

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 19 June 2019

Present: Councillor Peter Argyle (Chairperson); Councillor Sandra Macdonald and Dr Margaret Bochel (Vice Chairs); and Councillors David Aitchison, Phillip Bell, John Cox, Ross Grant (as substitute for Councillor Jennifer Stewart), Ian Mollison (as substitute for Colin Pike) and Alex Nicoll; Mr Colin Allanach and Mr Ian Ross.

In Attendance: Anne MacDonald (Audit Scotland); Jenny Anderson, Louise Calder, Kirsty Chalmers, Rab Dickson and Nicky Laird (Nestrans); Stephen Archer, Andrew Leil, Ruth Taylor and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council); and Gale Beattie, Lisa Christie and Mark Masson (Aberdeen City Council),

Apologies: Councillors Colin Pike and Jennifer Stewart; Mr Gerry Donald, Mr George Mair and Mr Derick Murray.

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 17 APRIL 2019

2. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 17 April 2019, for approval.

The Chairperson welcomed Colin Allanach to his first meeting as an external member of the Board.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the minute as a correct record; and
- (ii) to welcome Colin Allanach to the Board.

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NON COUNCILLOR MEMBERS

3. The Board had before it a report which outlined the process to appoint a replacement non-Councillor Board member and sought authorisation to extend the appointments of the other non-Councillor Board members.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) approve the appointment of Mr Colin Allanach as a non-Councillor member on the Board through to October 2024; and
- (b) endorse the extension of the appointments of Dr Margaret Bochel, Mr Gerry Donald and Mr Ian Ross for the period to October 2024.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

4. The Board had before it a report by the Acting 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 Acting Director highlighted amongst other items, the following areas for members' attention:-

- A96 Dualling, Aberdeen, 29 May 2019;
- Bus Alliance Board, Aberdeen, 30 May 2019; and
- Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 Regional Grouping, Aberdeen, 29 May 2019.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY PROGRESS AND UPDATE

5. With reference to article 5 of the minute of the previous meeting of 17 April 2019, the Board had before it a report which updated members in relation to the recent meeting of the North East Transport Consultative Forum, the timescales for development of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) and progress in the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the RTS.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

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- (a) note the contents of the report; and
- (b) agree the amended timescales for production of the RTS.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

6. The Board had before them a report which provided details of the Annual Monitoring Report in support of the Regional Transport Strategy.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the contents of this report and the trends emerging against many of the RTS targets;
- (b) approve the Nestrans Monitoring report 2019, which will be uploaded to the Nestrans' website; and
- (c) instruct officers to develop a suite of suitable indicators and targets to reflect the developing Regional Transport Strategy to 2040 and report these to a future Board meeting.

Nicky Laird provided an overview of the content of the report and answered questions from members. She also advised that there was an amendment to the Monitoring Report relating to section 11 (Cycling). An updated version of this section of the report was circulated to members at the meeting.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to note the amendment to the report at section 11 (Cycling).

ANNUAL NESTRANS PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

7. The Committee had before it a report which provided details of the Nestrans Annual Report which outlined performance against a number of agreed indicators.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the contents of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

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CUMULATIVE TRANSPORT APPRAISAL

8. The Board had before it a report which provided information on the results of the Cumulative Transport Appraisal Option Testing Report and sought approval for its publication.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the findings of this work; and
- (b) approve the final report for publication on the Nestrans website.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

FRASERBURGH AND PETERHEAD TO ABERDEEN STRATEGIC TRANSPORT STUDY - FURTHER RAIL WORK

9. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the progress of the Fraserburgh and Peterhead to Aberdeen Strategic Transport Study (FPASTS); and which outlined the results of the further study which considered aspects of rail development.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the contents of the report and the outcomes of the report regarding the further rail studies in support of the FPASTS study;
- (b) agree to the publication of the consultants' reports to be published on the Nestrans' website; and
- (c) progress the options for further stations in the context of a potential cross-Aberdeen rail service, including consideration of new stations south of the City.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to note that the Acting Director would liaise with colleagues at Aberdeen International Airport and P&J Live regarding joint future work to develop options to improve access between the two locations, and that a report be brought back to the Board in this regard in due course.

A96 DUALLING

10. The Board had before it a report which provided an update in relation to the Scottish Government's proposals to dual the A96 between Inverness and the AWPR to the west of Aberdeen.

