

# **NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**

Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 4 November 2020

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

In Attendance: Rab Dickson (Nestrans Director), Jenny Anderson, Kirsty Chalmers, Paul Finch, Nicky Laird, Lucy Johnston and Tricia Howden (Nestrans), Gale Beattie, Lisa Christie and Mark Masson (Aberdeen City Council), Councillor Mollison, Chris Smith and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council).

Apologies: Stephen Archer.

**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.**

## **VALEDICTORY**

1. The Chairperson advised that George Mair (Advisor to the Board) had submitted his resignation. She suggested that on behalf of the Board, she would write to George to thank him for his efforts over the many years he has been contributing to the Board's work and to wish him a happy retirement.

**The Board resolved:-**  
to concur with the Chairperson.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

## **MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020**

3. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 16 September 2020, for approval.

**The Board resolved:-**  
to approve the minute as a correct record.

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**2020/21 BUDGET MATTERS**

4. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership's 2020/21 monitoring and forecast outturn position and sought consideration of any budget or monitoring issues that may arise.

The Board heard Chris Smith provide an overview of the report.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Board –

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

**The Board resolved:-**

to approve the recommendations.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

5. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on liaison with other RTPs, the Scottish Government and other organisations.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Board note progress on liaison arrangements with other RTPs, the Scottish Government and others and the arrangements for future meetings.

The Board heard the Director provide an overview of the report and (a) advise that in relation to the Bus Alliance Board, a replacement Chairperson will be sought due to George Mair's resignation; and (b) made reference to the final conference of the Civitas Portis project chaired by Gale Beattie, which was held virtually on 23 September 2020 with the Lord Provost welcoming all those in attendance.

**The Board resolved:-**

to approve the recommendation.

**COVID-19 UPDATE AND STATUS**

6. With reference to article 7 of the minute of the previous meeting of 16 September 2020, the Board had before it a report which outlined Nestrans' continuing operational and strategic response to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, and reported on key transport trends and activities.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Board –

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- (a) note the changes to the operation of the Nestrans' Executive due to restrictions imposed by Covid-19;
- (b) note the key changes to the operation and use of the transport network outlined in this report; and
- (c) note the examples of how the work of Nestrans continues to adapt during this period.

Paul Finch highlighted the key issues from the report and responded to questions from members.

It was suggested that officers include the month to month travel activity graph previously presented to the Board in future reports. In response, Gale Beattie indicated that she could circulate Aberdeen City Council's weekly report to members on request.

### **The Board resolved:-**

to approve the recommendations.

## **DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2040: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

7. With reference to article 8 of the minute of the previous meeting of 16 September 2020, the Board had before it a report which provided details of the consultation on the Draft Regional Transport Strategy and analysis of the responses received, enabling discussion on how the strategy should be amended in response to the consultation.

### **The report recommended:-**

that the Board note the comments received on the Draft Regional Transport Strategy.

The Board heard Kirsty Chalmers highlight the key elements from the report including:-

- a summary of consultation and engagement activities undertaken;
- responses received (94);
- issues arising for consideration in the final strategy; and
- the next steps.

Kirsty advised that there were seven key issues that emerged either through a significant number of responses on the same issue or comments that may affect the overall direction and tone of the strategy, as follows:-

- (1) Vision, pillars and priorities of the strategy;
- (2) New road proposals, including dualling the A96 Aberdeen to Inverness;
- (3) Aberdeen Rapid Transit;
- (4) Active travel;
- (5) Rail;
- (6) The balance of urban versus rural issues; and
- (7) Demand Responsive Transport, Shared Transport and Mobility as a Service (MaaS)

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Kirsty advised that officers will go through each of the responses in detail to identify the specific changes that may be required to the strategy document, which will be considered by an Officer/Member Working Group on 24 November 2020, following which a further report will be presented to the Board at its next meeting in December 2020.

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) that a workshop to consider the draft strategy be held in conjunction with the next Board meeting on 9 December 2020.

**E-CARGO BIKES PROJECT**

8. 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 also provided early results and analysis of lessons learned from the project to-date.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Board note the contents of this report.

The Board heard Nicky Laird provide a summary of the report, including the positive feedback received from those companies who were currently using the bikes and general interest from prospective companies.

**The Board resolved:-**

to approve the recommendations.

**CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTING**

9. The Committee had before it a report which provided an update regarding the responsibilities being placed on Nestrans as a public body in respect of their duties in relation to the Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009 and Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 and outlined its annual emissions.

**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 provided an overview of the report.

**The Board resolved:-**

to approve the recommendation.

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## **RAIL MATTERS UPDATE**

**10.** The Board had before it a report which provided an update on a number of regional rail matters.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Board –

- (a) note the update on the derailment at Carmont;
- (b) note the opening of Kintore Railway Station in October;
- (c) note the progress on the multi-modal study considering the Aberdeen to Laurencekirk corridor; and
- (d) note the progress on the Inch Accessibility Study.

Paul Finch highlighted the key issues from 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.

Councillor Hutchison sought to determine whether there could be an opportunity to extend the consultation period for the new access to Aberdeen South Harbour, specifically in relation to the support measures to improve road access to the port facilities. In response Gale Beattie indicated that she would investigate this and would advise Councillor Hutchison accordingly.

Colin Allanach expressed his disappointment in relation to the recent Aberdeen City Council, City Growth and Resources Committee decision to remove the temporary cycle lane at the Beach Esplanade.

**The Board resolved:-**

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 –

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- (a) note the publication of the Scottish Government's Infrastructure Plan and instruct officers to respond, indicating issues around the proposed Investment Hierarchy; and
- (b) note the publication of Transport Scotland's Road Safety Framework 2030 and instruct officers to respond, indicating support for the Framework and its targets.

In response to a question regarding the Infrastructure Plan, Rab Dickson advised that the A90 to the North of Ellon was not included within the current committed list of projects to be taken forward by Transport Scotland.

**The Board resolved:-**

to approve the recommendations, subject to the Director including within the response to (a) above, the need to emphasise the case for the A90 to the North of Ellon project and seek inclusion of this within the Strategic Transport Projects Review going forward.

### COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCEDURE

**13.** The Board had before it a report which presented for adoption, a formal policy setting out how complaints to Nestrans would be handled.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Board approve the adoption and website publication of the Nestrans Complaints Handling Policy, as presented in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Board heard Paul Finch advise that a periodic review identified that whilst partner councils and other RTPs maintain such policies, none had ever been adopted by Nestrans.

**The Board resolved:-**

to approve the recommendation.

### INFORMATION BULLETIN

**14.** The Board had before it a report which provided information and updates on a number of matters not requiring decisions.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Board note the contents of this report.

The Director made reference to the following:-

- Aberdeen Low Emission Zone Options Consultation;
- Aberdeen City Council Electric Vehicle Framework; and
- Getabout update.

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A summary of Press Enquiries, Media Releases and coverage relevant to Nestrans since the last Board meeting was attached as Appendix A to the report.

**The Board resolved:-**

to approve the recommendation.

**CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

15. The Board had before it a list of recent and forthcoming conferences, training and presentations of interest to Nestrans.

**The Board resolved:-**

to note the content of the list.

**PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

16. 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:-**

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to note that the Director would investigate the possibility of including presentations in relation to the Belfast Rapid Transit Scheme and the Climate Change/Challenge.

- **COUNCILLOR SANDRA MACDONALD, Chairperson**