

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 7 November 2018

Present: Councillor Peter Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor Sandra Macdonald (Vice Chairperson) and Dr Margaret Bochel (Vice Chairperson), and Councillors David Aitchison, Philip Bell, John Cox, Alex Nicoll, Colin Pike and Jennifer Stewart; Gerry Donald and Ian Ross.

In Attendance: Councillor Ian Mollison, Stephen Archer, Angela Morrison and Ruth Taylor (Aberdeenshire Council); Rab Dickson and Derick Murray (Nestrans); Gale Beattie, Elena Carlisle and Mark Masson (Aberdeen City Council).

Apologies: George Mair.

MEMBERSHIP OF NESTRANS

1. At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairperson advised that Mr Eddie Anderson (External Member), a long serving member and previous Vice Chairperson of the Board had submitted a letter of resignation due to a change of circumstance in relation to his work commitments.

The Chairperson wished to express thanks to Mr Anderson for his work and contribution to the Board.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to concur with the Chair;
- (ii) to note that the Chair and the Vice Chairs would write to Mr Anderson on behalf of the Board expressing their thanks for his commitment and contribution; and
- (iii) to agree that arrangements to establish a Nestrans Appointments Committee to act with powers, as agreed for previous appointments, to recruit a replacement external member to the Board, subject to Ministerial approval of the preferred candidate, would be undertaken in due course.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. The Chairperson declared an interest in relation to item 6(b) Publications and Consultations, specifically relating to the Cairngorms National Park – Proposed Local Development Plan update by virtue of him being a Council appointed Board member of Cairngorms National Park Authority. He considered the nature of his interest did not require him to leave the meeting and therefore chose to remain in the meeting for consideration of the item.

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MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

3. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 19 September, 2018 for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

PRESENTATION BY SCOTRAIL AND NETWORK RAIL: ABERDEEN TO INVERNESS NEXT STEPS, NEW TRAIN TIMETABLE FROM DECEMBER AND INTRODUCTION OF INTERCITY TRAINS BETWEEN SCOTLAND'S CITIES

4. The Board received a powerpoint presentation from Ewan Tait, Scotrail and Sarah Thomson, Bam Nuttall.

During the presentation, the Board noted the following:-

- that Scotrail and Network Rail were currently in the planning stages for next years blockade;
- that a similar style blockade from Dyce to Inverurie would take place between May and August 2019;
- that the compounds, haul roads and access points were currently being established; and
- that route working rules had commenced (between the last train at night and first train in the morning) in order to start preparation works for major civil engineering works commencing in May 2019.

The Board were advised that the scale of works would include 16 miles of new track, 36,000 new sleepers, 120,000 new tones of ballast, 5 UTX – Bridge under pass, 5 new signalling switches (S&C) units, 15 Bridge improvements and staff would be working around the clock to deliver the program of works.

The Board heard that 26 refurbished InterCity trains were now in use which operated two returns to Edinburgh (Monday to Friday) and one return on Saturdays. From December, they will operate two returns from Edinburgh six days per week and that "Classic" High Speed Trains (HST) will be used across the network from December supplementing the fleet until there were sufficient refurbished HSTs. It was noted that HSTs will operate 48 out of 99 InterCity services from December.

The Board were then advised of the December 2018/2019 revised train timetable and works timetable and their approach to manage disruption as follows:-

- that they would minimise the impact for other customers, keeping timetable changes west of Inverurie and Huntly to a minimum;
- that there would be a rail service between Dyce and Aberdeen during the blockade;

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- that there would be a bus replacement service between Aberdeen, Dyce, Inverurie and Huntly.
 - that the focus was still using public transport rather than shifting to car;
 - that there would be the provision of a rail replacement bus service all day, with buses connecting into rail services during the disruption;
 - that they would ensure resilience with a single supplier who would bring additional buses into local areas; and
 - that they would promote First and Stagecoach bus services as public transport alternatives;
- that there would be plentiful additional well-trained staff at key stations; and
- there would be planned Aberdeen city events.

The Board noted that during 2019, the railway will be closed between Aberdeen, Dyce, Inverurie and Huntly in three phases as follows:-

- 3 May to 14 June (6 weeks) – Bus replacement for Dyce to Inverurie – Works;
- 14 June to 9 August (8 weeks) – Bus replacement for Dyce to Huntly – Signalling; and
- 9 August to 19 August (8 Days) – Bus replacement for Aberdeen to Huntly – Commissioning.