The report recommended:-

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that the Board note the content of the report and the progress towards the dualling of the A96 East of Huntly section.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

ROADS HIERARCHY STUDY

11. The Board had before it a report which presented the findings of the investigation into options to update the roads hierarchy within the boundary of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route along with varying levels of intervention to support a new hierarchy.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the findings of the North East Roads Hierarchy Study; and
- (b) agree that the full study report and appendices be published on the Nestrans website.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

CROSS CITY CONNECTIONS

12. The Board had before it a report which presented the findings of a report considered by Aberdeen City Council into various public transport and active travel options in and around the city.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the findings of the Cross-City Connections Report; and
- (b) agree that the full study report and appendices be published on the Nestrans website.

Councillor Mollison pointed out that Chapelton of Elsick was now named Chapelton.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

BUS ACTION PLAN (STATE OF NETWORK)

13. The Board had before it a report which provided details on the work of the North East Bus Alliance and which presented the findings of the recent work to assess the State of the Bus Network in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

The report recommended:-

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that the Board –

- (a) note the findings of the State of the Bus Network Report; and
- (b) note the continuing work and next steps identified by the North East Bus Alliance Group.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

PROGRESS REPORT

14. 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

15. 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) approve the attached Appendix B as Nestrans' response to the Fraserburgh Harbour Masterplan;
- (b) approve the comments contained in the report as Nestrans' response to NHS Grampian's consultation on a healthier and more active future for the North East of Scotland;
- (c) approve the comments contained in the report as Nestrans' response to the consultation on Aberdeen Adapts;
- (d) instruct officers to submit a Nestrans response to the consultation on Aberdeen City Council's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, following approval by Chair and Vice Chairs; and
- (e) note the publication of the Scottish Government's National Islands Plan.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2018-2019

16. The Board had before it a report which provided details of the 2018/19 Annual Audit Plan by Audit Scotland which outlined the audit work to be undertaken to provide an opinion on the Partnership's financial statements.

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The report recommended:-

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

Anne MacDonald provided an overview of the report which had been prepared in accordance with Audit Scotland's Code of Audit Practice.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2018/19

17. The Board had before it a report which provided details of the Unaudited Annual Accounts for 2018/19 and sought approval of the final delay in drawdown.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) consider the Unaudited Annual Accounts for 2018/19 and approves their issue to the external Auditor and the Controller of Audit as per Appendix 1;
- (b) approve the final virements as per Appendix 3; and
- (c) approve the final delay in drawdown for 2018/19 as per Appendix 4.

Ruth Taylor highlighted the main issues contained in the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

2019/20 BUDGET MATTERS

18. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership's 2019/20 monitoring and forecast outturn position.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the monitoring position and forecast presented in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (b) approve the virements presented in Appendix 2 of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

19. The Board had before it a report which provided information and updates on a number of matters not requiring a decision.

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The report recommended:-

that the Board note the contents of the report.

Rab Dickson highlighted the following items for members' information:-

- Getabout Update, including Active Ellon Day on 16 June, Clean Air Day on 20 June and In Town Without my Car Day on 15 September 2019;
- Railway Station Travel Plans (Inverurie, Dyce and Stonehaven);
- Grampian Cycle Partnership; and
- Hands Up Scotland Survey 2018.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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

Rab Dickson advised that he would be willing to provide feedback in relation to any of the conferences on request from members.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the list.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

21. 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 schedule.

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.

As described in paragraph 50A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the following item contained personal or sensitive personal information about a particular person(s), therefore the press and public were excluded from the meeting.

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STAFFING MATTERS

22. With reference to article 16 of the minute of meeting of 13 February 2019, the Board had before it a report which sought approval of the extension of the temporary delegation of the powers granted to the Nestrans Director to the Transport Strategy Manager for 'housekeeping' purposes during an ongoing period of absence.

The report recommended:-

that the Board approve that due to the prolonged absence of the Director, that the Director may sub-delegate the following powers and appointment temporarily to the Transport Strategy Manager:-

- (a) the delegation of powers granted to the Director as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (b) the appointment as Nestrans' proper officer;
all subject to the following conditions:-
 - (1) the period of planned absence of the Director is greater than 3 weeks;
 - (2) the date of commencement and planned end of that absence is notified to the Board; and
 - (3) that where an extension of the sub-delegations contained in recommendation (a) and (b) is required for a period greater than that so notified, that the extension is approved by the Board.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
 - (ii) to convey thanks to the staff at Nestrans for the additional work they have undertaken to date.
- **COUNCILLOR PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson**