NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 12 February 2020

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

In Attendance: George Mair; Rab Dickson, Jenny Anderson, Kirsty Chalmers (Nestrans); Stephen Archer, Paul Finch, Chris Smith, Ewan Wallace and Councillor Mollison (Aberdeenshire Council); Gale Beattie, Alan Thomson and Mark Masson (Aberdeen City Council); and Jillian Evans (NHS Grampian).

Apologies: Councillor Alex Nicoll and Gerry Donald

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 PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING OF 11 DECEMBER 2019, FOR APPROVAL

2. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 11 December 2019, for approval.

The Board resolved:

to approve the minute as a correct record.

PRESENTATION BY JILLIAN EVANS, PUBLIC HEALTH, NHS GRAMPIAN

3. The Board received a presentation from Jillian Evans, Public Health, NHS Grampian relating to the population’s health in Grampian and its relevance to transport planning.

Ms Evans advised (a) that Grampian’s population was increasing and ageing; (b) that life expectancy was rising, but the rate of increase had stalled, and inequalities had worsened for some; (c) that the main causes of death were changing, and improvements
to avoid mortality through prevention and treatment has slowed; (d) that the population was healthier in many respects, but for some the burden of long term conditions continues to rise; (e) that common mental health problems were increasing; (f) that fewer people were smoking but obesity continued to rise; (g) that there had been improvements in child health but inequalities remain; (h) that variations in social and economic factors were important drivers of health inequalities and they were dispersed throughout the population; (i) that the physical environment was affecting health and wellbeing; and (j) that it was getting harder to protect our population from some infectious diseases.

Ms Evans explained that increased active travel, less car use, fewer health miles and place planning provide benefits for health, environment and economy.

In conclusion, Ms Evans outlined the Healthy Transport Planning agenda which included the following:-

- to Improve transport efficiency;
- to Increase modal shifts;
- to Increase use of public transport;
- to Increase community schemes; and
- increase in education, support, advice and information.

Ms Evans answered a number of questions from members relating to child poverty, diet and the increase of allergies.

**The Board resolved:-**

(i) to thank Jillian Evans for her insightful and interesting presentation; and

(ii) to circulate the powerpoint presentation to members.

**2019/20 BUDGET MATTERS (UPDATE AND POTENTIAL CHANGE TO PROVISIONS ON RTP FINANCE)**

4. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership’s 2019/20 budget monitoring and forecast outturn position and sought consideration of any budget or monitoring issues.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Board –

(a) note the monitoring position and forecast presented in Appendix 1 of the report;

(b) note the provisions of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 and current consultation regarding the commencement date;

(c) approve the virements set out in Appendix 2 of the report;

(d) approve the request for delay in drawdown presented in Appendix 3 of the report;

(e) note the projects for which Nestrans will receive external grant funding and timescales for claiming each grant; and

(f) note the Strategic Transport Fund position.
Chris Smith provided an overview of the budget position and the situation relating to Sustrans’ funding, advising that an update will be provided at the next meeting of the Board in this regard.

**The Board resolved**:—
to approve the recommendations.

### 2020/21 BUDGET PROPOSALS

5. The Board had before it a report which sought approval of the budget for 2020/21, subject to funding being confirmed.

**The report recommended**:—
that the Board –
(a) approve the 2020/21 Budgets of £1,026,350 and £6,958,924 with programmes as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, subject to anticipated funding levels being confirmed and making any appropriate adjustments following the Board’s consideration;
(b) note the potential for additional Sustrans funding for cycle schemes; and
(c) note the reserve list of projects detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.

The Board heard Chris Smith provide an overview of the budget proposals and answered questions from members thereon.

**The Board resolved**:—
(i) to approve the recommendations;
(ii) to agree funding to sponsor a Scottish Council for Development and Industry lunch event on 17 June 2020 at which, the Cabinet Secretary would be in attendance, noting that six places would be available to Nestrans; and
(iii) to note that the Director would review stationery/photocopying costs, particularly in relation to agenda circulation.

### DIRECTOR’S REPORT

6. 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:—
- attendance at the Regional Economic Strategy;
• attendance at the Aberdeen-Central Belt Rail Enhancement Stakeholders Group, Aberdeen, 17 January 2020; and
• attendance at the RTP Lead Officers Group, Edinburgh, 5 February 2020.

It was noted that the Aberdeen Airport Consultative Committee would meet on 6 March and not 6 February 2020 as outlined in the report.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendation.

**STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN - REPORT OF EXAMINATION**

7. The Board had before it a report which provided information on the published ‘Report on the Examination in Public of the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan’ and the Reporter’s recommendations.

**The report recommended:**

that the Board –

(a) note the contents of the report and the outcomes of the Report of Examination of the Proposed Plan; and

(b) note the next steps of the Plan process.

The Board heard from Kirsty Chalmers in relation to the report and indicating that the joint letter from SDPA and Transport Scotland had been submitted to the Scottish Government for approval.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the recommendations.

**NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY (VERBAL - DUE FOR PUBLICATION 5 FEBRUARY 2020)**

8. The Board heard from Kirsty Chalmers who provided information in relation to the recent publication of the National Transport Strategy (NTS).

Kirsty Chalmers advised (a) that there were no significant changes from the draft strategy; (b) that the Board’s request to include ‘safety measures’ had been taken on board in the NTS Vision; (c) that reference to a change of terminology relating to the four ‘key priorities’ would be reflected in our Regional Transport Strategy; (d) that actions were subject to the future Delivery Plan; and (e) that officers welcomed the publication as a good strategic document.

