



Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 16 February 2022

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 and Councillor Michael Hutchison; and Colin Allanach, Gerry Donald and Ian Ross.

In Attendance: Rab Dickson, Paul Finch, Kirsty Chalmers, Jenny Anderson, Kelly Wiltshire, Jon Barron, Tricia Howden, Lucy Johnston (Nestrans); Alan Wood, Ewan Wallace, Moira Beverley and Councillor Ian Mollison (Aberdeenshire Council; and David Dunne, Robert Templeton, Karen Allan and Mark Masson (Aberdeen City Council).

Apologies: Councillor Avril Mackenzie

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, 8 DECEMBER 2021

2. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 8 December 2021, for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

2021/22 BUDGET MATTERS

3. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership's 2021/22 monitoring and forecast outturn position. It also sought consideration of any budget or monitoring issues that may arise.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

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

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

16 February 2022

- (c) approve the continuation of funding to next financial year to complete approved projects presented in Appendix 3;
- (d) note the updates on projects for which Nestrans will receive external grant funding and timescales for claiming each grant; and
- (e) note the Strategic Transport Fund position.

Moira Beverley provided an overview of the report.

Officers responded to questions from members relating to rechargeable costs for the Regional Transport Strategy, EV Charging Point maintenance costs and A947 funding.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

2022/23 BUDGET PROPOSALS AND THREE-YEAR INDICATIVE BUDGET

4. The Board had before it a report which sought approval, subject to funding being confirmed, of the Nestrans budgets for 2022/23 along with a 3-year Strategic Investment Programme covering the period 2022/23 to 2024/25.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) approve the 2022/23 Budgets of £1,317,093 and £4,821,551 with programmes as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2, subject to anticipated funding levels being confirmed and making any appropriate adjustments following the Board's consideration;
- (b) note the potential for additional funding for active travel schemes through the Scottish Government RTP Active Travel grant;
- (c) approve the general 3-year programme of works detailed in Appendix 3 as a basis for future year annual budgets.

Jenny Anderson provided a summary of the report.

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 Regional Transport Partnerships, with 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 arrangements for future meetings.

The Director made reference to the following meetings held recently:-

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

16 February 2022

- Aberdeen Net Zero Delivery Group, 13 January 2022;
- Union Connectivity Review – Scottish stakeholders roundtable, 24 January 2022; and
- Aberdeen to Central Belt 2026 Rail Project – Key Stakeholders Meeting, 27 January 2022.

Rab also advised that since the last Board meeting, Ms Jenny Gilruth (MSP) had replaced Mr Graeme Dey (MSP) in January 2022, as the Minister for Transport and it was expected that a meeting would be arranged with RTP's in due course.

The Chair made reference to the RTP Chair's meeting to be held on 2 March 2022, indicating that Mr Patrick Harvie (MSP), Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants Rights would be in attendance to discuss Active Travel.

Rab provided information on the Carbon Assessment Impact Tool; and outlined the six themes of the Aberdeen Net Zero Delivery Group (Mobility, Energy, Housing, Buildings, National Environment and Empowerment and Circular Economy).

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

RTS - MONITORING REPORT BASELINE AND SEA POST-ADOPTION STATEMENT

6. The Board had before it a report which presented the first Monitoring Report for the RTS, including Baseline information and targets and provided an update in relation to the Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA).

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) agree the RTS Monitoring Report for publication; and
- (b) note the work ongoing around the development and publication of the SEA Post adoption statement.

The Director provided an overview of the report and responded to questions from members indicating that he would arrange for the publication link to be circulated to all Councillors and MSP's in the North East.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations, subject to the Director receiving any minor changes from members in relation to the RTS Monitoring Report.

SIGNPOSTING OF QUIET CYCLING ROUTES

7. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on interventions that have taken place in the past year to encourage and promote walking, cycling and equestrian use on quiet, rural roads in Aberdeenshire.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

16 February 2022

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the changing landscape in the use of quiet, rural roads by non-motorised users and recent developments that Nestrans has been involved in;
- (b) note the success of this summer's trial of signposted cycling routes; and
- (c) authorise Nestrans officers to liaise with Local Authority colleagues and others, to continue development work towards the creation and implementation of a permanently signed 'North East Cycle Network'.

