

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Monday, 26 June 2017

Present: Councillor Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor MacDonald (Vice-Chairperson); and Councillors Aitchison, Bell, Cox, Graham (as substitute for Councillor Jennifer Stewart), Nicoll and Pike.

In attendance: Stephen Archer (Aberdeenshire Council), David Jennings (SDPA), Eric Owens (Aberdeen City Council), (Advisors to the Board), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Nicky Laird (Nestrans), Andrew Leil (Aberdeenshire Council), Derick Murray (Nestrans), , Emma Parr (Aberdeen City Council), Ruth Taylor (Aberdeenshire Council) and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council)

Apologies: Mr Eddie Anderson, Dr Margaret Bochel, Mr Gerry Donald, Mr George Mair (Advisor to the Board) and Councillor Jennifer Stewart.

In the absence of a Chairperson, Councillor Aitchison opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the first meeting of the Board following the recent local government elections.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1. Councillor Sandra Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Cox, proposed that Councillor Argyle be appointed as Chair of Nestrans.

The Board resolved:-

to appoint Councillor Argyle as Chair.

At this juncture, Councillor Argyle took the Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRS

2. The Director of Nestrans advised the Board that it was normal practice to have at least two Vice Chairs, one being a Councillor and one being an external member. Since the current Vice Chair, Mr Eddie Anderson had already served two terms as Vice Chair, under the Regional Transport Partnership Guidance for Membership this was the maximum he could serve as Vice Chair and nominations were sought for the two Vice Chair positions.

Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Graham, proposed that Councillor Macdonald be appointed as Vice Chair of Nestrans.

The Chair, seconded by Vice Chair Councillor Macdonald proposed that Dr Margaret Bochel be appointed as Vice Chair of Nestrans.

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The Board resolved:-

- (i) to appoint Councillor Macdonald as a Vice Chair; and
- (ii) to appoint Dr Margaret Bochel as a Vice Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF ADVISERS

3. The Director of Nestrans advised the Board on the current professional advisors, Stephen Archer, Aberdeenshire Council, David Jennings, Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) and George Mair, Director, Confederation of Passenger Transport. Mr Peter Leonard, Aberdeen City Council had recently resigned his post and Aberdeen City Council had put forward Eric Owens the current Interim Head of Planning and Sustainable Development for Board approval as an advisor to the Board, as permitted under the Regional Transport Partnerships – Guidance on Membership.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to appoint Eric Owens, Interim Head of Planning and Sustainable Development, Aberdeen City Council as Advisor to the Board for a period of four years; and
- (ii) to reaffirm Mr Archer, Mr Jennings and Mr Mair as advisors to the Board

APPOINTMENT OF NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBER

4. The Director of Nestrans advised the Board that since Sandra Macdonald had been elected as a Councillor in the recent local government elections there was now a vacancy for a non-councillor Member.

The Board resolved:-

to appoint a non-councillor member by Appointment Sub Committee consisting of the Chair, Vice – Chair's and the Advisors.

EQUALITIES MONITORING

5. The Director of Nestrans advised the Board of the requirement to report gender equalities.

The Board resolved:-

to note the update provided by the Director.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING - 19 APRIL 2017

6. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 19 April 2017 for approval.

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The Chair, as a returning member, seconded by Councillor Aitchison, as a returning member proposed to accept the minute as a correct record.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

At this juncture, the Board agreed to bring the next items of business forward in order that the representatives from Aberdeenshire Council could depart the meeting after their report had been considered.

2017/18 BUDGET MATTERS

7. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which provided an update on the Partnership's 2017/18 monitoring and forecast outturn.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the monitoring position and forecast presented in Appendix 1.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2016/17

8. The Board had before it a report by the Treasurer which presented the unaudited annual accounts for 2016/17 and sought approval for the final delay in drawdown.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) considers the unaudited annual accounts for 2016/17 and approves their issue to the external auditor and the Controller of Audit; and
- (b) approves the final delay in drawdown for 2016/17 as per Appendix 3.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9. The Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans which provided an update on liaison with other RTP's, 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.

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The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to re-send the letter previously sent to Lord Ahmed of Wimbledon on 17 April, seeking assistance for local authorities in improving public transport access to airports to help reduce congestion and emissions.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE

10. The Board had before it a report by the Transport Executive (Strategy & Delivery) which provided an update on matters relating to the Strategic Transport fund guidance.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note that the Supreme Court hearing has now taken place and we now await the judgement.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

11. The Board had before it a report by the Transport Officer which provided an annual monitoring report in support of the Regional Transport Strategy.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) note the content of the report and the trends emerging against many of the RTS targets; and
- (b) approve the Nestrans Monitoring report 2017, which will be uploaded to the Nestrans's website

The Board resolved to:-

approve the recommendations.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

12. The Board had before it a report by the Transport and Strategy Manager which provided an Annual Report outlining Nestrans performance against a number of agreed indicators.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the content of the report.

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The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to investigate the presence of Nestrans via other social media channels such as Facebook.

BUS ACTION PLAN / QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS REPORT

13. The Board had before it a report by the Transport Executive (Strategy & Delivery) which provided an update on the discussions being held through the Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum (LABOF) on the options for refreshing the current structure of the Quality Partnership for Public Transport.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) agree the proposed two tier approach for a region wide voluntary partnership agreement and subsequent corridor specific agreements such as statutory or enhanced partnership agreements;
- (b) agree to the involvement of Nestrans in the establishment of a Quality Partnership Board and development of the Terms of Reference of a future Quality Partnership Board;
- (c) request a more detailed report on the establishment of a Quality Partnership Board and region-wide Voluntary Quality Partnership Agreement to the next meeting of the Board in September 2017.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

PROGRESS REPORT

14. The Board had before it the progress report.

The Board resolved:-

to note the contents of the report.

CONSULTATIONS

15. The Board had before it a report by the Transport and Strategy Manager which provided an update of recent publications and consultation papers of interest and sought to agree a response where appropriate.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

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- (a) note the consultation on the Private Members' Bill regarding establishing 20mph as the default speed limit and agree that members should make individual responses if they so wish;
- (b) endorse the officers' response to the consultation on the National Plan for Improving Air Quality attached as Appendix A;
- (c) note the response to the Cairngorms National Park LDP consultation in Appendix B;
- (d) note the response to the consultants preparing Aberdeen's Strategic Car Parking Review at Appendix C;
- (e) consider the draft response to the Scottish Government's consultation on Improving Parking and approve the attached Appendix D as Nestrans' response; and
- (f) consider the draft response to HITRANS on their draft Regional Transport Strategy and approve the attached Appendix E as Nestrans' response.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

16. The Board had before it a report by the Transport and Strategy Manager which informed members of recent publications of interest but not requiring a response.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the publications outlined above.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

17. The Board had before it a report by the Transport and Strategy Manager which provided information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring decisions.

The report recommended:-

That the Board note the contents of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

18. The Board had before it a list of recent and forthcoming conferences.

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The Transport and Strategy Manager advised the Board that they should contact Officers if they felt their attendance at a specific conference would be appropriate.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the report.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

19. The Board had before it a report advising Members on 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 recommendations.

MATTER OF URGENCY

The Chair intimated that he had directed in terms of Section 50 (B) 4 (b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency as the remaining meeting dates for 2017 needed to be confirmed into Member's diaries to allow them to plan other commitments accordingly.

BOARD MEETING DATES 2017

20. The Board had before them a report by the Director of Nestrans which proposed new dates for the remaining Board meetings in 2017.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) considers the above and agrees the proposed dates; and
- (b) requests that appointments be sent out to members and ensure venues are booked.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.