

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of the Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held in the Committee Room, 4th Floor, 2 High Street, Perth on Tuesday 15 June 2010 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors Iain Gaul and John Whyte (Angus Council); Councillors Dave Bowes, Will Dawson and Brian Gordon (Dundee City Council); Councillors Ann Gaunt and John Kellas (Perth and Kinross Council); Councillors Colin O'Brien and Jim Thomson (Stirling Council); Doug Fleming (Member).

In Attendance: E Guthrie (Director); N Gardiner, M Cairns and A Roger (Tactran); G Chree (Angus Council); M Galloway and N Gellatly (Dundee City Council); G Taylor (Secretary), A Deans and J Cockburn (Perth and Kinross Council); and B Roberts (Stirling Council).

Also Attending: S Inglis and G Oudney (Henderson Loggie); P Ewen and N Dormer (TAYplan) for item 4.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Alan Jack and J Valentine (Perth and Kinross Council) and J Symon (Treasurer); Gavin Roser, Professor Tony Wells and Bill Wright (Members).

Councillor Dawson, Chair, Presiding

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Dawson, Kellas and Gaunt declared a non-financial interest in Item 5 below. Councillors Dawson and Bowes declared a non-financial interest in Item 8 below. There were no other declarations of interest in terms of the Members' Code of Conduct.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 18 MARCH 2010

The minute of meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 18 March 2010 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Transport Scotland (Paragraph 3(iii))

The Director advised that he had requested an update from Transport Scotland on progress with Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) projects in the Tactran region. Transport Scotland continued to focus on the Forth Replacement Crossing; Edinburgh – Glasgow Rail Improvement; Highland Main Line and Aberdeen – Inverness rail enhancements. Tactran are working with Transport Scotland on STPR Project 8 : Strategic Park & Ride and a meeting had been held with Transport Scotland on June to discuss TERS. Transport Scotland had welcomed Tactran's work on TERS but had indicated that they could not comment further in detail on the proposals within TERS, or contribute towards further development of the proposals until such time as ongoing timetabling work on the STPR Highland Main Line (HML) project had been concluded. It had been indicated work on HML timetabling would be completed over the next few months and it had been agreed that there would be further engagement with Transport Scotland on the TERS proposals at this time. In the meantime no further work on developing TERS could be progressed.

Councillor Whyte questioned how the HML upgrade affected TERS. N Gardiner advised that TERS took account of the original HML timetable proposals but further work through STPR had amended the timetable. This had knock on consequences for pathing of TERS trains between Perth and Glasgow and also resource implications, in terms of rolling stock requirements and opportunities for both the HML and TERS timetables. Once the HML timetable has been settled, consideration of the timetabling and resource implications for TERS would be able to be progressed.

Councillor Whyte also asked what the HML project consisted of in terms of infrastructure and timetabling. N Gardiner advised that this information had not been made available to Tactran at this stage.

The Director advised that the CoBRA petition on reopening of Blackford Station had been considered further by the Scottish Parliament's Petition's Committee on 22 April and that the Petition's Committee have referred the work completed by consultants Aecom on behalf of CoBRA to Transport Scotland for review and comment.

Further developments on TERS, including the options for developing Gleneagles or Blackford stations would be reported upon receipt of Transport Scotland's views on the TERS and CoBRA studies.

4. NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBERS

There was submitted a report by the Secretary (RTP/10/10) updating the Partnership on the appointment of a replacement Non-Councillor Member following the resignation of Professor Malcolm Horner and requesting that the Partnership delegate authority to the Executive Committee to conclude the appointment process. The report also sought agreement to extend the terms of appointment for Mr Bill Wright and Professor Tony Wells. The Secretary recommended that consideration of appointment of a Non-Councillor Member to the Executive Committee be deferred to the Partnership meeting on 14 September 2010.

Resolved:

- (i) To delegate authority to appoint a replacement for Professor Horner to the Executive Committee in accordance with the arrangements set out in Report RTP/10/10.
- (ii) To agree extension of Bill Wright's term of office to 30 September 2012.
- (iii) To agree extension of Professor Tony Wells term of office to 31 March 2011.
- (iv) To agree to receive a report on a replacement Health Sector representative for the period beyond March 2011 at a future Partnership meeting.
- (v) To defer consideration of appointment of a Non-Councillor Member to the Executive Committee until the Partnership meeting on 14 September 2010.