The Director advised that a supply of hard copies of the NTS had been requested and would circulate these on receipt, with others receiving electronic copies.
The Board resolved:-
to note the information provided.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2040 UPDATE (PROGRESS REPORT)

9. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the progress towards developing the Regional Transport Strategy to 2040.

The report recommended:-
that the Board –
(a) note the progress in regard to the Strategic Transport Appraisal, which will identify projects to feed into the Regional Transport Strategy and STPR2; and
(b) note the progress towards production of a Draft Strategy, RTS2040.

Kirsty Chalmers advised that the trip to Belfast for Board members/officers relating to the Glider Bus Rapid Transit system would be on 22/23 March 2020.

The Board resolved:-
to approve the recommendations.

ECARGO BIKES PROJECT

10. The Board had before it a report which provided information on progress towards using Transport Scotland funding under the Low Emission Zone funds to procure and manage a series of electric cargo bikes as part of a pilot scheme providing an alternative to vans for local deliveries.

The report recommended:-
that the Board –
(a) note the report; and
(b) seek further reports on the results of the scheme, as it progresses.

Rab Dickson highlighted the main points of the report and explained the merits of the proposed project.

Councillor Pike suggested that officers consider raising awareness of the project at the Bicycle event being held in Portlethen on 22 March 2020.

The Board resolved:-
to approve the recommendations.

INSCH RAILWAY STATION ACCESSIBILITY

11. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on progress relating to the accessibility study for Insch Railway Station.
The report recommended:-
that the Board –
(a) note the content of this report, and the Executive Summary contained within the appendix;
(b) acknowledge the support from the local community; and
(c) instruct officers to keep the Board updated with developments.

The Board were advised that correspondence had been received from Transport Scotland this morning which confirmed that the case for change report had been accepted and would now move to the next stage which would include consideration of the funding options.

The Board resolved:-
(i) to approve the recommendations; and
(ii) to otherwise note the information provided relating to the decision taken by Transport Scotland.

RAIL MATTERS UPDATE

12. The Board had before it a report which provided an update in regard to rail matters, particularly the Transport Secretary’s announcement that the Abellio franchise to operate train services in Scotland would end early, at the end of March 2022.

The report recommended:-
that the Board –
(a) note the content of the report;
(b) note that Alex Hynes, Managing Director of Scotland’s Railway is scheduled to present to the next meeting of the Board in April; and
(c) seek further reports on the options being considered for refranchising as they become available.

The Board resolved:-
to approve the recommendations.

HEALTH AND TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT


The report recommended:-
that the Board –
(a) note the contents of this report and the HTAP Annual Report 2019; and
(b) request that the report be forwarded to each of the Community Planning Partnerships.
The Board were advised that Andrew Stewart, HTAP Programme Manager had produced the annual report.

**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.

Colin Allanach intimated that the online ‘Placecheck’ tool was useful for submitting comments as part of the consultation process relating to the A944 Active Travel Route and suggested that this tool should be utilised for all consultations. In this regard, the Director advised that officers were investigating this possibility.

**The Board resolved:-**
(i) to note that a future report would be submitted to the Board in relation to an AWPR evaluation and would include details of the A944/Kingswells roundabout junction;
(ii) that Gale Beattie would seek to obtain and circulate to Board members the ‘provisions for cycling at the Haudagain roundabout’ document;
(iii) to note that officers were to contact Transport Scotland seeking clarity for the scope of the study relating to new rail stations on the line south of Aberdeen; and
(iv) to otherwise note the content of the progress report.

**EU FUNDING AND PROGRAMMES**

15. The Board had before it a report which provided information on recent publications and consultation papers relating to the changes to funding from EU programmes following departure from the European Union.

**The report recommended:-**
that the Board –
(a) note the report; and
(b) note the opportunity to respond to the consultation on European Territorial Cooperation Programmes.

The Director highlighted the main issues from the report, making reference to the following:-
- Civitas Portis project;
- Access to EU funding as a Third Country;
- European Territorial Cooperation Programmes Consultation; and
- European Structural Funds Consultation.

**The Board resolved:-**
to approve the recommendations.
PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

16. 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 Aberdeen City Council’s ‘Consultation on Electric Vehicles’ and homologate officers’ comments;
(b) consider the draft response in Appendix B to the Scottish Government’s ‘Scotland’s Low Emission Zones – Consultation on Regulations and Guidance’ and advise on any additional comments or amendments; and
(c) note the other publications and consultations outlined in the report.

The Board resolved:-
to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

17. 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:-
• Getabout Update;
• Thistle Assistance Card; and
• Infrastructure Commission.

The Board resolved:-
to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

18. 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.
19. 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/Presentations:-
- Alex Hynes of ScotRail Alliance (invited to April meeting);
- Draft Regional Transport Strategy 2040 (April);
- Consideration of Delegated Powers (June); and
- Decarbonising railways in Scotland (due spring 2020).

The report recommended:-
that the Board note the report on pending business and agree the provisional scheduling of major reports to future Board meetings.

To note that following the verbal update provided earlier in the meeting (article 8 of this minute refers) that there was no requirement to submit a report in relation to the National Transport Strategy.

The Board resolved:-
to approve the recommendation.
- COUNCILLOR SANDRA MACDONALD, Chairperson