

## TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of the Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held in Committee Room 1, Dundee City Council, 14 City Square, Dundee on Tuesday 10 March 2009 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors John Whyte and Iain Gaul (Angus Council); Councillors Fraser Macpherson and Brian Gordon (Dundee City Council); Councillors Alan Jack, Ann Gaunt and John Kellas (Perth and Kinross Council); Councillor Jim Thomson (Stirling Council); Professor Malcolm Horner, Professor Tony Wells, Doug Fleming and Bill Wright (Members).

In Attendance: E Guthrie (Director); N Gardiner and M Cairns (TACTRAN); G Chree (Angus Council); N Gellatly (Dundee City Council); L Goodfellow (Stirling Council); C Wylie (Henderson Loggie); J Valentine, J Symon, G Taylor and P Frazer (Perth and Kinross Council).

Apologies for absence were received from Bailie Roderick Wallace (Dundee City Council); Councillor Andrew Simpson (Stirling Council) and Gavin Roser (Member).

Councillor Macpherson, Chair, Presiding

The Chair welcomed Doug Fleming, newly appointed non-councillor member, to his first meeting of the Partnership.

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

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

### **2. MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF 3 FEBRUARY 2009**

#### **Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR)**

Councillor Whyte indicated that Angus Council would be considering a Notice of Motion requesting that STPR Project 29 should exclude the option of a northern bypass around Dundee in favour of upgrading the Kingsway.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. 2008/09 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and Director (RTP/09/14) which provided a monitoring update on the 2008/09 Revenue Budget, as projected at January 2009. Members' attention was drawn to the TACTRAN Core Revenue Budget as outlined in Appendix A to the report which showed a projected underspend of £48,000 in the current year. It was proposed that this projected underspend should be returned to constituent Councils to offset Core funding contributions during 2009/10.

In addition, an underspend of approximately £144,000 in respect of the RTS Implementation Programme was currently projected. The Director was discussing with Scottish Government officials whether this funding could be carried forward to the next financial year in accordance with previously advised Grant in Aid flexibility across financial years. There was a need for discussion with Transport Scotland on the development of Park and Ride priorities as Park and Ride/Park and Choose around Dundee had now been included in the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR). The Projects Manager, TACTRAN, had been developing a brief for work on Park and Ride at Dundee but this work had been suspended pending talks with Transport Scotland. Officers were still investigating possibilities for advancing Park and Ride projects ahead of the STPR through the use of Revenue and Capital expenditure.

There had also been some slippage on the Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) work being undertaken on behalf of the Partnership by the consultants Steer Davies Gleave. This was due to staff changes which had necessitated the consultants' appointment of a new project team in January 2009. Progress on the urban pilot proposals was due to be reported in early March, with proposals for rural pilots to be reported slightly later.

It was noted that DRT pilot areas would be identified having regard to unmet needs as identified by earlier work on the Buses sub-Strategy and using Accessibility Mapping. Councillor Whyte requested that consideration be given to the inclusion of parts of west Angus which had been affected by recent reductions in cross-boundary bus services. It was acknowledged that pilot projects would need to be robust both in their design and analysis.

In relation to the Tay Estuary Rail Study (TERS) Councillor Whyte requested confirmation that the project was considering the potential for increasing the frequency of rail services at currently infrequently served stations such as Broughty Ferry and Monifieth. The Director confirmed that this was a key aim of the study.

