

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 18 September 2019

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

In Attendance: Councillor Ian Mollison, Rab Dickson, Jon Barron, Jennifer Anderson and Louise Calder (Nestrans); Anne MacDonald (Audit Scotland); Stephen Archer, Chris Smith and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council); Gale Beattie, Robert Templeton and Mark Masson (Aberdeen City Council).

Apologies: Councillor Jennifer Stewart and George Mair

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.

FORMER DIRECTOR OF NESTRANS

1. Following the recent news of his retirement on 31 August 2019, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Board, wished to thank Mr Derick Murray for his commitment, determination and contribution as Director of Nestrans since his appointment in 2007. He indicated that it had been an honour and privilege to have worked with Mr Murray during this time, and particularly since he was appointed as Chairperson.

He wished Mr Murray good health and best wishes for the future.

The Board resolved:-
to concur with the Chairperson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 19 JUNE 2019

3. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 19 June 2019, for approval.

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The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

NESTRANS BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2020

4. The Board had before it a report which sought approval of new dates for the Board meetings in 2020.

The proposed meeting dates were as follows:-

All Wednesdays at 2pm -

- 12 February;
- 15 April;
- 24 June;
- 16 September;
- 4 November; and
- 9 December.

All meetings will start at 2pm and would be held in Woodhill House.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) consider the above and agrees the proposed dates; and
- (b) request that appointments be sent out to members following this meeting.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

5. 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:-

- Public Meeting on Rail Matters – Laurencekirk, 28 June 2019;
- Scottish Policy Conference – Glasgow, 28 August 2019;
- Bus Alliance Board – Aberdeen, 29 August 2019 (a draft minute of which was appended to the report); and
- Aberdeen-Central Belt Rail Enhancement Reference Group – Dundee, 12 September 2019.

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The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

6. The Board had before it a report which provided information on the recent publication of a Consultative Draft of the new National Transport Strategy and provided key bullet points regarding its content.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the publication of the Consultative Draft of the National Transport Strategy 2;
- (b) consider the key points from the draft and the implications for developing Nestrans' Regional Transport Strategy; and
- (c) approve the response in Appendix A as Nestrans' response and instruct officers to submit the response to Transport Scotland by the deadline of 23 October 2019.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

TRANSPORT BILL AND EMERGING IMPLICATIONS (ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES)

7. The Board had before it a report which provided information on the recent publication of a document relating to Transport Governance in Scotland which had been developed in conjunction with the National Transport Strategy.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the publication of the supporting document "Roles and Responsibilities - Assessment of Transport Governance in Scotland";
- (b) note the summary of key points included within the report; and
- (c) instruct officers to continue dialogue with Transport Scotland as they take forward consideration of options for future governance.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY PROGRESS AND UPDATE

8. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on progress towards developing the next Regional Transport Strategy to 2040, which focussed on the outcomes from the Members' Workshop on 29 August 2019, proposed headline principles, outcomes and targets for the RTS and an update on consultation and engagement.

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The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) agree the six headline principles of the RTS and associated targets;
- (b) note the responses received through the consultation on the discussion papers; and
- (c) instruct officers to identify where additional data is required, including exploring options for commissioning a region-wide travel diary survey and bring back proposals on this to a future Board.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

LOCAL RAIL DEVELOPMENT STUDY

9. The Board had before it a report which provided an update in regard to progressing the options for further railway stations in the context of a potential cross-Aberdeen rail service.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the contents of this report;
- (b) instruct officers to prepare a consultancy brief and commission the work; and
- (c) request further updates as the study is progressed.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN UPDATE

10. The Board had before it a report which provided an update in relation to Active Travel and Nestrans' Active Travel Action Plan.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the content of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

PROGRESS REPORT

11. 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:-

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to note the content of the progress report.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

12. 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) note the publication of the Programme for Government and the implications for transport policies and initiatives; and
- (b) note the publication of the Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy – An Independent Review – Final Report to the Scottish Government.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

2019/20 BUDGET MATTERS

13. 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 virement presented in Appendix 2 of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018/19 AND THE REPORT ON THE 2018/19 AUDIT BY THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

14. The Board had before it a report which provided details of the audited Annual Accounts for 2018/19 and sought their approval for signature.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) approve for signature the audited Annual Accounts for 2018/19;
- (b) consider the External Auditor's Report;
- (c) agree that a £10 charge for a printed copy of the Annual Accounts be made and that the Accounts can be accessed and downloaded free of charge from the Nestrans website.

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The Board heard from Anne MacDonald in relation to the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INTERNAL AUDIT

15. The Board had before it a report which provided information on the internal audit carried out in 2018/19.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) consider the attached Internal Audit report and service response/action; and
- (b) agree threshold levels and standards for variance reporting and instruct officers to comply with this.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

16. The Board had before it a report that provided information and updates on a number of matters not requiring decisions.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the content of the report.

Rab Dickson (1) made reference to the 'In Town Without My Car Day', held on 15 September 2019; and (2) advised that ScotRail had recently announced a Station Travel Plan Delivery Fund (STPDF) to deliver outputs from the Station Travel Plan programme, with grants in the region of £10,000 - £25,000 (50% to be match funded) being made available, although the deadline for grant applications was 25 October 2019.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to instruct the Acting Director to take forward the proposals relating to the STPDF.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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

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Rab Dickson advised that he would be attending and presenting at the Civitas Forum in Graz, Austria on 2-4 October 2019, noting that his costs were 100% funded by Civitas Portis.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the list.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

18. 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 to future Board meetings.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

In terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items to avoid disclosure of information of the classes described in paragraph 1 of Schedule 7(A) to the Act.

CIVITAS PORTIS UPDATE

19. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the progress with the Civitas Portis European project as it enters its final year.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) consider the report and notes the progress with the project; and
- (b) agree the proposals within the report to ensure maximum effectiveness through the project.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

CYCLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

20. The Board had before it a report which sought approval to extend continuation of Nestrans part funding of the Cycling Development Officer post in partnership with Sustrans.

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The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) approve an extension to the contract of the Cycling Development Officer for a further two years; and
- (b) agree to commit funding from future budgets to continue this partnership with Sustrans.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

21. The Board had before it a report which sought approval for the process to recruit a new Partnership Director for Nestrans.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note that the current Partnership Director for Nestrans had tendered his resignation and retired on 31 August 2019;
- (b) thank the Partnership Director for his exemplary service since 2007, for the role he has played in securing major investment for the North East of Scotland and for consistently ensuring the North East voice was heard in national transport debates;
- (c) agree to extend the current arrangements for the Acting Director through to the conclusion of the recruitment process;
- (d) consider and agree the approach to recruiting a new Partnership Director as set out in the report; and
- (e) agree to the establishment of an Appointments Committee consisting of the Chair, both Vice Chairs and a non-administration Board Member from each Local Authority.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

- **COUNCILLOR PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson**