

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Friday, 9 October 2015

Present: Councillor Milne (Chairperson); Councillor Argyle (Vice Chairperson); Mr Anderson (Vice Chairperson); and Councillors Aitchison, Finlayson, Ford, Smith (as substitute for Councillor Clark) and Young (as substitute for Councillor Grant)

In attendance: Paul Finch (as representative for Stephen Archer, Adviser to the Board); Derick Murray, Rab Dickson, Lucy Johnston and Jenny Anderson (Nestrans); Ruth Taylor (Aberdeenshire Council); Emma Parr (Aberdeen City Council) Pete Leonard (Aberdeen City Council, as an observer); and Councillor Owen (Aberdeenshire Council as an observer for Item 4a)

Apologies: Councillor Clark, Jackie Dunbar and Grant; Mr Cameron, Mr Donald, Ms MacDonald, Mr Wood and Mr Archer.

OPENING REMARKS

1. Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Clark, Jackie Dunbar and Grant and Mr Archer, Mr Cameron, Mr Donald and Ms MacDonald.

The Chair proposed to hear item 4a directly after the Scarf Presentation.

The Board resolved:-

To hear item 4a after the Scarf presentation.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING OF 21 AUGUST 2015

2. The Board had before it the minute of the previous meeting of 21 August 2015

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to amend Article 7 'with reference to the East Coast Mainline, he advised that they were looking for an ambassador from the North East and explained that if any board member knew of a prominent business person interested in this position they should contact him';
- (ii) to amend Councillor Ford's declaration of interest in reference to Article 14 'Councillor Ford declared an interest due to his joint ownership of an air plot on the path of the proposed third runway at Heathrow'; and
- (iii) to otherwise agree the minute.

PRESENTATION BY RAYMOND HURSON, SCARF

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3. The Board heard a presentation by Raymond Hurson of SCARF on the Transport Advice Service they offer people in the North East.

Highlights included:-

- Best in class tool for customers to compare energy efficiency of cars new and second hand;
- Electric vehicle network tool;
- Interest free low carbon transport loans on offer;
- Workplace Charge Point funding available for business up to £10,000;
- Domestic Charge Point funding for people who own an electric vehicle or use one for work;
- FuelGood Driver training for individuals and companies which looks to give annual savings of £200-£250; and
- Case study of Aberdeen City Council's Co-wheels Car Club which is now one of the most successful car clubs in the UK.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the contents of the presentation;
- (ii) to thank Mr Hurson for his time;
- (iii) request that officers circulate the presentation to members of the Board.

FRASERBURGH / PETERHEAD TO ABERDEEN MULTI MODAL STUDY

4. With reference to Article 10 of the minute of the previous meeting of 21 August 2015, the Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans updating members on progress regarding the ongoing strategic transport study on the corridor between Fraserburgh and Peterhead to Aberdeen.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the contents of the report and the Pre-Appraisal Report.

The members were informed that a Pre-Appraisal Report (available on the members section of the Nestrans website) had now been produced which had developed the issues identified at the Baseline stage into three broad themes; journey times, road safety and choice. Six objectives were outlined in the report to be addressed through the improvement proposals.

In consultation with the client group, the consultants had identified seven options for assessment shown in appendix 1 of the report. It was clarified that there is scope to mix and match options presented.

The Board was advised that the next step would be the public engagement sessions planned over 4 days; 26/10 in Bridge of Don, 27/10 in Elton, 2/11 in Fraserburgh and 3/11 in Peterhead. These venues had been chosen to have a balance of both in the City and in the Shire. Local members, community councils and the public would be invited to attend.

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The seven options would be tested on the six objectives that had come out of the three themes and also on STAG criteria (environment, safety, economy, integration and accessibility and social inclusion) and the technical and operational feasibility, affordability and public acceptability of each option.

It was advised that initial results should be available by the end of the year with 2-3 options to go to a detailed appraisal thereafter, but these would come to a future Board meeting for approval.

It was agreed that clear communication was key so as that the public were aware that this was consulting on options without commitment to delivery.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations;
- (ii) to contact community councils and publicise the public meetings; and
- (iii) approve a press release regarding progress of the project.

DIRECTORS REPORT

5. The Board had before it the Directors Report.

The report recommended:-

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

The Director advised the Board that the Inverurie to Kintore rail route proposal was progressing well.

A meeting has been arranged with Mr David Prescott who worked for Transport Scotland for 10 years as well as Scotrail before that in the hope that he can provide expert advice to assisting Nestrans in articulating their aspirations to Transport Scotland and Network Rail.

The Director and the Chair attended the RTP Chairs meeting in Dundee on 16 September which included a presentation by Professor Peter Balazs and Andreas Faergmann of the European Union's TEN-T project. The Director advised that Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire had not been included in the core network for the TEN-T project and that there was a need to respond to this.

