

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 11 December 2019

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

In Attendance: Rab Dickson, Kirsty Chalmers and Kelly Wiltshire (Nestrans); Gale Beattie, Mark Masson and Robert Templeton (Aberdeen City Council) and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council).

Apologies: Councillor Alex Nicoll, Stephen Archer, George Mair, Chris Smith and Alan Wood.

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 OF 6 NOVEMBER 2019

2. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 6 November 2019, for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE OF 18 NOVEMBER 2019

3. The Board had before it the minute of meeting of the Appointment Committee of 18 November 2019, for noting.

The Board resolved:-

to note the minute.

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2019/20 BUDGET

4. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership's 2019/20 budget 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.

Rab Dickson highlighted the main points for members' attention.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) that further details regarding the costs relating to Carbon Reduction and Air Quality in Appendix 1 be provided to members before the next meeting; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendations.

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, 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:-

- RTP Lead Officers Group, Aberdeen, 7 November 2019; and
- Bus Alliance Board, Aberdeen, 25 November 2019.

The Director also indicated that the Regional Economic Strategy workshop in Aberdeen on 5 December 2019 had been well attended by approximately 30 key stakeholders and that climate change was the key theme for discussion.

Gale Beattie provided an update in relation to Low Emission Zone funding, explaining that an additional £35,000 had been received and that meetings were being held on a regular basis.

Councillor Argyle made reference to the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee, advising that it was leading the way in Scotland in terms of activity. He indicated that the use of plastic materials in road surfacing had been discussed at the last meeting in Aberdeen on 29 November 2019.

The Board resolved:-

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to note the information provided and approve the recommendation.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY PROGRESS AND UPDATE (RATIFICATION OF ANY DECISIONS FROM INFORMAL WORKSHOP)

6. The Board had before it a report which set out the intention for a workshop discussion for Board members on 11 December 2019 and provided the opportunity to propose and make decisions based on the discussions at the preceding workshop. The report also provided a summary of the recent Health Inequalities Impact Assessment workshop held on 22 November 2019 to assess the potential health impacts of the RTS.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) agree any recommendations relating to the development of the strategy will be identified and discussed at the preceding workshop;
- (b) note the findings of the Health Inequalities Impact Assessment workshop.

Kirsty Chalmers provided details of the decisions which required to be ratified from the workshop.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) that following the announcement that the final National Transport Strategy (NTS2) would be published at the end of January 2020, to amend the timescales of the RTS so that a draft RTS now be presented to the Board in April 2020 rather than February 2020 as previously proposed;
- (ii) to hold two North East Transport Consultative Forum (NETCF) meetings, one around February/March, prior to a draft RTS being published and one around May/June once a draft RTS has been published for consultation; and
- (iii) to explore opportunities for a trip to Belfast for Board members and relevant officers to see and hear more about the Glider Bus Rapid Transit system operating there.

2017/18 – 2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT

7. The Board had before it a report which sought consideration of a combined draft Nestrans Annual Report for 2017/18 to 2018/19 and Business Plan for 2019/20.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) consider the draft 2017/18 – 2018/19 Annual Report and Business Plan 2019/20;
- (b) approve immediate publication on the Nestrans website of the statements within Appendix 2 that are required under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010;
- (c) approve publication of this report on the Nestrans website once the design has been completed; and

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- (d) instruct a link to the published report to be sent to Scottish Ministers and the Chief Executives at Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council.

The Director highlighted the main issues from the report.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) that officers consider producing an executive summary to be made publicly available; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendations following various minor amendments to the documents.

PARK & RIDE MONITORING

8. The Board had before it a report which provided information on the usage of the region's bus-based Park & Ride sites.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the report, including the results of the Park & Ride monitoring and the numbers visiting the Park & Ride website.

The Board were advised that there were some concerns relating to the lighting and general safety at the Newtonhill Park & Ride, noting that discussions had been held with Aberdeenshire Council officers in this regard.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) that arrangements be made for a press release in relation to the positive messages in the report around Park & Ride and also the new www.Getaboutbyparkandride.org.uk website; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendation.

PROGRESS REPORT

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

Councillor Argyle made reference to Inch Railway station, specifically in terms of an email he had received recently. He advised that Nestrans remains committed to looking at options to improve accessibility and will continue to work with Transport Scotland in this regard.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the progress report.

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PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

10. 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 response contained in Appendix A to Aberdeenshire Council's consultation on supported public transport and homologate officers' comments;
- (b) note the response to the Scottish Government's The role of Public Sector Bodies in Tackling Climate Change: A Consultation and homologate officers' comments in Appendix B; and
- (c) note the publication of the Clean Air for Scotland Consultation and endorse the comments above as Nestrans' input to the draft Review of CAFS.

The Board resolved:-
to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

11. 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 Director made reference to the following:-

- the Getabout Update;
- Climate Change Reporting Update;
- Berryden Corridor Improvement;
- Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan;
- Inch Accessibility Study; and
- Aberdeenshire Council - Integrated Travel Towns.

The Board resolved:-
to approve the recommendation.

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.

Future Reports:-

- Consideration of Delegated Powers;
- Health & Transport Action Plan Update and Annual Report;
- Publication of National Transport Strategy;
- Draft Regional Transport Strategy 2040;
- Alex Hynes of ScotRail Alliance (invited to April meeting).

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 SANDRA MACDONALD, Chairperson**