

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held in the Wallace Room, Council Chambers, Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling on Tuesday 23 October 2007 at 11.00 am.

Present: Councillors John Whyte (Angus Council); Councillors Brian Gordon, Fraser Macpherson and Bailie Roderick Wallace (Dundee City Council); Councillors Ann Gaunt, John Kellas and Alan Jack (Perth and Kinross Council); Councillor Andrew Simpson (from Item 8) and Jim Thomson (Stirling Council); Robert Andrew, Margaret Duffy, Professor Malcolm Horner, Bill Wright and Gavin Roser (Members).

In Attendance: E Guthrie (Director); E Lawson (Angus Council); N Gardiner and M Galloway (Dundee City Council); J Valentine, J Cockburn, G Taylor, A Deans and Y Oliver (Perth and Kinross Council); L Goodfellow and K Smithson (Stirling Council); C Beaton (Henderson Loggie, External Audit).

Councillor Macpherson, Chairperson, Presiding

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I Gaul (Angus Council) and A Mitchell (Scottish Government).

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

2. **MINUTE OF MEETING OF 21 AUGUST 2007**

The Minute of Meeting of the Partnership of 21 August 2007 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Consultations (Item 9(i) refers)

The Director advised the Partnership that it had not proved possible to submit a response to the consultation on the Network Rail East Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy. It was noted that there would be a further opportunity for the Partnership to comment as the strategy was developed.

4. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2006/07**

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and Director (RTP/07/31) providing details on the 2006/07 Audited Accounts which had been submitted to the Controller of Audit.

C Beaton, Henderson Loggie, External Auditors, gave a presentation to the Partnership on the 2006/2007 Audited Accounts, as submitted to the Controller of Audit. He advised that the Accounts had been completed without qualification and in full compliance with the Local Government Scotland Act and the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005. He also indicated that good progress had been made by the Partnership in its first year and commended it on the progress made on governance arrangements.

C Beaton reminded the Partnership some non-Councillor Members' initial 2-year term of office would shortly be coming to an end. This, coupled with the appointment of a significant number of new Councillor Members after the May elections, suggested a need to consider Member training. The Director advised that arrangements for dealing with expiring Member appointments had been raised with Scottish Government officials and would be discussed further at a Transport Partnerships Liaison Group meeting on 13 November 2007, along with matters relating to treatment of staff Pensions liabilities.

The Partnership was reminded that plans to hold a Scottish Government sponsored national induction training event on 27 September, repeating a previously held event in early 2006, had been postponed. Following the 2007 Local Government Elections, local induction training had been provided by TACTRAN officials to Partnership Members on 21 August.

Resolved:

The Audited Accounts 2006/07 as detailed in Report (RTP/07/31) and Appendices A and B as submitted to the Controller of Audit, be noted.

5. CORE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Treasurer (RTP/07/32) providing an update on the 2007/08 Core Revenue Budget position as projected at 30 September 2007.

It was noted that the main reason for a projected underspend was due to delays in staff recruitment. The Director reported that appointments had recently been made to the posts of Strategy Manager and Projects Manager, with the successful candidates due to take up post within the next few weeks.

Resolved:

The projected Core Revenue Budget outturn position for financial year 2007/08, as detailed in Appendix A to report RTP/07/32, be noted.

6. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Treasurer (RTP/07/36) (i) providing an update on the 2007/08 Capital Programme and (ii) seeking approval of a number of revisions to the Programme.

J Cockburn circulated supplementary information and proposals in relation to utilising residual slippages in the 2006/07 programme for Stirling Council and

sought approval for these and other proposed virements to the overall 2007/08 programme, as set out in the report Appendix .

Resolved:

- (i) The 2007/08 projected outturn position for the Capital Budget as detailed in Report RTP/07/36 be noted;
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2007/08 programme, as detailed in Report RTP/07/036 and the supplementary information circulated at the meeting, be approved.

7. EQUALITIES SCHEME

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/07/37) seeking the Partnership's agreement to delegate authority to the Members of the Executive Committee to consider and approve for publication an Equalities Scheme addressing the Partnership's various statutory duties in this regard.

The Director advised the Partnership that the deadline for production of a Disability Equality Scheme was 2 December 2007, requiring approval prior to the next full Partnership meeting on 18 December 2007. He also advised that discussions had recently taken place with other RTPs on the development of a "model" Equalities Scheme, covering all relevant equalities and human rights issues. Work on a template which could be adopted for use by individual Partnerships was currently ongoing..

Resolved:

Authority be delegated to the Members of the Executive Committee to consider and approve for publication an Equalities Scheme.

COUNCILLOR A SIMPSON ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

8. REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/07/33) providing an update on (i) progress 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.

Resolved:

- (i) The current position on Ministerial approval of Regional Transport Strategies, be noted.
- (ii) Authority be delegated to the Director to agree a revision of the existing contract with MVA Consultancy in relation to the publication of the Finalised Strategy and to conclude alternative arrangements for publishing the Strategy.
- (iii) Progress on the 2007/08 work programme for developing the Regional Transport Strategy and the revisions detailed in sections 3.15 to 3.29 of report RTP/07/33, be noted and agreed.

- (iv) Suspension of Financial Regulation 22 be agreed and purchase of the "Accession" accessibility mapping package, at a cost of £19,000, be approved.
- (v) The Director be remitted to enter into discussions with constituent Councils on Regional Transport Strategy delivery arrangements and related functions; and
- (vi) A further progress report be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership on 18 December 2007.

9. CONSULTATION ON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITIES: DESIGNATION ORDERS AND STATUTORY GUIDANCE

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/07/34) seeking approval of a proposed response to a consultation on Strategic Development Planning Authorities: Designation Orders and Statutory Guidance. The Director tabled an amended wording to the proposed response to Question 4, relating to agreeing Plan boundaries, within the consultation.

Resolved:

The draft response set out in the Appendix to report RTP/07/34, including the amended wording in relation to Question 4, be submitted as TACTRAN's response to the consultation on Strategic Development Planning Authorities: Designation Orders and Statutory Guidance.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/07/35) (i) providing an update on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of TACTRAN; and (ii) seeking agreement to commissioning a regional study into the potential for expanding Demand Responsive Transport.

Resolved:

- (i) Progress updates and other information provided in the report, be noted; and
- (ii) The commissioning of a regional study into the potential for expanding Demand Responsive Transport (DRT), subject to gaining Scottish Government approval of using Dundee City Council 2007/08 Urban DRT grant funding of £25,000 for this purpose, be approved.

11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no other competent business at this time.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership would be held on Tuesday 18 December 2007 at 11.00am in the Canmore Room at Town and County Hall, Forfar.