



Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 9 December 2020

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

In Attendance: Jenny Anderson, Kirsty Chalmers, Rab Dickson, Paul Finch, Tricia Howden, Lucy Johnston and Nicky Laird (Nestrans); Gale Beattie, Councillor David Cameron, Mark Masson and Robert Templeton (Aberdeen City Council); and Councillor Ian Mollison, Chris Smith, Philip Smith and Ewan Wallace (Aberdeenshire Council).

Apologies: None.

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 Stephen Archer, Aberdeenshire Council would be retiring at the end of the year and on behalf of the Board, she wished to thank him for his expertise, knowledge and contribution during his time as an Advisor to the Board.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to concur with the Chairperson; and
- (ii) to note that Ewan Wallace would replace Stephen Archer until an appointment for his post has been made.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING OF 4 NOVEMBER 2020, FOR APPROVAL

3. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 4 November 2020, for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP
9 December 2020

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) Instruct the Director of Nestrans to report back to the next Board in February 2021 on the implications of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.

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 the RTP Chairs had met with the Cabinet Secretary on 2 December 2020 and that it had been a positive session; and (b) indicate that Mr Robert Andrew who has extensive knowledge of the bus industry in the North East had been appointed as George Mair's replacement as Chair of the North East Bus Alliance, and that an invitation would be extended to him to attend a future Board meeting.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the information provided.

COVID-19: INTERIM ASSESSMENT OF CHANGING TRAVEL PATTERNS AND ATTITUDES

6. With reference to article 6 of the minute of the previous meeting of 4 November 2020, the Board had before it a report which outlined the interim assessment of the changing travel patterns and attitudes across the north east of Scotland, which have arisen due to Covid-19 and its consequential impacts. Whilst useful for providing some wider context, the report did not provide any assessment of the specific Spaces for People interventions which had been implemented at local authority level.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP
9 December 2020

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the information and key findings contained in the report.

The key findings were as follows:-

- (1) Those in employment in the north east now appeared to be making increasing trips to their workplace, and this appeared to be one element in driving increasing road traffic levels, and re-emergence of morning and afternoon peaks;
- (2) It was anticipated that there would be a longer-term shift from peak period commuting for those able to work more flexibility/replace office with home working, possibly of around 10%. Business travel was anticipated also to be significantly replaced by virtual meetings in the medium to longer term;
- (3) All forms of public transport remained suppressed, and across those surveyed, there were negative feelings towards bus, train and taxi use. Other survey information however suggested that those regularly using public transport at this time were comfortable in terms of its safety and operation. There was some evidence pointing to higher levels of informal lift sharing, and this may also be driving higher road traffic volumes;
- (4) People were walking and cycling more, particularly for leisure purposes, and this type of activity was viewed very positively (with respect to walking), and positively (with respect to cycling); and
- (5) It would be necessary to work closely with public transport operators on a recovery plan when the risk of Covid-19 had been sufficiently reduced.

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

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

DRAFT NESTRANS ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

7. The Board had before it a report which outlined details relating to the draft Nestrans Annual Report for 2019/20 and Business Plan for 2020/21.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) consider the attached draft 2019/20 Annual Report and Business Plan 2020/21;
- (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 the report on the Nestrans website once the design has been completed; and
- (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.

Jenny Anderson highlighted the key information from the report and circulated information which had not been included within the Expenditure Statement.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP
9 December 2020

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

REVIEW OF CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

8. The Board had before it a report which sought approval of a revised Code of Corporate Governance for Nestrans.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) agree the revised Code of Corporate Governance for the partnership as detailed in Appendix 1, subject to any appropriate adjustments being made following the Board's consideration;
- (b) instruct the Director of Nestrans to publish the new Code of Corporate Governance on the Nestrans website;
- (c) instruct the Director of Nestrans to review the Nestrans risk register and report back to a future Board by April 2021;
- (d) instruct the Director of Nestrans to update the Equalities Mainstreaming Report and Equalities Outcomes Report and report both back to the Board by April 2021; and
- (e) instruct the Director of Nestrans to review the Code and prepare an annual governance statement and any planned changes to the Code and report this each year to the Board as part of the annual accounts.

The Board heard Jenny Anderson provide a summary of the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

9. 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) approve the response to the Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 consultation, as included as Appendix 1 to this report; and
- (b) approve the response to Transport Scotland's consultation on extending concessionary travel to under 19s, as contained in Appendix 2.

Kelly Wiltshire and Nicky Laird outlined the key information from the report.

The Board resolved:-

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP
9 December 2020

to approve the recommendations, subject to amending the wording in Appendix 2 (Response to number 7), to read:- “Children can ride on buses now, if they can afford to do so, this just may encourage them to do so more.”

INFORMATION BULLETIN

10. 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 NHSG Workplace Engagement Officer post and the ongoing work in relation to the Getabout website.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

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

The Director advised that as a result of their current involvement, that Paul Finch and Kirsty Chalmers had received free delegate places to attend the Scottish Transport Applications and Research (STAR Annual Conference) on 15-17 December 2020.

The Board resolved:-

to note the information provided and the content of the list.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

12. 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,

- **COUNCILLOR SANDRA MACDONALD, Chairperson**