

## TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 18 December 2007 at 11.00 am.

Present: Councillors John Whyte and Iain Gaul (Angus Council); Councillors Fraser Macpherson and Bailie Roderick Wallace (Dundee City Council); Councillors Alan Jack and Sandy Miller (substituting for Councillor A Gaunt) (Perth and Kinross Council); Councillor Jim Thomson (Stirling Council); Professor Malcolm Horner (from Item 3) and Gavin Roser (Members).

In Attendance: E Guthrie (Director); N Gardiner and M Cairns (TACTRAN), E Lowson (Angus Council); M Galloway (Dundee City Council); J Valentine, J Cockburn, G Taylor, A Deans and V Jones (Perth and Kinross Council); L Goodfellow (from Item 3) (Stirling Council).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Gordon (Dundee City Council), J Kellas and A Gaunt (Perth and Kinross Council); A Simpson and K Smithson (Stirling Council), R Andrew, M Duffy and B Wright (Members), A Mitchell (Scottish Government).

Councillor Macpherson, Chairperson, Presiding.

Prior to the commencement of business the Chair welcomed newly appointed Niall Gardiner, Projects Manager and Michael Cairns, Strategy Manager to TACTRAN.

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **2. MINUTE OF MEETING 23 OCTOBER 2007**

The Minute of Meeting of the Partnership of 23 October 2007 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

In response to a query from Councillor Whyte regarding the technical scope for future rail electrification over the Tay Bridge, it was agreed that further information on any impediments to this would be sought from Network Rail.

PROFESSOR M HORNER AND L GOODFELLOW JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

### **3. REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY PROGRESS UPDATE**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/07/38) providing an update on progress (i) in gaining Ministerial approval of the Regional Transport Strategy and (ii) on the programme of work and proposals for developing the strategy during the current year.

The Chair gave a verbal update following the recent meeting of Regional Transport Partnership Chairs, COSLA, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth and the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and the Environment on 11 December. This had been a positive meeting, at which COSLA had indicated its strong support for RTP's and the role of Regional Transport Strategies in developing and delivering the Single Outcome Agreements for Councils, which would form the basis of the new funding and delivery partnership between Government and the Public Sector. The RTP Chairs had emphasised the important role of the Partnerships and their Strategies in supporting the Programme for Government and Government's Economic Strategy, giving examples of where effective regional Partnership working was already being achieved. The Cabinet Secretary had indicated that he would be writing to Partnerships very soon, confirming Government's position on approval of the submitted Regional Transport Strategies.

There was tabled for Members information details of the tenders received from seven companies who had been invited to tender for the development of RTS sub-strategies on Buses and Community & Demand Responsive Transport Action Plan; Walking & Cycling; Travel Information; and Park & Ride. In response to questions on the process used to evaluate bids, Niall Gardiner explained to Members' satisfaction the detailed methodology used in scoring bids on the basis of the 80:20 quality and price ratio.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The current position on Ministerial approval of Regional Transport Strategies, be noted.
- (ii) Progress on the 2007/08 work programme for developing the Regional Transport Strategy, be noted.
- (iii) A further progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership on 30 January 2008.
- (iv) The award of contracts for development of the Buses Strategy and Community & Demand Responsive Transport Action Plan; Walking & Cycling; Travel Information; and Park & Ride sub-strategies to the nominated contractors, as detailed in the appendix to Report RTP/07/38, be endorsed.

#### **4. GOVERNMENT SPENDING REVIEW**

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/07/42) (i) providing an update on the Scottish Government's Spending Review and Draft 2008/09 Budget and (ii) seeking approval for the Director and Treasurer to consult with constituent Councils on the delivery of the Regional Transport Strategy in setting their 2008/09 Budgets.

The Director reported that a meeting had taken place between RTP Lead Officers and COSLA officials on 11 December, at which time it had been agreed that further advice would be issued by COSLA to Councils on the transfer of existing RTP Capital allocations to Councils within the Local Government Settlement for 2008/09 – 2010/11. A letter had been received advising that a meeting of Council Chief Executives, Police, Fire and RTP Lead Officers would be convened in early January to discuss the implications of the Spending Review for Joint Bodies in more detail.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The currently known outcomes of the Government Spending Review and Draft 2008/09 Budget as outlined in Report RTP/07/42 , be noted.
- (ii) The Director and Treasurer be remitted to consult with constituent Councils on ways in which delivery of the Regional Transport Strategy would assist in achieving Councils' Single Outcome Agreements in the setting of 2008/09 Budgets; and
- (iii) A further report dealing with setting the Partnership's 2008/09 Revenue and Capital Budgets be submitted to the next meeting on 30 January 2008.

**5. 2007/08 CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/07/39) advising of ongoing discussions between Scottish Government officials and Regional Transport Partnerships, regarding a potential revision to 2007/08 Capital Grant allocations to achieve savings in the national 2007/08 RTPs Capital Budget . There was tabled an Appendix B, which set out a revised programme and profile of Capital expenditure for the remainder of the 2007/08 Financial Year, which had been compiled in consultation with Councils and submitted to Scottish Government officials in response to their request for an early progress update on RTPs 2007/08 Capital Programmes. A number of variances were highlighted for approval by Members.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The revised 2007/08 Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix B, be approved
- (ii) Ongoing discussions with Scottish Government officials on 2007/08 Capital Grant allocations as detailed in Report RTP/07/39, be noted;
- (iii) A further report on the outcome of these discussions be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

**6. FORUM OF CHAIRS OF REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/07/40) seeking the Partnership's approval for the continued participation in the Forum of Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships.

**Resolved:**

The continued participation in the Forum of Chairs of Regional Transport Partnerships, on the basis of the revised Memorandum of Understanding as appended to Report RTP/07/40, be approved.

**7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/07/41) (i) providing an update on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of TACTRAN; and (ii) seeking endorsement of actions taken by the Executive Committee in (a) approving an Equalities Scheme; (b) production of a promotional DVD and (c) participation in a series of local awareness raising Community Roadshows.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To endorse the Equalities Scheme approved for publication by the Executive Committee, as outlined in Report RTP/07/41;
- (ii) To endorse the production of a promotional DVD and associated participation in a series of Community Roadshows during January and February 2008, as approved by the Executive Committee; and
- (iii) To note the progress updates and other information provided in the report.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership would be held at 11.00 am on Wednesday 30 January 2008 in Perth.

The following dates for 2008 were also agreed;

29 April 2008 in Dundee  
24 June 2008 in Stirling  
23 September 2008 in Forfar  
9 December 2008 in Perth

All meetings to commence at 11.00 am unless otherwise notified.