5. STRATEGIC AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATIONS

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Manager (RTP/10/11) seeking the Partnership's approval for proposed responses to consultations on the TAYplan Main Issues and Environmental Report and the Stirling Council Local Development Plan Main Issues Report. P Ewen, TAYplan Manager was in attendance for this item.

M Cairns advised the responses are supportive of the options. Additional comments on the response to TAYplan include highlighting the role of Dundee Airport; promoting Travel Planning; using sustainable modes of transport and referencing the RTS. With reference to the Stirling LDP, Tactran has suggested strengthening the areas on Travel Planning and developer contributions.

Councillor Whyte enquired under Appendix A, section 5 whether there was any prospect of Dundee Airport implementing short hop flights to Glasgow/Edinburgh/Aberdeen. M Cairns confirmed there were no proposals to do this. The Director commented that there would be sustainability issues around using air travel for relatively short distance journeys and that improvements to the strategic rail network and the proposed development of High Speed Rail, all of which are supported in the RTS, were likely to prove more sustainable options for improving inter-city connectivity within Scotland.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve for submission the response to the TAYplan Main Issues Report and Environmental Report as detailed in Appendix A.
- (ii) To approve for submission the response to the Stirling Council Local Development Plan Main Issues Report as detailed in Appendix B.

6. REGIONAL TRANSPORT MODEL

The Chair advised that this item had been deferred until the meeting on 14 September 2010 to allow further discussion with partner Councils and other key stakeholders, including Transport Scotland.

7 TRAVEL INFORMATION STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Manager (RTP/10/13) providing an update on the successful launch of www.tactranconnect.com and considering a Draft Regional Bus Information Strategy for formal consultation with partner Councils and other Key Stakeholders.

The Partnership noted that very positive feedback had been received from a variety of stakeholders and users following the launch of www.tactranconnect.com. Councillor Kellas advised that he had encountered problems using the website and officers agreed to investigate this. The Director commented that, as with many new websites, there had been some initial “teething” problems which were normally resolved promptly by the consultants Steer Davies Gleave. Notwithstanding occasional problems the general response was that tactranconnect had been an excellent development which had met with generally positive response.

M Cairns advised production of the first draft of the Regional Bus Information Strategy had been delayed pending publication of Scottish Government guidance on bus information. He advised that further comments had been received from Angus Council after circulation of the agenda, suggesting that the structure of the document be split into 2 sections consisting of a high level section dealing with general policy standards and practice, and a more detailed section setting out detailed information standards to be adopted by Dundee City, Perth and Kinross and Stirling Councils as their Local Bus Information Strategy. It was noted that further discussion on the content of the document would take place with Council public transport officers in light of responses to consultation and it was agreed that the document in its present form should be issued for comment.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the successful launch of www.tactranconnect.com.
- (ii) To approve the Draft Regional Bus Information Strategy as set out in Appendix A to the report for consultation with partner Councils and other key stakeholders.
- (iii) To agree to receive a report on the outcome of consultation on the Draft Regional Bus Information Strategy at the Partnership meeting on 14 September 2010.

8. DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT (DRT)

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Manager (RTP/10/14) providing an update on progress in implementing an urban DRT pilot scheme in Dundee and investigating the scope for a rural DRT pilot in west Kinross-shire and DRT options for Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

Councillor O'Brien advised the new hospital is due to open fully in 2011 and asked if the outcome of that study would be available before then. M Cairns confirmed the consultants were aware of these timescales and it was anticipated that a report on the outcome of the work being conducted jointly with SEStran through their Framework Agreement consultants would be available for consideration by the Partnership at its next meeting.

Councillor Thomson enquired about delays in implementing the urban pilot in Dundee. The Chair advised that this was due to clarification of legal issues which had now been resolved. N Gellatly confirmed that the pilot scheme would operate using in-house vehicles but it was envisaged that any extension of the scheme beyond the pilot period would be based upon an open tender process, which local taxi or bus operators would be able to tender to run. It was also confirmed that an important aspect of the pilot was to investigate how a DRT scheme could integrate with other transport modes.

