

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Friday, 20 February 2015

Present: Councillor Milne (Chairperson); Councillor Argyle (Deputy Chair); and Councillors Finlayson and Young (as substitute for Councillor Grant) (Aberdeen City Council); Councillors Buchan, Clark and Latham (Aberdeenshire Council); and Sandra MacDonald (Non Councillor Member).

In attendance: Dr Margaret Bochel (Adviser to the Board); Derick Murray, Rab Dickson and Jennifer Anderson (Nestrans); Tom Buchan and Lucy Johnston (Aberdeenshire Council); and Iain Robertson (Aberdeen City Council).

Apologies: Eddie Anderson, Stephen Archer, Gerry Donald and Duncan Cameron.

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 December 2014.

The Board heard the Director explain that he was still awaiting an update regarding the issues raised at the last meeting from the Chief Executive of Sustrans but Nestrans's Cycling Development Officer had been liaising with Sustrans staff to progress these matters.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

DIRECTORS REPORT

2. With reference to article 3 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 December, 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on liaison with other RTPs and with the Scottish Government and other organisations.

The meetings included –

- National Connectivity Task Force, London, 11 December 2014, 9 and 21
- January 2015, 12 February 2015 & 4 March 2015
- Transport Scotland, Aberdeen, 16 December 2014
- SCDI Annual Lecture, Aberdeen, 15 January 2015 (& 3 February 2015)
- East Coast Main Line Authorities, York, 3 February 2015

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- Cross Party Group on aviation, Scottish Parliament, 4 February 2015
- Transport Scotland, Glasgow, 5 February 2015
- HTAP Steering Group, Aberdeen, 9 February 2015
- RTP Lead Officers, Edinburgh, 11 February 2015
- City Centre Masterplan, Aberdeen, 17 February 2015
- High Speed Rail Group, Glasgow, 18 February 2015

Future Programme of Meetings -

- Abellio seminar, Aberdeen, 23 February 2015
- LABOF Steering Group, Aberdeen, 26 February 2015
- RTP Chairs meeting, Orkney, 4 March 2015
- Aberdeen International Airport Consultative Committee, Aberdeen, 6 March 2015

The Director spoke to the report and explained that the National Connectivity Task Force Meeting would take place on 11 March not on 4 March. The Director informed the Board that the report was expected to recommend that RAF Northolt be used for civilian flights to allow greater connectivity to the South East of England, although flights from Aberdeen Airport would continue to use Heathrow.

The Director also updated the Board on High Speed Two (HS2), Phase Three and explained that a joint statement from the Scottish and UK Governments on progress would be expected in May. Furthermore the Director added his concern that the development of High Speed Three (HS3) may be the favoured project of the UK Government and this may adversely impact on HS2, Phase Three; the Director reiterated that Nestrans and other stakeholders would continue to highlight the importance of HS2 to Scotland to the relevant authorities.

The Director then answered several questions from the Board on cycling provision on the A96 and A90 roads, the development of single track intermediate rail around Montrose and the integration of Nestrans' strategic planning with the Aberdeen City Deal.

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

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE

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3. With reference to article 4 of the minute of the previous meeting of 9 December 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on progress in reviewing the STF guidance and on payments received and agreements made in relation to the Strategic Transport Fund to date. A response to the proposal from the developers at Chapleton of Elsick in Aberdeenshire to modify their planning obligation in relation to the STF was also included for approval.

Rab Dickson spoke to the report and explained that Nestrans' response would be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for the Council's 12 March meeting in which they would consider the application to modify/discharge the planning obligation. Mr Dickson then asked the Board for their comments and there was a general consensus that the modified application was disappointing and members were satisfied with Nestrans' attached response.

The report recommended -

that the Board –

- (a) note the steps being taken in the review of the STF, the key changes made to the guidance and the timescales set out by the SDPA for this;
- (b) agree the response submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on the Elsick development; and
- (c) note the payments made into the funds to date.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the steps being taken in the review of the STF, the key changes made to the guidance and the timescales set out by the SDPA for this;
- (ii) to agree the response submitted to Aberdeenshire Council on the Elsick development;
- (iii) to note the payments made into the funds to date; and
- (iv) to request the development of a traffic lighting system to notify the Board of deadlines when funds had to be utilised.

WELLINGTON ROAD MULTI MODAL STUDY

4. The Board had before it a report by the Director which informed members of the Wellington Road Corridor Multi-Modal Transport Study which had been completed and a draft report submitted for consideration.

The Director summarised the report and there followed a discussion about the proposal for a shared bus/HGV priority lane. The Board agreed that it would be prudent to defer consideration of the Multi-Modal Transport Study until after Aberdeen City Council had conducted a strategic overview of the project which would commence in September at the conclusion of the Local Transport Strategy consultation period.

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The report recommended -

that the Board –

- (a) note and approve the principle of the findings within the draft study to allow the report to be finalised and published;
- (b) remit the study to Aberdeen City Council for information; and
- (c) consider funding to progress the development, appraisal and implementation of options within the separate 2015/16 draft budget proposals report.

The Board resolved:-

to defer consideration of the recommendations until Aberdeen City Council had approved its Local Transport Strategy.

RAIL MATTERS UPDATE

5. With reference to article 6 of the minute of the previous meeting of 9 December 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update to members on rail matters, particularly to note the announcement on the new operator of the Scotrail and East Coast franchises and to note progress on a number of rail matters.

Rab Dickson spoke to the report and highlighted the increasing number of rail passengers and emphasised that there was a clear correlation between opening new stations and the rising number of rail users. The Board then discussed the report and there was a particular focus on East Coast Main Line Authorities and whether they could be persuaded to introduce discounted fares on routes to and from Aberdeen; Mr Dickson advised that this was unlikely as discounts were company specific and were largely due to competition between rail operators.

The report recommended –

that the board note the content of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to note the contents of the report.

FREIGHT MATTERS UPDATE

6. The Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on freight issues.

Rab Dickson spoke to the report and updated the Board on the next Freight Forum Meeting, the ICI Committee Inquiry into Freight and Transport Scotland's Seminar on Rail Freight. Mr Dickson then explained that the thirty million tonnes of goods moved by freight excluded oil and gas as they were usually transported by pipeline. Mr Dickson

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also added that Aberdeen had a lower share of freight traffic than the national average largely due to the transportation of coal across the Central Belt to Scotland's powerstations.

The report recommended –

that the Board –

- (a) note the contents of the report;
- (b) endorse the appendix as Nestrans' input to the Scottish Parliament's Infrastructure & Capital Investment Committee Inquiry on Freight; and
- (c) note the intention to organise a Freight Forum meeting later in the year.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the contents of the report;
- (ii) to endorse the Appendix as Nestrans' input to the Scottish Parliament's Infrastructure & Capital Investment Committee Inquiry on Freight;
- (iii) to note the intention to organise a Freight Forum meeting later in the year; and
- (iv) to request an update on progress every six months.

PROGRESS REPORT

7. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 December, 2014, the Board had before it a progress report summarising the work in the three sub strategies Plan of the Regional Transport Strategy and the Health and Transport Action Plan as at 13 February 2015.

The Director spoke to the report and answered questions from the Board in relation to A96 dualling, the implementation of the new speed limit at the A944 Corridor and the installation of electric vehicle charging points in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the progress report; and
- (ii) to welcome the continued installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Aberdeen City and across Aberdeenshire.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

8. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 December, 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director which informed members of recent publications and consultation papers. The report outlined that the Scottish Government's consultative draft Low Emission Strategy had been published and Nestrans draft response was attached in Appendix A. The consultation period would end on 10 April 2015.

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The Director spoke to the report and informed the Board that significant progress had been made to reduce CO2 emissions across Scotland but more work would be required to meet further European regulatory guidelines.

The report recommended –

that the Board note the content of the report and approve the attached Appendix as Nestrans response to the consultation on a Low Emission Strategy.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation contained in the report.

2015-20 FIVE YEAR BUDGET PLAN

9. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which asked members to consider the principle of developing a Five Year Budget Plan for the period 2015-20.

Tom Buchan spoke to the report and explained to the Board that the Five Year Budget Plan would dovetail with both Councils budget plans and that a detailed Five Year Budget Plan would help to manage cashflow more effectively.

The report recommended –

that the Board –

- (a) agree to the principle of developing a five year programme for the period 2015-20; and
- (b) Instruct the development of a proposed five year programme for consideration at a future Board meeting and for subsequent input and comment by the two Councils as an integrated part of their respective budget preparation processes.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

2014/15 BUDGET MATTERS

10. With reference to article 10 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 December, 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which updated members on the partnership's 2014/15 budget and forecast outturn and to consider any budget or monitoring issues that may arise.

Tom Buchan spoke to the report and highlighted the underspend in the current financial year and advised the Board that the underspend of £400,000 could be best utilised by delaying this expenditure until 2015/16 as this would represent a more effective use of resources.

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The Board recommended –

that the Board –

- (a) note the monitoring position and forecast presented in Appendix 1;
- (b) approve the budget virements as set out in Appendix 2; and
- (c) note the intention to delay the drawdown of Capital Funds from the Partner Councils from 2014/15 to 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 2.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

2015/16 BUDGET PROPOSALS

11. With reference to article 11 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 December, 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which asked members to agree the Budget for 2015/16, subject to funding being confirmed.

Tom Buchan spoke to the report and reiterated to the Board that the budget proposals would include the £400,000 transferred from the 2014/15 budget and that capital funding would be agreed with the two Councils. Mr Buchan then clarified to the Board that the Bus Safety Campaign was an Aberdeen City Council programme in which Nestrans provided a contribution.

The report recommended –

that the Board –

- (a) approve the 2015/16 Budgets of £1,026,350 and £2,750,000 with programmes as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2, subject to anticipated funding levels being confirmed and making any appropriate adjustments following the Board's consideration; and
- (b) note the reserve list of projects detailed in Appendix 3.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

REVISED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

12. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which sought members approval of the Partnership's revised Financial Regulations.

Tom Buchan spoke to the report and informed the Board that the updated regulations had been developed with reference to Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council regulations and would both protect officers and provide value for money.

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The report recommended –

that the Board approve the Partnership's revised Financial Regulations as set out in the report and Appendix A.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the revised Financial Regulations as set out in the report.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

13. With reference to article 12 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 December, 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information and updates to members on a number of matters not requiring a decision as follows -

- Cross City Connections Study
- Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP)
- Access to Laurencekirk Study
- Nestrans Press Releases
- Marketing and Public Relations Update
- Getabout

The report recommended –

that the Board note the contents of the report.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the information provided; and
- (ii) to commend officers on progressing the Access to Laurencekirk Study and their productive engagement with Transport Scotland.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

14. With reference to article 13 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 December, 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director which outlined recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to Nestrans.

The Director spoke to the report and clarified to members that City Talk 2: Manchester was only cancelled during the day and that the evening session did go ahead. The Director also added that Nestrans had received additional invitations to attend the CityTalk: Calgary and the Royal Garden Party.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the report; and
- (ii) to note the updates provided.

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PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

15. With reference to article 14 of the minute of its previous meeting of 9 December, 2014, the Board had before it a report by the Director which advised of progress on pending business requested by the Board and major reports scheduled for forthcoming Board meetings, and to provide the opportunity for the Board to add to or amend the scheduling.

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 contained in the report.

-RAMSAY MILNE, Chairperson.