In relation to the External Audit Plan at Appendix D and a question from Professor Horner on the scope of Best Value considerations C Wylie, Henderson Loggie, confirmed that this addressed whole life economic sustainability. She also highlighted key points from Appendix D to the report (Risk Assessment, Annual Audit and 2008/09), including: (i) financial statements and corporate governance arrangements; (ii) the table on page 7, which outlined the auditor's responsibilities under Audit Scotland's Code of Audit Practice; (iii) the key business and audit risks analysis and plan on Page 12; and, (iv) on Page 17, information on the annual audit fee for 2008/09 and Audit Scotland's fixed charge. It was noted that the table on page 12 referred to the Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) and the inclusion of Community Planning Partners such as TACTRAN in future developments.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the projected Core Revenue Budget outturn position for financial year 2008/09, as detailed in Appendix A;
- (ii) To agree that the projected underspend of approximately £48,000 in the 2008/09 Core Revenue Budget would be utilised to offset partner Councils' core revenue budget contributions in 2009/10;
- (iii) To note the projected Travel Plan budget outturn position, as detailed in Appendix B;
- (iv) To note the projected RTS implementation programme outturn position, as detailed in Appendix C;
- (v) To endorse the appointment of WS Atkins to undertake work on the development of the A90 East Perth Park and Ride project;
- (vi) To endorse the appointment of SIAS Limited and Sky High Limited to undertake and report on a survey of station car parking;
- (vii) To approve a grant of £7,000 to the Stirling and Tayside Timber Transport Group to support the appointment of a Timber Transport Project Officer;
- (viii) To approve the External Audit Plan for 2008/09 as detailed in Appendix D.

**5. 2009/10 AND 2010/11 REVENUE BUDGET**

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and Director (RTP/09/15) updating the Partnership on the outcome of the partner Councils' Revenue Budget deliberations and on their contributions towards the Partnership's Core Revenue funding costs in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the approval of Council Revenue Budget contributions towards the Partnership's 2009/10 Core Revenue funding as outlined in the report;
- (ii) To agree that a projected underspend of approximately £48,000 in 2008/09 core revenue costs is utilised to off-set partner Council's Core Revenue contributions in 2009/10;
- (iii) To receive a report on a proposed 2009/10 Revenue Programme utilising anticipated Scottish Government Grant in Aid at its meeting on 23 June 2009;
- (iv) To make an initial allocation of £40,000 from the anticipated Scottish Government Grant towards Travel Plan initiatives as outlined in the report;
- (v) To remit to the Director and Treasurer to undertake a review of Core Revenue funding requirements for 2010/11, in consultation with partner Councils, and report back to a future meeting.

**6. 2008/09 CAPITAL PROGRAMMES – PROGRESS UPDATE**

There was submitted a joint report by Director and Treasurer (RTP/09/16) updating the Partnership on progress in implementing the 2008/09 TACTRAN Capital Programme and noting further amendments to ensure the required commitment of Capital Grant spend within the current financial year. The Partnership was also asked to note progress on implementing the Angus Council and Stirling Council programmes utilising former RTP Capital Grant.

Despite efforts to maximise expenditure there had been further slippage on a number of projects since reporting on 3 February 2009, including: (i) Broxden Park and Ride Waiting Facilities; (ii) linkages to the pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Tay; (iii) Bus Access Mass Action Plan in Dundee; (iv) A90 Dundee – Perth bus infrastructure improvements and (v) upgrading of Dundee Green Circular at Riverside Avenue, Dundee. As a result of increased expenditure towards the year end a reduced level of slippage was now anticipated for development work on the new Tay crossing.

It was noted that set aside of an allocation of £300,000 from the 2008/09 Dundee West Integrated Transport Initiative (DWITI) budget, which was to have been added to the sum of £600,000 previously bonded with Transport Scotland to support longer term improvements to relieve traffic congestion at the Swallow Roundabout, would now be managed within Dundee City Council's general Capital Programme, and would remain available to support further measures in support of the RTS in future years. It was also noted that discussions were ongoing with Transport Scotland with the intention that the agreement in respect of the currently bonded £600,000, which was due to expire in 1 April 2009, would be extended until 30 June 2009, to enable the Partnership to consider appropriate uses for this funding as part of its 2009/10 Capital Programme, and having regard to the fact that improvements to the A90 through or around Dundee would now form part of the STPR.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note progress on implementing the TACTRAN 2008/09 Capital Programme and the projected out-turn position as described in Appendices A and B;
- (ii) To note the slippage for projects within the TACTRAN Capital Programme 2008/09 as outlined in the report;
- (iii) To note progress on implementing the Angus Council and Stirling Council 2008/09 Capital Programmes funded from the former RTP Capital Grant, as detailed in Appendices C and D.

**7. REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY DELIVERY PLAN**

There was submitted a report (RTP/09/17) by the Director advising the Partnership of the outcome of consultations with partner Councils on the Draft Regional Transport Strategy Delivery Plan; updating the Partnership on the position regarding Council funding contributions to support implementation of the Delivery Plan; and recommending that a revised Delivery Plan was prepared in light of the outcome of Council consultations and the STPR.

The report set out the three stage process that had been followed in negotiations with partner Councils in order to secure their commitment. Included in the report was a summary of: (i) the responses by each of the four partner Councils to stage 1 and 2 of the Delivery Plan consultations; (ii) the implications for the Delivery Plan arising from the recently published STPR; and (iii) the potential impacts on the Delivery Plan in the event that required funding was not forthcoming.

In discussion, Professor Horner and Mr Wright expressed concern and disappointment that Angus Council and Stirling Council had declined the Partnership's request to contribute shared funding towards the delivery of priorities agreed by the Partnership, as identified within the Draft Delivery Plan. It was suggested that failure to allocate funding placed a serious constraint on the Partnership's ability to deliver the RTS and associated Delivery Plan and had implications for the effective operation of the Partnership. The Director advised that the Delivery Plan recognised that the funding environment had changed significantly and presented the Partnership with new delivery challenges, whilst also seeking to address the Partnership's statutory duty to implement the RTS. New approaches to delivery funding would require to be discussed with partner Councils and other potential partners. It was also noted that consideration of alternative funding options was being discussed by the RTP Chairs Forum and with CoSLA. The Chair supported the suggestion that officers prepare a revised Delivery Plan taking account of the circumstances outlined in the report in order to assess which projects were achievable.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the outcome of consultations with Partner Councils on the Draft Regional Transport Strategy Delivery Plan;
- (ii) To note the implications of the Strategic Transport Projects Review that were of direct relevance to the Draft Delivery Plan;
- (iii) To remit officers to prepare a revised Delivery Plan, in consultation with Council officers, Scottish Government and Transport Scotland, and report on this to the next meeting on 23 June 2009.

**8. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENTS**

There was submitted a report (RTP/09/18) by the Director updating the Partnership on developments in the preparation of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs), covering discussions with the four partner Council areas, and seeking delegation of authority to the Chair and Director to formalise the Partnership's commitment to supporting Single Outcome Agreements. The Director was in ongoing discussions with partner Councils with a view to TACTRAN becoming formally engaged with each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) within the region. Draft SOA's for 2009/10 were due to be finalised and signed off by Scottish Ministers in June 2009.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note progress on the development of Single Outcome Agreements;
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Chair and Director to formalise the Partnership's commitment to supporting delivery of national and local outcomes through evolving Single Outcome Agreements, as appropriate to each agreement;
- (iii) To receive a report on finalised 2009 Single Outcome Agreements at the next meeting of the Partnership on 23 June 2009.

## **9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/09/19) updating the Partnership on various matters of interest and relevance to the work of TACTRAN and seeking the Partnership's endorsement of officer responses which had been submitted to consultations by Perth and Kinross Council and the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

The Director reported that first meeting of the Joint Task Group established under the auspices of the CoSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group (RSDEG), had taken place on 20 February 2009. The meeting had been attended by the Deputy Chair. One of the key issues identified for further discussion was alternative funding mechanisms to assist delivery of regionally significant transport projects, including the possibility of raising funding through prudential borrowing. Various funding possibilities were to be explored further by the joint RTP/CoSLA group and with Scottish Government and Transport Scotland. It was noted that any borrowings would incur a Revenue cost which would have to be met by the Partnership and other funding partners. Further developments through the new Joint Task Group would be reported to future meetings.

The Director also advised that, in line with the Partnership's consideration of the outcome of the Strategic Transport Projects Review on 3 February 2009, a meeting had now been arranged between members of the Chief Officers Liaison Group and senior officials of Transport Scotland on 6 May 2009. The outcome of this would be reported to the next meeting on 23 June 2009.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) To welcome the designation of Regional Transport Partnerships as Key Agencies within the new Development Planning System;
- (ii) To endorse officer responses submitted to consultations by Perth and Kinross Council and the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park; and
- (iii) To note updates and other information contained in the report.

## **10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

There was no further business.

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Partnership would take place on 23 June 2009 in Perth.