



Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, Wednesday, 6 December 2023

Present: Councillor Alan Turner (Chairperson); Councillor Michael Hutchison (Vice Chair); Councillor John Cox, Councillor Isobel Davidson, Councillor Alex McLellan (as substitute for Councillor Yuill for articles 1 to 5 only), Councillor Glen Reid, Councillor Sandra Macdonald, Councillor Miranda Radley and Councillor Ian Yuill (from article 6 onwards); and Colin Allanach, Gerry Donald and Ian Ross.

In Attendance: Rab Dickson, Paul Finch, Kirsty Chalmers, Jon Barron, Adam Kench, Tricia Howden and Lucy Johnston (Nestrans); Ewan Wallace, Martin Hall, Ella Stott and Tina Wight (Aberdeenshire Council); David Dunne, Claire McArthur, Brian Robertson, Vicki Johnstone, Will Hekelaar, Karen Allan and Mark Masson (Aberdeen City Council) and Andrew Stewart (HTAP Programme Manager).

Apologies: Dr Maggie Bochel (Vice Chair) 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 AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

1. Members were requested to intimate any declarations of interest or transparency statements in respect of the items on today's agenda, thereafter the following were intimated:-

- (1) Councillor Yuill advised that he had a connection in relation to various items on the agenda by virtue of him being a member of the Automobile Association (AA) and a member of Cycling UK. He considered that the nature of his interest would not require him to leave the meeting prior to consideration of the items.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING, 1 NOVEMBER 2023

2. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 1 November 2023 for approval.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

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2023/24 BUDGET MATTERS

3. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the Partnership's 2023/24 budget monitoring and forecast outturn position and 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; and
- (c) note the Strategic Transport Fund position.

The Board heard from Ella Stott who highlighted the key information from the report.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note that the Director would provide a summary of the key elements of the AWPR non-motorised user mitigations funding and that it be circulated to all Board members; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendations.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

4. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on liaison with other Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs), 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:-

- (1) Health & Transport Action Plan Steering Group held on 23 November 2023 (minute of which was appended to the report); and
- (2) RTP Chairs meeting held in Glasgow on 28/29 November 2023, attended by Fiona Hyslop (Transport Minister).

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

WEATHER RESILIENCE - IMPACT OF STORM BABET ON STRATEGIC TRANSPORT NETWORK

5. The Board had before it a report which provided an update of the impact of Storm Babet upon the region's Strategic Transport Network.

The report recommended:-

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that the Board –

- (a) note the information contained in this report on the impact of Storm Babet on the region's Strategic Transport Network, and operator response;
- (b) request the Director to engage with transport operators and resilience networks regarding the sharing of lessons learnt from the impact of Storm Babet, and that risks arising from disruption to the Strategic Network are fully recognised; and
- (c) request the Director to continue engagement with Network Rail and Rail Operators, and Roads Authorities on their action plans to improve operational resilience to weather related events.

The Board heard from Paul Finch who provided an overview of the report and responded to questions from members in relation to the general disruption to the rail network, particularly closures affecting areas north of Dundee.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note that a report containing details of the lessons learned by partners including Aberdeen International Airport and the Ports/Ferries and Network Rail's resilience and improvement plans would be submitted to the Board in six months' time; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendations.

ABERDEEN RAPID TRANSIT UPDATE

6. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on Aberdeen Rapid Transit and the Aberdeen to Laurencekirk Multi-Modal Corridor study, both being managed by Nestrans and funded by Transport Scotland through the Bus Partnership Fund.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the progress on ART; and
- (b) note the progress made on the Aberdeen to Laurencekirk Multi-Modal corridor and the updated funding arrangements agreed with Transport Scotland made via the Bus Partnership Fund.

The Board heard from Kirsty Chalmers who provided a summary of the report.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note that a copy of the Programme Risk Register would be circulated to members of the Board; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the recommendations.

REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

7. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the work that was taking place around the regional active travel network project.

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The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the ongoing work around this project; and
- (b) request a further report back to the Board on outcomes of the stakeholder engagement, consultation exercises and next steps.

The Board heard from Paul Finch on the key issues from the report and responded to questions from members in relation to the Scottish Government's Second Strategic Transport Projects Review.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

STRATEGIC ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTES

8. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on progress in the development and implementation of the various strategic active travel routes across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the current policy, and delivery responsibilities for strategic cycle routes in the Nestrans area;
- (b) note the current status, progress, next steps and timelines for the strategic routes and future development proposals for the Formartine and Buchan Way and Deeside Way;
- (c) note future opportunities arising for the delivery of the strategic routes with increased funding and a national review of delivery mechanisms; and
- (d) approve the implementation of improved regional governance arrangements for the Active Travel Action Plan, with the Director reporting back on firm proposals following consultation with partner Local Authorities and other key stakeholders.

Paul Finch provided a summary of the report and responded to a question from Councillor Reid in relation to a previous request regarding the preparation and circulation of a map(s) including current routes and aspirations and key construction/completion timelines.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to approve recommendations (a) to (c); and
- (ii) to request a future report on a scheme of governance for the group considering the Regional co-ordination of Active Travel activities;
- (iii) to request a future report detailing a map of future planned active travel routes; associated implementation project plans; and target dates for their completion.

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TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

Councillor Yuill advised that he had a connection in relation to the following item by virtue of him being a Council appointed member of the NHS Grampian Board. He considered that the nature of his interest would not require him to leave the meeting prior to consideration of the items.

HEALTH AND TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN - REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT

9. The Board had before it a report which provided an update regarding the review of the Health and Transport Action Plan (HTAP), and sought approval of the HTAP Annual Report 2022-23.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the contents of the report and the HTAP Annual Report 2022-2023; and
- (b) request that the report be forwarded to each of the Community Planning Partnerships.

The Board heard from Andrew Stewart, HTAP Programme Manager who provided a summary of the report.

During discussion it was acknowledged that there had been a reduction of bus services to health providers in Aberdeenshire and views were sought on how public transport could be improved in this regard. In response, Paul Finch indicated that the Aberdeenshire Council's Public Transport Unit were to undertake a review of the public transport network in Aberdeenshire and the concerns raised could be fed into this to influence the work going forward.

The Board resolved:-

- (i) to note that Andrew Stewart/Gerry Donald would circulate to members of the Board if available, further information/statistics regarding slips, trips and falls, particularly the data around the increased numbers at the Emergency Department;
- (ii) to note that Gerry Donald in his capacity as Chair of the HTAP Steering Group, would liaise with colleagues in relation to addressing the issue and concerns regarding access to health; and
- (iii) to otherwise approve the recommendations.

FREIGHT ACTION PLAN - RAIL FREIGHT TERMINALS (ABERDEEN SOUTH) STUDY

10. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on the completion of an Aberdeen City Region Deal funded study focussing future issues surrounding rail freight development and rail freight terminals, principally in the area surrounding Aberdeen Station.

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The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the key findings of the study considering future rail freight demand and rail freight terminal capacity;
- (b) instruct the Strategy Manager to organise the wider dissemination of the report outcomes to relevant stakeholders; and
- (c) instruct the Strategy Manager to continue to review the outcomes of the work in the light of the progression of Aberdeen to Central Belt infrastructure upgrades, and the outcomes of ongoing study work considering future rail re-opening north of Aberdeen to Ellon, Peterhead and Fraserburgh.

The Board heard from Paul Finch regarding the key information from the report.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

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.

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 recent publications and consultation responses.

The report recommended:-

that the Board –

- (a) note the publication of the documents outlined in the report; and
- (b) request officers to prepare a report for the next Board Meeting on the consultation response to Aberdeen City Council's Local Transport Strategy.

The Board heard Adam Kench provide a summary of the report making reference to the following:-

- Aberdeen City Council - Consultation on Draft Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy, Draft Aberdeen Air Quality Action Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Reported Road Casualties Scotland 2022, Transport Scotland;
- In-Depth Road Traffic Fatalities Report for the Years 2015-2020, co-authored by Transport Scotland and Police Scotland;
- Active Travel Transformation - Assess Phase Summary Report, Systra on behalf of Transport Scotland;
- Annual Cycling Monitoring Report 2023 and Annual Report 2022-23, Cycling Scotland;

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- Reducing car use through parking policies: an evidence review, ClimateXChange; and
- The potential of low traffic measures for healthy active ageing, Heriot-Watt University for Sustrans Scotland.

The Board heard from the Director and Claire McArthur, Policy and Strategy Manager, Aberdeen City Council regarding the reasons why no monies were attributed towards North East projects by Transport Scotland via the submissions for the first Active Travel Transformation Fund (ATTF) when it launched in December 2022. Claire McArthur intimated that an officer session was held with the consultants working on behalf of Transport Scotland to discuss the unsuccessful bids and officers in the North East would be liaising on a regular basis in advance of the next ATTF deadlines. Also officers were working with Jacobs in relation to the network review for active travel, therefore it was hopeful that the North East would be in a better position moving forward.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

13. 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 the report.

Paul Finch made reference to the following:-

- Getabout;
- Aberdeen South Harbour Link Road – Public Consultation;
- A90(N)/A952 Ellon to Peterhead and Fraserburgh Appraisal; and
- Strategic Active Travel Route - Ellon/Newburgh/Foveran.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

14. The Board had before it a report which provided an update on conferences, training and presentations and sought feedback on events which had been held.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the contents of Appendix 1.

The Director made reference to the following:-

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- The Women's Safety on Public Transport Workshop held on 6 December 2023 in Glasgow, attended by Jenny Anderson;
- The 20's Plenty Conference to be held on 7 December 2023 in Edinburgh, to be attended by Jon Barron; and
- The SEStran Partnership Board Meeting held online on 1 December 2023, attended by Andrew Stewart.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

15. The Board had before it a report which provided a progress update on pending business requested by the Board and major reports scheduled for forthcoming Board meetings and provided the opportunity for members to add to or amend the scheduling.

The report recommended:-

that the Board note the report on pending business.

The Director made reference to the Develop to Deliver 2 (a collaborative document being prepared by the seven Regional Transport Partnerships and CoSLA on the focus and further potential for RTPs), intimating that a report on this would be submitted to the next Board meeting in February 2024.

The Board resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

- **COUNCILLOR ALAN TURNER, Chairperson**