

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Woodhill House, Aberdeen, Wednesday, 6 November 2019

Present: Councillor Peter Argyle (Chair) and Councillor Sandra Macdonald (Vice Chair); and Councillors David Aitchison, Philip Bell, John Cox, Ross Grant (as substitute for Councillor Jennifer Stewart) and Colin Pike; and Mr Colin Allanach.

In Attendance: George Mair; Jon Barron, Louise Calder, Kirsty Chalmers, Rab Dickson and Kelly Wiltshire (Nestrans); Gale Beattie, Lisa Christie and Mark Masson (Aberdeen City Council); Paul Finch, Councillor Ian Mollison, Chris Smith and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council).

Apologies: Dr Maggie Bochel (Vice Chair); Councillors Alex Nicoll and Jennifer Stewart; Gerry Donald and Ian Ross.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

NESTRANS CHAIR - VERBAL

2. The Clerk advised that there was a mutual agreement in place between the two local authorities in terms of the position of Chair for the Nestrans Board and Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA). He explained that at present, the Chair of Nestrans was an Aberdeenshire Councillor and the Chair of the SDPA was an Aberdeen City Councillor with Vice Chairs being the opposite. He advised that these positions would rotate at the mid-point between local elections, therefore Councillor Argyle would step down as Chair of the Nestrans Board following the meeting today.

The Clerk then sought nominations for the position of Chair and Vice Chair.

Councillor Macdonald was nominated as Chair by Councillor Argyle, which was seconded by Councillor Grant.

Councillor Argyle was nominated as Vice Chair by Councillor Macdonald, which was seconded by Councillor Aitchison.

The Board resolved:-

to appoint Councillor Sandra Macdonald as Chair of Nestrans Board and Councillor Peter Argyle as Vice Chair.

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MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

3. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 18 September 2019, for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

2019/20 BUDGET MATTERS

4. 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.

Chris Smith highlighted the main points for members' attention.

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, 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:-

- Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail Enhancement Reference Group Meeting, Dundee, 12 September 2019;
- Rail Quarterly Meeting with Transport Scotland and Network Rail, Aberdeen, 17 September 2019;
- Regional Economic Strategy, Aberdeen, 18 September 2019;
- Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group, Elgin, 27 September 2019;
- National Planning Framework 4 Workshop, Stirling, 2 October 2019; and
- Chamber of Commerce Transport Committee, Aberdeen, 28 October 2019.

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Members asked questions relating to (1) the Stretch target for walking and cycling contained within the Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan and (2) a workshop being held in December 2019 to consider issues relating to the Regional Economic Strategy.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY PROGRESS AND UPDATE

6. 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 providing further feedback on the outcomes of the consultation papers posted on the Nestrans2040 website and an update on the Strategic Transport Appraisal as well as the overall timeline for the RTS.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) approve the proposed amended timeline for the RTS development;
- (b) note the position on the Strategic Transport Appraisal and request that further updates be brought to future meetings as the project progresses; and
- (c) note the summary findings from the consultation on discussion papers.

Members asked a number of questions relating to the cycle hire scheme, specifically cycle safety concerns and consultation responses.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to agree that a workshop be held immediately prior to the next meeting of the Board on 11 December 2019, details and arrangements of which will be confirmed in due course.

CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTING DUTIES

7. The Board had before it a report which provided an update (1) regarding the responsibilities being placed on Nestrans as a public body in respect of their duties to the Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009; and (2) on the Scottish Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-20 Protecting Scotland's Future as a response to declaring a Climate Change Emergency earlier this year.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the report and the requirement for Nestrans to report on its activities and policies in respect of Climate Change Duties.

Kelly Wiltshire highlighted the main issues from the report.

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The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CITY CENTRE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

8. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the progress of the City Centre Masterplan including a number of projects relevant to Nestrans which were currently ongoing in and around Aberdeen City Centre.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note progress on the projects enabling the development of the City Centre Masterplan.

The report referred to the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, Low Emission Zone and Schoolhill Streetscape projects.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

RAIL ACTION PLAN

9. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on progress on a number of matters which support development and delivery of Nestrans Rail Action Plan.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the progress in relation to rail projects.

The Acting Director highlighted the following areas for members' attention:-

- Aberdeen – Central Belt Enhancements;
- Inch Accessibility Study;
- December 2019 Timetable; and
- Station Travel Plan Development Fund, and joint bid with Aberdeenshire, a summary of which was appended to the report.

Rab Dickson also made reference to concerns at Laurencekirk Station, plugging peak time gaps, changes to timetables for through services and Montrose Station waiting facilities and the discussions he was having with ScotRail in this regard.

Rab answered questions from members relating to Stonehaven signposting and the rolling stock and refurbishment of trains.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

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BUS ACTION PLAN

10. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the work of the Bus Alliance and developing Bus Action Plan.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the progress of the Bus Alliance in progressing work on the priority corridors and developing and delivering bus alliance priorities.

Kirsty Chalmers highlighted the following areas for members' attention:-

- Bus Alliance Priorities – Westhill to Aberdeen via the A944 Lang Stracht and B9119 Queens Road; and Inverurie to Aberdeen via the A96 and Craibstone Park and Ride;
- Region Wide Bus Action Plan;
- Bus Infrastructure Fund; and
- Digital Connectivity at Bus Stops.

The Board received a presentation of the Park and Ride Promotion website (www.getaboutbyparkandride.org.uk).

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 Acting Director and Gale Beattie answered questions from members relating to shortage of cycle shelters at Portlethen Academy, Craigshaw Drive cycle route and the public consultation event at Lidl, King Street regarding the walking and cycling connections between the Bridge of Don and the City Centre.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note the content of the progress report; and
- (ii) that officers circulate land ownership details for Woodhill House surrounding area to Councillor Pike.

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:-

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that the Board –

- (a) note the publication of the Aberdeenshire Council's consultation on supported public transport and authorise officers to prepare a response for homologation at the next meeting of the Board;
- (b) note the publication of the Aberdeenshire Community Plan Annual Report and the "pledge" for partners to sign up to; and
- (c) agree that Nestrans compiles a consultation response for The Role of Public Bodies in Tackling Climate Change consultation.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

At this juncture, the Chairperson left the meeting for another engagement and Councillor Sandra Macdonald chaired the remainder of the meeting.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

13. 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.

The Acting Director made reference to the (1) Transport Appraisal and Modelling in Scotland user survey; and (2) In Town Without my Car Day evaluation.

Jon Barron provided further details and answered questions relating to the Sustrans Funding Bids and Allocations, which was appended to the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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

The Acting Director made reference to the State of the Cities Conference which had been held on 5 November 2019 in P&J Live, Aberdeen.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the list.

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PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

15. 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.

Future Reports:-

- Annual Report;
- Draft Regional Transport Strategy 2040;
- Health & Transport Action Plan Update and Annual Report;
- Publication of National Transport Strategy; and
- Implications of Transport (Scotland) Bill/Act.

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.

- **COUNCILLOR PETER ARGYLE, Chairperson**