

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Tuesday, 9 December 2014

Present: Councillor Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor Milne (Deputy Chair); Eddie Anderson (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Finlayson and McCaig (Aberdeen City Council); Councillor Clark (Aberdeenshire Council); Duncan Cameron and Gerry Donald (Non Councillor Members).

In attendance: Dr Bochel (Adviser to the Board), Derick Murray, Rab Dickson and Kirsty Chalmers (Nestrans); Tom Buchan, Patrick Barnham and Neil Stewart, Aberdeenshire Council; and Martin Allan (Aberdeen City Council).

Apologies: Councillor Latham (Aberdeenshire Council) and Sandra Macdonald (Non Councillor Member).

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located at the following link:

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/board-meetings.html>

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October 2014.

The Board heard the Assistant Clerk explain that the draft minute of meeting of 9 October 2014 had been circulated in error. He proposed that once approved he would send all members the correct version of the minute.

The Board then heard the Director explain that the main difference from the draft and the amended version of the minute was in relation to Article 5 (Airport Consultative Committee) specifically with regard to the statement made by the Minister of State for Transport on Aberdeen to London flight services.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to agree the suggested changes to the draft minute as proposed by the Director;
- (ii) to note that the amended version of the minute would be circulated to all members; and
- (iii) to otherwise approve the minute.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE SUSTRANS SCOTLAND - PRESENTATION

2. The Board received a presentation from Mr John Lauder, Chief Executive of Sustrans Scotland on the work of that organisation.

During his presentation Mr Lauder outlined information relating to:

- The National Cycle Route
- Community Links Projects
- Street Design Projects
- The monitoring of statistics

The Board then asked Mr Lauder various questions, including how the North East of Scotland can get closer to a fairer share of monies available through Sustrans and other bodies. Mr Lauder explained the importance of working in partnership with other agencies in the area to assemble funds before applying for funding from organisations like Sustrans.

Members asked if any retrospective funding would be available in the North East to help fund cycling initiatives linked to major infrastructure projects. Mr Lauder explained that this might be possible but that planning ahead to meet required deadlines would mean that organisations such as Nestrans would have a better chance of obtaining funds. Mr Lauder explained that he was happy to speak to the Cycling Development Officer about how Nestrans can be more competitive in obtaining funds for cycling projects.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note that Mr Lauder would liaise with Nestrans' Cycling Development Officer with regard to how Nestrans can be more successful in obtaining funds from organisations such as Sustrans; and
- (ii) to thank Mr Lauder for his presentation.

LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS, THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

3. With reference to article 3 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October 2014, 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.

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The meetings included –

- National Connectivity Task Force, London, 16 October and 24 November 2014
- Transport Scotland, video conference, 23 October, 2014
- Meeting with Abellio, 3 November, 2014
- Chamber of Commerce meeting with Gatwick Airport, Aberdeen 10 November, 2014
- RGU and its region meeting, Aberdeen, 11 November, 2014
- Regional Transport Partnership Lead Officers meeting, Inverness, 12 November, 2014
- Scottish CDI aviation event, Glasgow, 12 November, 2014
- City Region Deal, Aberdeen, 14 November 2014
- Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan, Aberdeen, various dates
- Network Rail, Perth, 20 November 2014
- Health & Transport Action Plan Steering Group, Aberdeen, 24 November 2014
- AGCC Heathrow event, Aberdeen, 2 December 2014
- RTP Chairs, Aberdeen, 3 December 2014
- International Airport Consultative Committee, Aberdeen, 5 December 2014
- Workshop Proposal to discuss the ACSEF key messages and reviews of the Regional Transport Strategy

The Board also had before it a note of the meeting of the Aberdeen International Airport Consultative Committee of 5 December prepared by Eddie Anderson. Mr Anderson spoke to his note.

The Director explained that it was planned to hold a joint workshop with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Strategic Development Planning Authority in the New Year to look at the ACSEF key messages as well as what the next Regional Transport Strategy (and possibly the next Strategic Development Plan) will look like bearing in mind the extent of the infrastructure being introduced in the area currently. He explained that the outcomes of the workshop would form part of wider consultation with the public.

The report recommended -

- (i) that the Board note progress on liaison arrangements with other Regional Transport Partnerships, the Scottish Government, and others, and arrangements for future meetings, and
- (ii) that the Board agree a suitable date for the workshop session.

The Board resolved:-

- (a) to hold the workshop on the morning of the 20th of February, 2015 and that the Board meet in the afternoon; and
- (b) to otherwise approve the recommendations contained in the report.

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STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND - UPDATE

4. With reference to article 4 of the minute of the previous meeting of 9 October 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director, which updated members on the payments received into the Strategic Transport Fund (STF) since the aforementioned meeting.

At its meeting in October 2014 the Nestrans Board were updated on the SDPA's proposed timescales for revising the STF Guidance, the intention being that draft revised guidance will be reported to the SDPA at its meeting on 10 December 2014 and would be followed by an 8 week period of consultation from 12 December to 6 February 2015.