Jon Barron highlighted the key issues from the report, making reference to the following:-

- Nestrans Active Travel Action Plan 2014 – 2035;
- 2021 Activity;
- Ride the North – Aberdeenshire's Road Policy Review;
- Survey Findings from 225 respondents; and
- Next Steps – North East Cycle Network

In terms of other Active Travel applications Nestrans have submitted to Transport Scotland, Jon made reference to five projects, as follows:-

- Continuation of the Formartine and Buchan Way Bridge Project;
- Continuation of the Aberdeenshire Core Path Network Survey, also extended to the City;
- Quiet Route Network;
- Adult Cycle Training (Region-wide); and
- Bike Recycling.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

8. The Board had before it a report which provided an update in relation to the progress made on the Nestrans Active Travel Action Plan since its inception and proposed that, following a more detailed review of its objectives, indicators, targets and actions, a revamped plan should be presented.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the initial review of progress made towards the objectives, indicators and actions contained within the Active Travel Action Plan published by Nestrans in December 2014; and
- (b) instruct a comprehensive review of AcTrAP so that a more detailed update, and draft revised AcTrAP, can be brought back to a future Board meeting for discussion and endorsement.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

16 February 2022

Jon Barron provided an overview of the report and outlined a number of key projects which had been completed, however he emphasised that a number of the 46 actions were still being progressed.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

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.

The Board resolved:-

to note the content of the progress report.

NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS: STPR2, ROUTEMAP TOWARDS 20% REDUCTION IN CAR TRAFFIC, NPF4

10. The Board had before it a report which outlined the three inter - related strategic national publications relating to transport and land use, providing draft consultation responses for consideration.

The three publications were as follows:-

- Transport Scotland: Second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2);
- Transport Scotland: A route map to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in car kilometres by 2030; and
- Scottish Government: National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4).

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note and approve for submission, the response for Transport Scotland's consultation on STPR2 provided in Appendix B;
- (b) note and approve for submission the response for Transport Scotland's consultation on the Roadmap for 20% car vehicle kilometre reduction target, provided in Appendix C; and
- (c) note and approve for submission the response for Scottish Government's consultation on the NPF4, provided in Appendix E.

Paul Finch provided an overview and summary of the publications and the consultation responses.

Councillor Argyle expressed his disappointment that the A90 improvements did not appear in the STPR2 recommendations and that no specific schemes to improve physical accessibility at Inch Railway Station were detailed either.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

16 February 2022

In response, Paul Finch intimated that there was further opportunity to strengthen the wording within a covering letter submission for STPR2 and that the issues relating to Inch Railway Station would also be emphasised during regular meetings with Transport Scotland officers.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

11. The Board had before it a report which outlined details of recent publications and consultation responses.

The report made reference to the following:-

- ScotRail Ticket Office Consultation;
- Draft Hydrogen Action Plan;
- Consultation - Review of the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland; and
- Scottish Government's Draft Vision for Electric Vehicles.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the consultation on ScotRail ticket offices and the Nestrans response;
- (b) note the publication of Scotland's draft Hydrogen Strategy Action Plan;
- (c) note the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland consultation and instruct officers to prepare a response, to be authorised by the Chair and Vice Chairs; and
- (d) note the publication of Scottish Government's Draft Vision for Electric Vehicles

Kelly Wiltshire provided an overview and summary of the publications and the consultation responses.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

12. 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 Board heard the Director provide a summary of the following items within the report:-

- Cycle Night Lights – 110 sets of lights issued by Police Scotland to cyclists that did not have bike lights - part of the Lights for Dark Nights initiative;
- Scotrail Update - 'Fit for the Future'. Results of this consultation now published - 3,450 responses received;

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

16 February 2022

- Bus Partnership Fund Update; and
- Getabout Update.

The Director also made reference to the Chair's Radio and STV interviews in relation to the outcomes of the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) published on 20 January 2022 by Transport Scotland.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

13. 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 information provided and the content of the list.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

14. 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.

Given that the next meeting in April would be the last for the current Board members this electoral term, the Chair suggested that it be held as a hybrid meeting in Woodhill House, if possible.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) that the Clerk investigate whether the next Board meeting in April 2022 could be held in Woodhill House (with the option for members to attend remotely) and to liaise with the Director and Chair in this regard.

- **COUNCILLOR SANDRA MACDONALD, Chairperson**