The Chair confirmed that the experience gained from the pilot schemes would be shared through reports back to the Partnership.

Resolved:

- (i) To note progress in implementing the urban DRT pilot in Dundee.
- (ii) To agree to enter into a legal agreement with Dundee City Council and Dundee Community Transport Ltd to deliver and operate the urban DRT pilot in Dundee.
- (iii) To agree to delegate authority to the Director and Proper Officers to conclude the DRT pilot agreement.
- (iv) To note progress in investigations into the scope for a rural DRT pilot in west Kinross-shire in partnership with Perth & Kinross Council.
- (v) To agree to receive a report at a future meeting on the investigation into DRT Options for Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

9 HEALTH AND TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Manager (RTP/10/15) providing an update on the development of a Draft Health & Transport Action Plan.

Resolved:

- (i) To note progress in developing a Draft Health & Transport Action Plan.
- (ii) To agree to receive a further report on the finalised Draft Health & Transport Action Plan at the Partnership meeting on 14 September 2010.

10 PARK AND RIDE STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Projects Manager (RTP/10/16) on progress made on Park & Ride Strategy projects and seeking the Partnership's approval of the outcomes of the South of Stirling Park & Ride Study and the Tay South Park & Ride Technical and Outline Business Case and authority for officers to progress the conclusions of these studies.

Councillor Gordon commented that the landfall site was the most viable option for the Tay South Park & Ride, rather than the Forgan roundabout option, because of the improved bus service delivery options and predicted demand by users at the landfall site. N Gardiner confirmed the landfall site is the preferred option however, as this site is not currently zoned for Park & Ride within the Local Plan, Tactran and SEStran had objected formally to the St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan consultation. The response to these objections had not been advised. Transport Scotland officers had also indicated their support for the preferred site in terms of the STPR project on Strategic Park & Ride. The Partnership reaffirmed its support for the Landfall site.

Councillor Gordon enquired if there were any operational issues with the site for the Tay Road Bridge Joint Board. N Gardiner confirmed there were no operational conflicts and that the Bridge Board Manager had been kept informed of progress and was content with the landfall site proposals.

Resolved:

- (i) To note progress on the four Park & Ride studies as detailed in the report.
- (ii) To agree to receive a report on the outcomes of the A90 Dundee West Park & Ride study at the Partnership's next meeting on 14 September 2010.
- (iii) To approve the conclusions of the Tay South Park & Ride Technical Report and Outline Business Case as outlined in the report.
- (iv) To approve the proposals to seek funding for delivery of the Tay South Park & Ride project as outlined in the report.
- (v) To authorise the Director to undertake further work as necessary in relation to the St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan.
- (vi) To approve the conclusions of the South of Stirling Park & Ride Study as outlined within the report.
- (vii) To remit officers to progress development of the proposals within the South of Stirling Park & Ride Study with all relevant stakeholders.

11 FREIGHT ACTION PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Manager (RTP/10/17) seeking the Partnership's approval for a Regional Freight Action Plan and updating the Partnership on the implementation of freight initiatives.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the Regional Freight Action Plan as detailed in Appendix A to the report.
- (ii) To approve the conclusions of the Freight Consolidation Centre Study.
- (iii) To note progress on implementation of the Regional Freight Action Plan.

12 2010/11 REVENUE MONITORING AND PROGRAMME

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and Director (RTP/10/18) providing a monitoring update on the RTS Revenue Programme for 2010/11. The report also sought the Partnership's approval of a proposed 2010/11 Revenue Programme.

The Director noted that following the cessation of separate Scottish Government Grant in Aid funding for Travel Planning from 1 April 2010, progress reporting on this area of activity had now been subsumed within the RTS Revenue Programme. He also confirmed that, with the exception of approximately £9,000 incurred in developing options for a Regional Transport Model and contributing towards investigation of the benefits of using the national LATIS and Transport Model for Scotland to support work on TAYplan, the majority of the allocated budget of £100,000 for the Regional Transport Model would remain uncommitted until such time as a final decision had been taken on a Regional Transport Model. A report on this would now be submitted to the next Partnership meeting on 14 September 2010.

