

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held in the Morning Room, Royal George Hotel, George Street, Perth on Wednesday 30 January 2008 at 11.00 am.

Present: Councillors John Whyte and Iain Gaul (Angus Council); Councillors Fraser Macpherson, Brian Gordon and Bailie Roderick Wallace (Dundee City Council); Councillors Alan Jack, John Kellas and Ann Gaunt (Perth and Kinross Council); Councillors Andrew Simpson and Jim Thomson (Stirling Council); Bill Wright, Robert Andrew and Gavin Roser (Members).

In Attendance: E Guthrie (Director); M Cairns and N Gardiner (TACTRAN), G Chree and E Lawson (Angus Council); A Lewis (Dundee City Council); J Symon, J Valentine, J Cockburn, G Taylor and V Jones (Perth and Kinross Council); L Goodfellow and K Smithson (Stirling Council); A Borrows and C Wylie (Henderson Loggie).

Apologies for absence were received from Professor Malcolm Horner and Margaret Duffy (Members).

Councillor Macpherson, Chairperson, Presiding.

Prior to the commencement of business the Chair, on behalf of the Partnership, congratulated Mike Galloway, Dundee City Council, who had received an OBE in the New Year's Honours List.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Code of Conduct.

2. **MINUTE OF MEETING 18 DECEMBER 2007**

The Minute of Meeting of the Partnership of 18 December 2007 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Item 2 refers – Following a meeting with Network Rail in January, it was noted that a written response would be submitted to the Partnership by Network Rail on the queries raised regarding future scope for electrification of the Tay Rail Bridge.

Item 12 refers – It was agreed to change the date of the Partnership meeting in September, to be held on Wednesday 24 September 2008 in Forfar, Angus.

4. REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/08/02) providing an update on the position, (i) in gaining Ministerial approval of the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS); and (ii) regarding the programme of work for developing the strategy during the current year.

The Director advised that discussions were ongoing with Scottish Government officials on the procedures and expected processes to be followed in reviewing and re-submitting the revised RTS for Ministerial approval. It was envisaged that this would require a realignment of RTS Objectives with the Scottish Government's new National Performance Framework and with emerging Council Single Outcome Agreements. Clarification on a number of technical matters, including compliance with Strategic Environmental Assessment and Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance processes with Interventions being removed from the RTS, as had been required by Ministers, would be sought at the Transport Partnership Liaison Group meeting between Regional Transport Partnership and Scottish Government officials on 3 March 2008. It was currently envisaged that proposals for reviewing and re-submitting the RTS would be reported to the Partnership's next meeting, based on further clarification provided at meetings in March. In response to a query on the status of the finalised RTS, the Director confirmed that, upon receipt of Ministerial approval, the RTS would gain statutory status, in accordance with the provisions set out in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005.

Resolved:

- (i) To review the RTS in accordance with the response received from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, as detailed in Appendix A to Report RTP/08/02.
- (ii) A further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership on 29 April 2008, providing detailed proposals for reviewing and resubmitting the RTS, within the context of the concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Government and Council's Single Outcome Agreements.
- (iii) A final payment of £20,400 be made to MVA Consultancy in respect of development work on the submitted RTS.
- (iv) Subject to Scottish Government agreement, the carry forward of £15,000 of the original RTS Development Budget allocation, be used to fund anticipated publication of the Strategy in 2008/09.
- (v) To note that the constituent Councils were considering a request to allocate specified capital grant funding totalling up to £10.2million to support delivery of the RTS in financial years 2008/09 to 2010/11.
- (vi) To note progress on the 2007/08 work programme for developing the RTS as detailed in Report RTP/08/02 and Appendix B thereto.
- (vii) To reallocate a contribution of £5,000 towards the proposed ConFor Project on sustainable timber transport, to fund a study of regional

- opportunities for sustainable timber transport, in partnership with Stirling and Tayside Timber Transport Group.
- (viii) Subject to Scottish Government agreement, to carry forward uncommitted 2007/08 Grant in Aid, totalling £104,000 to enable completion of work on the Tay Estuary Rail Service appraisal; Freight Quality Partnership (FQP) and Freight Through Port Projects in 2008/09, be approved.
 - (ix) The Director of Network Rail be invited to attend a future meeting of the Partnership to discuss rail issues of joint interest.

5 TRAVEL PLAN UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/08/03), (i) providing an update on progress in implementing the Regional Travel Plan Strategy and Action Plan, and (ii) seeking approval of proposals for related 2007/08 Travel Plan Budget Expenditure.

