

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, 15 February 2017

Present: Councillor Milne (Chairperson); Councillor Aitchison (Vice Chairperson); Councillor Argyle (Vice Chairperson); and Councillor Clark, Councillor Finlayson, Councillor Ford, Dr Bochel, Mr Donald and Ms MacDonald.

In attendance: Mary Beattie (Aberdeenshire Council), Kirsty Chalmers (Nestrans), Lisa Christie (Aberdeen City Council), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Paul Finch (Aberdeenshire Council), David Jennings (SDPA), Councillor Johnston (Aberdeenshire Council), Lucy Johnston (Aberdeenshire Council), Nicky Laird (Nestrans), Andrew Leil (Aberdeenshire Council), Jackie Lockhart (Aberdeenshire Council), George Mair (CPT Scotland), Councillor Mollison (Aberdeenshire Council), Derick Murray (Nestrans) and Martyn Orchard (Aberdeen City Council).

Apologies: Mr Anderson and Councillor Grant.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 2 DECEMBER 2016

1. The Board had before it the minute of the previous meeting of 2 December 2016 for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute subject to the amendment of the figure within recommendation (a) of Article 5 (Kintore Station Update) to reflect that it should be £6,109,000.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2. The Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans which provided an update on liaison with other Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs), the Scottish Government and other organisations.

The report appended the minute of meeting of the Local Authorities/Bus Operators Forum (LABOF) Steering Group of 19 January 2017. The Board was also circulated with a paper in connection with the Civitas Portis project referred to in the minute.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note progress on liaison arrangements with other RTPs, the Scottish Government and others, and arrangements for future meetings.

The Board resolved:-

(i) to approve the recommendation; and

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- (ii) to note the minute of the LABOF Steering Group meeting and the supplementary paper circulated.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Dr Bochel declared an interest in the following item of business, left the meeting prior to its consideration and took no part in the Board's deliberations thereon.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE

3. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on matters relating to 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 decision of the Supreme Court to allow an appeal;
- (b) note the decision of the SDPA to progress with an appeal to the Supreme Court; and
- (c) note the payments made into the fund to date.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

PROGRESS REPORT

4. The Board had before it the progress report.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the content of the report; and
- (ii) to thank officers for their work on the various projects.

CONSULTATIONS

5. The Board had before it a report which informed members of recent publications and consultation papers of interest, and sought agreement for a response where appropriate.

The report recommended:-

that the Board -

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- (a) agree that the draft response to the Rail Infrastructure Strategy consultation contained within Appendix A to the report be submitted;
- (b) agree that a Nestrans response to the Councillors' Code of Conduct amendment consultation be submitted based on the comment included in the report including any amendment or additions agreed by the Board;
- (c) agree that a special meeting be held to agree a Nestrans response to the Planning Review Consultation;
- (d) agree to submit the response at Appendix C to the report to the Aberdeen City Council - Local Development Plan 2017 Supplementary Guidance;
- (e) agree a response to the Gender Representation Bill based on member discussion; and
- (f) agree that a Nestrans response to the National Transport Strategy early consultation survey based on the responses contained in the report and members' discussion be submitted.

With regard to the Councillors' Code of Conduct consultation, the report provided comments based on the proposal. Ms Lisa Christie, Solicitor, spoke to the report summarising the issue and providing an overview of the proposed comments provided by Nestrans.

The Director emphasised that the proposed response suggested that members of the Board should be able to take part in discussions on matters of a quasi-judicial or regulatory nature without compromising them when those matters were considered by their local authority at a later date, except in cases where Nestrans was the applicant or had objected. The Director advised that Nestrans had never been an applicant and had not submitted any objections to date, although there were occasions when they wished to provide comment.

With regard to the consultation on Transport Scotland's Rail Infrastructure Strategy, the Board had a wide ranging discussion but ultimately endorsed the draft response appended to the report. Members expressed concern in relation to the dramatic increase in costs for the Aberdeen to Inverness rail line. The Director stated that he would be meeting Transport Scotland the following week and would raise the matter with them.

In relation to the consultation on the future of the Scottish Planning System (Places, People and Planning), the Chairperson highlighted that a special meeting of the Board would be held on 24 March 2017 to consider the matter, and encouraged members to submit comments to the Director in advance of the meeting.

With regard to the Scottish Government consultation on the Draft Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill, the Board expressed their support for options 2 and 3 outlined within the report, namely:-

- (2) Suggest the Board adopts the principles of the Bill and encourages the Councils to support the principles and aims of the legislation when making Councillor appointments to the Nestrans Board. This should also fit with

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- the need to consider the political balance of the Board and appropriate representation from the relevant Council committees; and
- (3) Apply the principles of the legislation when making non-Councillor appointments to the Board.

Lastly, in relation to the National Transport Strategy - Early Engagement Survey, the Board discussed the matter and endorsed the responses contained within the report subject to the addition of reducing the need for transport in the future in terms of the main transport challenges and opportunities over the next twenty years.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve recommendations (a), (b), (c) and (d);
- (ii) to approve recommendation (e) on the basis of options (2) and (3) as outlined above; and
- (iii) to approve recommendation (f) subject to the addition of reducing the need for transport in the future.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

6. The Board had before it a report which informed members of recent publications of interest but which did not require a response.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the publications outlined in the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

PENSION DISCRETIONS

7. The Board had before it a report which advised of Aberdeenshire Council's position on pension discretions that had been agreed at the meeting of its Policy and Resources Committee on 21 April 2016.

The report recommended:-

that the Board adopt Aberdeenshire Council's positions on Employer Discretions in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Scotland Regulations and other Regulations as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

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2016/17 BUDGET MATTERS

8. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership's 2016/17 monitoring and forecast outturn position and considered budget and monitoring issues that had arisen.

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;
- (c) approve the carry forward of unspent budget on projects listed in Appendix 3 to 2017/18; and
- (d) note the projects for which Nestrans would receive funding from Sustrans for delivery by May 2017.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

2017/18 BUDGET MATTERS

9. The Board had before it a report which sought to agree the budget for 2017/18, subject to funding and the emerging details of the City Region Deal being confirmed.

The report recommended:-

that the Board -

- (a) approve the 2017/18 budgets of £1,106,350 and £3,677,000 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;
- (b) note the potential for additional funding for cycle schemes by Sustrans; and
- (c) note the reserve list of projects detailed in Appendix 3.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

10. 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 content of the report.

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The Board discussed rail fares and anomalies therein. Transport Scotland had responded to Nestrans and were looking into the matter, however it was acknowledged that it was quite a complex issue.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the report.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

12. The Board had before it a report which advised of 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 recommendation.

- **COUNCILLOR RAMSAY MILNE, Chairperson.**