The Director reported that Merry Scott, Travel Plan Officer had given birth to a baby boy on 13 June 2010 and the Partnership extended its congratulations and best wishes to Merry and her husband Kenny on their new arrival. The Director also advised that Penny Stoddard from Stirling Council had been seconded into the position of Travel Plan Officer on a part-time basis for the duration of Merry's maternity leave.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 31 May 2010.
- (ii) To agree to allocate an underspend of £26,017 in the 2009/10 Revenue Budget to meet unexpected staffing costs in 2010/11 as detailed in the report.
- (iii) To approve the 2010/11 Revenue Programme with the caveat that final allocation of funding for a Regional Transport Model be deferred for further consideration at the Partnership's next meeting on 14 September 2010.

13 2010/11 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING

There was submitted a report by the Projects Manager (RTP/10/19) informing the Partnership of proposals for utilisation of former RTP Capital Grant during 2010/11 by constituent councils and seeking approval of a 2010/11 Tactran Capital Programme.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the Tactran 2010/11 Capital Programme as detailed in the report and Appendix A.
- (ii) To note the Angus Council and Stirling Council 2010/11 Capital Programmes as detailed in Appendix B and C.
- (iii) To approve the re-profiling of Capital expenditure in 2010/11 as detailed in the report.

14 CONSULTATIONS

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Manager (RTP/10/20) seeking the Partnership's endorsement of officer objections to the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Finalised Draft Local Plan. Endorsement was also sought on officer responses to Angus Council's consultation on their Public Transport Policy Statement; the initial call for contributions to the Independent Budget Review; and the Scottish Government consultation on Decriminalised Parking Enforcement – Variation of the Level of Penalty Charge Notice.

Resolved:

- (i) To endorse the officer objections to the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Finalised Draft Local Plan as detailed in Appendix A to the report..
- (ii) To endorse the officer response to Angus Council's consultation on their Public Transport Policy Statement as detailed in Appendix B to the report.
- (iii) To endorse the officer response to the initial call for contributions to the Independent Budget Review as detailed in Appendix C to the report.
- (iv) To endorse the officer response to the Scottish Government consultation on Decriminalised Parking Enforcement – Variation of the Level of Penalty Charge Notice as detailed in Appendix D.

15 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/10/21) updating the Partnership on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of the Partnership.

The Director advised that the Scottish Ferries Review was due to be published soon and would be subject to a public consultation running until 30 September 2010. The review was mainly focussed on inter island and lifeline ferry services to the Western and Northern Isles but officers would review the consultation and report on this to the Partnership's next meeting on 14 September 2010, as appropriate.

Councillor Whyte enquired about Appendix A, page 7, section 10, High Speed Rail (HSR) and how likely it was to proceed given the current economic climate. The Director confirmed there was currently no funding commitment for HSR but that both the UK Government and Scottish Government had indicated support for the incremental expansion of HSR. The RTP Chairs

have collectively agreed to support High Speed Rail to Edinburgh and Glasgow on the basis that improvements to existing rail connections to Aberdeen and Inverness, as detailed within the STPR, should be delivered in advance of HSR.

In relation to the Audit Scotland Audit of Concessionary Travel Councillor Gordon advised that any decisions taken on concessionary travel required to have regard to the wider benefits of the scheme, which extended beyond simply offering free travel for the elderly and disabled. The usage generated by the scheme and its associated funding were an important element of financial support which underpinned the wider bus network and any moves to further amend the scheme could have wider consequences for the bus network and industry which needed to be recognised. The Director advised that the RTPs response to Audit Scotland had cautioned against revisions which could have unintended consequences by undermining the public transport network and impose potential costs of operators and transport authorities

Resolved :

- (i) To note the various updates and other information provided in the report and orally.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 September 2010 in Stirling.

It was agreed that the Partnership meeting on 14 September 2010 be extended to include an Induction / Refresher Training Session over lunch for both new and existing members.