Resolved:

- (i) The Travel Plan expenditure for the remainder of 2007/08 as set out in Report RTP/08/03, be approved.
- (ii) Further progress on Travel Plan activity, as detailed in Report RTP/08/03, be noted.

6. 2007/08 AND 2008/09 – 2010/2011 CORE REVENUE BUDGET

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/08/04), (i) providing an update on the projected Core Revenue budget expenditure in 2007/08, and (ii) seeking approval of the Core Revenue Budget for financial years 2008/09 - 2010/11.

The Chair welcomed Adrienne Borrows and Cathie Wyllie of the Partnership's External Auditors, Henderson Loggie, who were in attendance and available to answer any queries on the External Audit Plan for 2007/08.

The Treasurer gave a verbal update on the Core Revenue Budget and addressed questions. In discussion it was noted that the budgets for 2009/10 and 2010/11 were currently indicative and would be reviewed annually when setting future budgets on a 3-year rolling basis, and in light of future Scottish Government Revenue funding.

Resolved:

- (i) The projected Core Revenue Budget Outturn position for financial year 2007/08, as detailed in Report RTP/08/04 and Appendix A thereto, be noted and approved.
- (ii) The External Audit Plan for 2007/08, as set out in Appendix B to Report RTP/08/04, be approved.
- (iii) The Core Revenue Budget for financial year 2008/09 and indicative budgets for 2009/10 and 2010/11, as detailed within the report RTP/08/04 and Appendix C thereto, be approved.

7. 2007/08 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/08/05) providing an update on progress (i) with the 2007/08 Capital Programme; and (ii) ongoing discussions between Scottish Government officials and Regional Transport Partnerships on a potential revision to 2007/08 Capital Grant Allocations.

The Director advised that, further to recent submission of updated capital expenditure projections, confirmation was awaited from Scottish Government officials on the final level of an anticipated reduction in the Partnership's Capital Grant allocation of £4.092 million. On the basis of ongoing discussions the Director now considered it likely that the Partnership's grant allocation would be reduced by £300,000 - £400,000. Discussions were being held with Councils' programme managers on how capital grant reductions of around this level might be managed. Given the continuing delay in receiving confirmation of the final grant award amount, and the limited period within which corrective action would need to be implemented, the Director recommended that authority to approve any corrective actions needed to contain expenditure within revised capital grant limits, be delegated to the Executive Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) To note progress on implementing the approved 2007/08 Capital Programme as summarised in the Report RTP/08/05 and Appendix thereto.
- (ii) To note that discussions were continuing with Scottish Government officials on anticipated adjustments to the 2007/08 capital grant allocations to Regional Transport Partnerships.
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Executive Committee to approve any corrective actions required to contain expenditure within an anticipated reduction in the level of Scottish Government received; and
- (iv) That a report on the final position on revisions to the 2007/08 capital grant be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership on 29 April 2008.

8. NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBERS – REAPPOINTMENT PROCESS

There was submitted a report by the Secretary (RTP/08/01) setting out the position with regards to the re-appointment process for non-councillor members of Regional Transport Partnerships and proposing a way forward for consideration in respect of this Partnership.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the reappointment process for non-councillor members of Regional Transport Partnerships as set out in Paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3 to Report RTP/08/01.

- (ii) To approve the reappointment process for non-councillor members as set out in Paragraph 3.4 to Report RTP/08/01.
- (iii) The Chair be remitted to undertake an appraisal process in respect of Mr Robert Andrew; Professor Malcolm Horner and Mr Bill Wright as a matter of urgency, and subject to satisfactory appraisals, submit a report to Scottish Ministers recommending their reappointments for a further period of two years to the 30 April 2010.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/08/06) (i) providing an update on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of TACTRAN; and (2) seeking agreement to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and submit a response to a Scottish Government Consultation on the Draft National Planning Framework for Scotland 2.

Resolved:

The Director advised that, since issuing of the report, a further Scottish Government consultation on proposals for a Scottish Climate Change Bill had been received, with a consultation response deadline of 23 April 2008, which may be of relevance to the Partnership and its Regional Transport Strategy.

- (i) To delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve the submission of responses to the Scottish Government's Consultations on the Draft National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 and the Scottish Climate Change Bill;
- (ii) To note the progress updates and other information provided in the report.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership would be held on Tuesday 29 April 2008 in Dundee.