article 3 of the minute of its meeting of 8 June 2016, the Board had before it a report which provided feedback on the outcomes of a workshop with the Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum (LABOF) partners held on 9 August 2016.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) endorse the draft objectives of the revised Bus Action Plan;
- (b) note the issues raised through the Labof workshop and the proposals for developing a draft; and
- (c) note the letter from the Traffic Commissioner.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) in the areas of focus section in the refreshed Bus Action Plan - Bus priority and pinch points to replace “consideration” with “improve” to read ‘improve the location, length and hours of operation of bus lanes and other forms of bus priority;
- (ii) to request the Director to discuss with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire the terminology on park and ride and park and choose; and
- (iii) to otherwise approve the recommendations.

PROGRESS REPORT

12. The Board had before it the progress report.

The Board resolved:-

to note the contents of the report.

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PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

13. 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 publication of the Community Planning Aberdeen - Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

BUDGET MATTERS

14. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership's 2016/17 monitoring and forecast outturn.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) note the monitoring position and forecast presented in Appendix 1;
- (b) approve the proposed virements presented in Appendix 2; and
- (c) note the projects that have been agreed to be funded from a Sustrans Grant.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the contents of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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

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The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the content of the report; and
- (ii) to note that the Director, Chair and vice Chairs are meeting with the Transport Minister on November 2.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

17. 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 recommendations.

UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT

18. The Director provided an update in regards to Councillor's duties in respect of the code of conduct.