The Chair, Vice Chair - Eddie Anderson and the Director attended a meeting with the Minister for Transport on 16 September. The meeting was very positive and gave Nestrans representatives the opportunity to speak about issues such as the AWPR, City Region Deal, City Centre Masterplan and the North East geography. They also spoke about the private sector funding through the Strategic Transport Fund. The minister advised about opportunities such as the need to explore innovative funding

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mechanisms referencing - Tax Incremental Finance or Growth Accelerator Models and highlighted the substantial prudential borrowing powers open to Local Authorities.

The Director included a list of future meetings for the Board's reference.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to agree to the recommendations;
- (ii) to authorise funds in consultation with the Chair to pay for Mr Prescott's expert advice; and
- (iii) to request that the Director of Nestrans discuss the TEN-T network with Phillip Smart and consider how to lobby the UK government to seek NE inclusion in the core network.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE

6. The Board had before it a report by the Director updating the members on the progress reviewing the Strategic Transport Fund (STF) guidance and on payments received and agreements made in relation to the STF to date.

The report recommended:-

That the Board-

- (a) note the coming into force of the supplementary guidance on 29 August 2015;
- (b) note the legal challenge raised at the Court of Session to the SDPA's adoption of the Supplementary Guidance: Strategic Transport Fund; and
- (c) note the payments made into the fund to date.

The Director advised that both Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council had noted the adoption of the supplementary guidance and ratified its use.

The Board were also updated on the legal challenge lodged at the Court of Session by the Elsie Development Company against the Supplementary Guidance and were advised that a court hearing could be towards the end of the year.

The Board resolved:-

to agree to the recommendations.

MONITORING REPORT

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director on the Annual Monitoring.

The report recommended:-

That the Board-

- (a) note the contents of this report and the trends emerging against many of the RTS targets; and

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- (b) approve the Nestrans Monitoring report 2015, which will be uploaded to the Nestrans website.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to agree to the recommendations; and
(ii) to agree to include before the start of future reports that Nestrans cannot have an impact on some of the targets included in the report, so the distinction is clear.

ANNUAL REPORT

8. The Board had before it a report by the Director providing a draft annual report for 2014/15 and a business plan for 2015/16.

The report recommended-

That the Board-

- (a) consider the draft 2014/15 Annual Report and Business Plan 2015/16;
(b) approve publication of the 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 Aberdeen City and Shire Council; 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 thank Jenny Anderson for her work on the report; and
(ii) to agree to the recommendations.

PROGRESS REPORT

9. The Board had before it the progress report.

The Board resolved:-

To note the contents of the report.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

10. The Board had before it a report by the Director of recent publications and consultation papers of interest and to agree a response where appropriate.

The report recommended:-

- (a) note the content of this report and approve the attached appendix as Nestrans response to the UK Parliament's Transport Committee inquiry into surface access to airports; and

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- (b) instruct the Director to prepare a response, in consultation with the Chair and vice Chairs, to Aberdeen International Airports Capital Investment Plan 2015 based upon Members views at the Board meeting and to the Nigg Masterplan.

It was agreed that part of the response to the Nigg Bay Masterplan would be to recommend upgrade of the road through Altens and the Coast Road to make it attractive and suitable for HGV access and avoid traffic routing through the residential areas of Torry and Cove.

The Board resolved:-

To agree to the recommendations.

BUDGET MATTERS 2015/16

11. The Board had before it an update on the Partnerships 2015/16 monitoring and forecast outturn position.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the monitoring position and forecast and presented in appendix 1 of the report.

Members were advised that currently one project has a slight overspend of £40,000 but that the potential slippage of projects in other areas would absorb these costs. There is also a further £25,000 of funding from Transport Scotland in relation to the Aberdeen-Peterhead improvements.

The Board resolved:-

To agree to the recommendation.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

12. The Board had before it an information bulletin to update on various areas.

Highlights included the Get About events that took place during August/September 2015 with 29 events having taken place and over 7,000 people involved and good social media coverage.

The Aberdeenshire Cycle Challenge was also highlighted as a third of all journeys by bike across Scotland were by participants from Aberdeenshire over the challenge period.

The Board resolved:-

To note the contents of the bulletin.

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CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

13. The Board had before it a list of recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to Nestrans.

With reference to Article 15 of the minute of the meeting of 21 August 2015 the Director advised that the original cost of the Chair's and the Directors attendance at the Transport for Regional Growth in South East Scotland conference in Edinburgh on 5 November 2015 had risen from £50 per head to a total of £240.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the change in cost for the Transport for Regional Growth Conference;
and
- (ii) to otherwise note the other conferences taking place.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

14. The Board had before it a report by the Director advising of progress on pending business requested by the Board and major reports scheduled for forthcoming Board meetings.

The Board resolved:-

to note the report.