Nestrans has been assisting the SDPA in commissioning further clarification of the cumulative transport appraisal modelling work and in the review and development of the revised guidance. The draft revised guidance will be reported to the SDPA on 10 December and will therefore be reported in more detail to the Nestrans Board at its next meeting.

The report recommended -

that the Board note the (a) steps being taken in the review of the STF and the timescales set out by the SDPA for this and (b) payments made into the Fund as detailed in the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

DATES FOR 2015 MEETINGS

5. The Board had before it a report by the Director which suggested proposed dates for meetings of the Board in 2015.

The Board resolved:-

to meet on the following dates in 2015:

20 February

1 April

17 June

21 August

8 October

9 December (all meetings at 2pm)

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RAIL MATTERS

6. With reference to article 7 of the previous minute of 9 October, 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director, which updated members on rail matters, particularly with regard to the announcement of the new operator of the ScotRail and East Coast franchises and other rail related matters.

The Board resolved:-
to note the report.

ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN: ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION

7. With reference to article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 18 June, 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director, which informed members of the outcome of consultation on the draft Active Travel Plan (AcTrAP).

The report recommended –
that the Board –

- (a) note the summary of the comments received during consultation;
- (b) consider and approve the proposed targets set in the revised draft; and
- (c) approve the draft provided in the report as the final Active Travel Plan for publication.

The Board resolved:-
to approve the recommendation contained in the report.

PROGRESS REPORT

8. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2014, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 1 December 2014.

The Board resolved:-
to note the content of the progress chart.

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PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

9. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director which summarised and advised on a number of different publications and consultations as follows:

- SesTrans Regional Transport Strategy Refresh
- Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance: Strategy Document
- A Long-Term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland
- Transform Scotland: Interchange Audit of Aberdeen Bus Station, Railway Station and Ferry Terminal
- Smarter Choices, Smarter Places
- Regional Air Connectivity Fund

The report recommended –

that the Board –

- (a) note the content of the report and the documents referred to in the report; and
- (b) agree to submit a response to the start-up aid consultation in support of the Aberdeen International Airport position that the north east region does have a “duly substantiated case” for inclusion in the scheme, as detailed in the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

BUDGET MATTERS

10. With reference to article 12 of the minute of the previous meeting of 9 October 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Treasurer, which provided an update on the Partnership’s budget in 2014/15 and the forecast outturn in this regard.

The report explained that work had been progressing well with the Bridge of Dee study and elements of next year’s programme could be progressed for earlier completion in 2014/15. The report suggested that as the tender returns for the Riverside Drive path had come in under the available budget it was proposed to vire £50,000 from cycling and walking budget line to the Bridge of Dee study line.

The Board recommended –

that the Board –

- (a) note the monitoring position and forecast; and
- (b) approve the proposed virement detailed in the report.

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The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

2015/16 FUNDING

11. The Board had before it a report by the Director which outlined the revenue and capital funding requests for 2015/16 and sought approval for the preparation of draft revenue and capital budgets for future consideration.

The report recommended –

That the Board –

- (a) instruct the Director to write to the two Local Authorities outlining the Board's consideration and requesting that contributions be allowed for in the Councils' budgets; and
- (b) instruct a further report detailing the proposed 2015/16 Capital and Revenue budget expenditure for consideration at the next Board meeting in February 2015.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

12. With reference to article 13 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October 2014, 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 –

- Access to Laurencekirk Study
- Energetica corridor multi-modal study
- A96 Dualling Project
- A90 (south) Schoolhill Park and Ride
- Ministerial Cycling Summit
- The North East Transport Consultative Forum
- Study to identify the barriers to bus use
- Aberdeen Harbour extension / Nigg Bay Development Framework
- Department for Transport announcement on speed limits
- Nestrans Press Releases
- Marketing and Public Relations Update
- Getabout

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The report recommended –
that the Board note the contents of the report.

The Board resolved:-
to note the report.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

13. With reference to article 14 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2014, 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 provided.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

14. With reference to article 15 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 October, 2014, 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 report recommended –
that the Board note the content of the report and agree the provisional scheduling of major reports to future meetings.

The Board resolved:-
to approve the recommendation.

STATEMENT BY CHAIR

15. The Board heard the Chair explain that this was his last meeting in the Chair and that Councillor Milne would commence being the Chair of the Board as of 1 January, 2015. He thanked the Director and his staff explaining that he had enjoyed his time as Chair.

The Board then heard Councillor Milne, on behalf of the Board, express his gratitude to the Chair for his work. He said that the way the Chair had led the Board had enabled the Board to progress numerous projects that have helped citizens in the North East of Scotland.

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The Board resolved:-

to note the comments of the Chair and to concur with the remarks of Councillor Milne.

- PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson.