

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 19 April 2017

Present: Councillor Milne (Chairperson); Councillor Aitchison (Vice Chairperson); Councillor Argyle (Vice-Chairperson); and Dr Bochel, Councillor Clark, Councillor Finlayson and Councillor Ford.

In attendance: Steven Archer (Aberdeenshire Council), Jenny Anderson (Nestrans), Ross Brennan (Aberdeenshire Council), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Simon Haston (Aberdeen City Council), David Jennings (SDPA), Roddy Matheson (Aberdeenshire Council), Anne McDonald (Audit Scotland), Councillor Mollison (as observer), Derick Murray (Nestrans) Eric Owens (Aberdeen City Council) and Emma Parr (Aberdeen City Council)

Apologies: Mr Anderson (Vice Chairperson) Councillor Dickson, Mr Donald, Councillor Grant, Ms MacDonald and Mr Mair.

INTRODUCTIONS

1. The Chair thanked all the Members of the Board for the last 5 years, thanked both Councillor Argyle and Councillor Aitchison as Vice Chairs and Mr Eddie Anderson, Vice Chair particularly in relation to negotiating with Ministers on rail issues. The Chair also thanked the Director and staff of Nestrans and the support officers from Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 24 MARCH 2017

2. The Board had before it the minute of the previous meeting of 24 March 2017 for approval.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the minute as a correct record; and
- (ii) to note the verbal update provided by the Director regarding service 80 Dyce shuttle bus and that Stagecoach and the Airport had met and were looking at alternatives to keep the service.

PRESENTATION ON SMART CITIES BY SIMON HASTON, HEAD OF IT AND TRANSFORMATION, ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

3. Simon Haston, Head of IT and Transformation at Aberdeen City Council presented to the Board on the concept and shaping of 'Smart Cities'.

Mr Haston explained the four key elements involved in shaping a 'Smart City', the first being infrastructure, with Aberdeen currently below standards in the region for

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connectivity. Second key element being data and ensuring we are collecting data on things like traffic and collate into one big pool so it can be used for different purposes. Thirdly, a key element is applying the information and how to best use it. The fourth element is digital skills; Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire is a highly digitally literate region.

In relation to transport in a 'Smart City', Mr Haston explained that the future of transport would be looking at the changing habits of people travelling to and from work – the current '9 – 5' would become less of the norm with flexible working and people using different workspaces across a City. In relation to freight and cargo, an increase in electronic tagging systems and automated vehicles would be the future. Trains would become autonomous which is happening in places in Europe and the US. Mr Haston presented that it is thought that within 3 years this will be a mix of 4 modes of cars on the road; a brick car which is a privately owned vehicle, a connected car has Wi-Fi which often will give live traffic updates, a bubble car is a privately owned car which drives for you and an autonomous car as a source of public transport.

Following questions by Members of the Board, the Director thanked Mr Haston for his presentation.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

4. The Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans which provided an update on liaison 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 provided an update advising Members regarding Laurencekirk junctions, the options design was underway and there had been a well-attended public meeting.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

Prior to consideration of the item of business, Dr Bochel declared an interest by virtue of her employment and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND

5. The Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans which provided an update on matters relating to the Strategic Transport Fund guidance.

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The report recommended:-

That the Board note the date for the Supreme Court Hearing.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

DRAFT 2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT AND BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2017/18

6. The Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans which presented a draft Nestrans Annual Report for 2016/17 and Business Plan for 2017/18.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) consider the draft 2016/17 Annual Report and Business Plan 2017-18;
- (b) approve publication of this report on the Nestrans website once the 2016-17 financial information has been confirmed and included within the report;
- (c) instruct a link to the published report to be sent to Scottish Ministers and the Chief Executives at Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire 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 approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to thank all the Staff involved.

FIVE YEAR REVIEW

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans which presented a review of transport developments in the North East over the past five years.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the main achievements towards delivery of the Regional Transport Strategy between 2012/13 – 2016/17.

The Director of Nestrans thanked Members of the Board and office bearers. The Chair advised that considerable progress had been made over the last five years and commented that the 6 dedicated staff members have worked hard to achieve this.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Argyle remarked that for a small organisation we have achieved a lot and thanked the Director for persisting to have Nestrans voice heard.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

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CIVITAS PORTIS

8. The Board had before it a report by the Transport Strategy Manager which provided an update for the Board in respect of the European project, Civitas Portis, in which Nestrans are a partner.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) note the contents of the report;
- (b) note the intention to appoint a Freight Adviser to support Nestrans' work on the project; and
- (c) approve participation in the General Assembly Meeting in Trieste in September

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL GRANT SCHEME

9. The Board had before them a report by the Director of Nestrans which provided an update on Nestrans' Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme and recommended some amendments to the current guidance and criteria for applicants.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) approve the amended guidance and criteria for Nestrans' Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme; and
- (b) note the plans to advertise the scheme with a time constrained window for applications and a deadline.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

EQUALITIES MAINSTREAMING AND OUTCOMES REPORT

10. The Board had before it a report by the Transport Executive (Strategy and Delivery) which presented the Mainstreaming Equalities Report and Equalities Outcome Report.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) approve the Mainstreaming Equalities Report for publication on the Nestrans website; and
- (b) approve the Equalities Outcomes Report for publication on the Nestrans website.

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The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

11. The Board had before it a report by the Transport Strategy Manager which presented the obligations under the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011 and presented the Nestrans Records Management Plan for approval.

The report recommended:-

That the Board approve the Draft Records Management Plan.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note that Tricia Howden was the recognised Records Manager; and
- (ii) to approve the Draft Records Management Plan.

PROGRESS REPORT

12. The Board had before it the progress report.

The Board resolved:-

To note the contents of the report.

CONSULTATIONS

13. The Board had before it a report by the Transport Strategy Manager which informed Members of recent publications and consultation papers of interest and sought to agree a response where appropriate.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the draft Scottish Energy Strategy and instruct officers to prepare a response welcoming the commitments towards reducing Scotland's dependence on non-renewable fuels in the transport sector.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

2016/17 BUDGET MATTERS

14. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which provided an update on the Partnership's 2016/17 monitoring and forecast outturn position and to consider any budget or monitoring issues that may arise.

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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 spend on last year's delay in drawdown in Appendix 4.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

15. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which sought agreement to the proposed Treasury Strategy Statement for 2017/18.

The report recommended:-

That the Board approve the revised Treasury Management Strategy as set out in the Appendices to the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2016-2017

16. The Board had before it a report by Audit Scotland which presented the 2016/17 Annual Audit Plan.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the audit plan provided by Audit Scotland.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

17. The Board had before it a report which provided information and updates regarding 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 Transport Strategy Manager highlighted a response which had been received from the Minister for Transport and the Islands regarding commitment and funding for strategic Park and Ride sites in and around Aberdeen. The response advised that the Scottish Government were unable to commit to additional funding towards the Park and Ride sites in the North East at this time.

The Transport Strategy Manager advised the Board that the new Craibstone (Dyce) Park and Ride site was partially opened on Monday 30 January 2017.

Other highlighted points included the CrossCountry rail services plan to reduce the number of services operating from the North East of Scotland however the proposed timetable had now been withdrawn citing that they recognised the important role in filling timetable gaps and capacity to and from Edinburgh and beyond.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

18. 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.

CLOSING REMARKS

19. Prior to the meeting closing, the Vice Chair, Councillor Argyle thanked the Chair on behalf of the Board for being an effective Vice Chair and more recently, Chair of the Board.