Board members asked a number of questions, specifically in relation to passenger numbers and communication with the public prior to work and 2019 timetable introduction.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to thank Ewan Tait and Sarah Thomson for their presentation; and
- (ii) to note that Sarah Thomson would circulate passenger demand forecast details, particularly those from Aberdeen to Montrose.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

5. The Board had before it a report by the Director of Nestrans, which provided an update on liaison activity with other RTP's with the Scottish Government and other organisations.

The report recommended:-

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

The Director highlighted amongst other items, the following areas for members' attention:-

- Aberdeen City Region Deal Transport Working Group, Aberdeen, 9 October 2018;
- National Transport Strategy Working Group, Glasgow, 23 October 2018;
- Bus and Active Travel Summit, Edinburgh, 24 October 2018;
- Transport Scotland (Laurencekirk Junctions), Dundee, 2 November 2018;

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- Cosla Environment and Economy Board, Edinburgh, 2 November 2018; and
- Workplace Parking Levys, Edinburgh.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY – PROGRESS AND UPDATE

6. The Board had before it a report which provided details in relation to the development of a review of the Regional Transport Strategy.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the contents of this report and the notes of the North East Transport Consultative Forum meeting; and
- (b) identify the next scheduled meeting of the Board on Wednesday 12 December 2018, as being focussed on developing the Strategy, with proposals to be brought forward regarding:-
 - (1) the Roles and Remit of a Steering Group for developing the Strategy, involving Chair and both Vice Chairs;
 - (2) the role of a Sounding Board consisting of all members of Nestrans and substitutes as well as other Councillors with a particular interest in the developing Strategy;
 - (3) a report outlining the possible costs and benefits of one or more visits to other cities, where key considerations of relevance for the future of the north east could be validated;
 - (4) a detailed Programme of meetings and key tasks towards delivery of the Strategy; and
 - (5) an Initial Scoping Report, identifying the key issues and discussion topics which require to be considered in developing a new Regional Transport Strategy to 2040.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to note that members would consider the issues above at a working group prior to endorsing the actions at the December Board Meeting immediately thereafter.

RAIL ACTION PLAN UPDATE

7. The Board had before it a report which provided an update in relation to a number of rail related issues.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the contents of the report and progress in relation to rail matters.

Rab Dickson highlighted the following areas for members' attention:-

- National Rail Review;

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- Revolution in Rail;
- Aberdeen to Central Belt;
- Kintore Station; and
- Station Improvements.

During the discussion, Councillor Nicoll suggested that in terms of the planning applications to upgrade or improve stations within Aberdeenshire, that they also consider addressing changing facilities.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to investigate whether changing facilities for Aberdeenshire stations could be addressed and added to the planning applications.

PROGRESS REPORT

8. The Board had before it a progress report which outlined the status of various activities in support of the Regional Transport Strategy.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the progress report.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

9. The Board had before it a report which provided information on the recent publications and consultation papers of interest and sought to agree a response where appropriate.

The report recommended:-

That the Board –

- (a) consider Nestrans' response to the consultation on Proposed Strategic Development Plan and provide input as to its contents;
- (b) approve the attached Appendix B as Nestrans' response to the consultation on A96 dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen;
- (c) endorse the response included in Appendix C as Nestrans' response to the Cairngorms National Park consultation on its Local Development Plan Action Programme; and
- (d) note the Noise Action Plan for Aberdeen Airport.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations subject to minor amendments to the letter and Appendix B in relation to consultation on A96 dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen; and
- (ii) that a suitable draft response be prepared for (1) Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan – Proposed Plan consultation; and (2) Cross-City

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Connections study and that the draft responses be circulated to the Chair and Vice-Chairs prior to them being issued.

2018/19 BUDGET MATTERS

10. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership's 2018/19 monitoring and forecast outturn position and sought consideration of any budget or monitoring issues that may arise.

The report recommended:-

that the board –

- (a) note the monitoring position and forecast presented in Appendix 1;
- (b) approve the virements presented in Appendix 2;
- (c) note the forecast for Kintore Railway Station; and
- (d) note the Strategic Transport Fund position.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

11. 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 contents of the report.

The Director provided an update in relation to the letter that was issued on behalf of the Board to the Cabinet Secretary regarding Park and Ride Developments, advising that an officer level meeting will be requested with Transport Scotland in this regard.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) that Park and Ride usage numbers on 5 November 2018 relating to the firework display at Aberdeen Beach be obtained and circulated to members.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

12. The Board had before it a list of recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to Nestrans.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the list.

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PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

13. The Board had before it a report which (1) provided information on the progress on pending business and major reports scheduled for forthcoming Board meetings; and (2) provided 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 for future Board meetings.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

- **COUNCILLOR PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson.**