

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held in the Council Chambers, Old Viewforth, Stirling on Tuesday 17 September 2019 at 10.30am.

Present: Provost Ronnie Proctor and Councillor Mark McDonald (Angus Council); Councillor Richard McCready (Dundee City Council); Councillors Mike Barnacle (substitute for Alasdair Bailey) David Illingworth and Andrew Parrott (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillors Danny Gibson and Jim Thomson (Stirling Council); Mark Craske and David Scotney (Members).

In Attendance: T Flanagan (Director); G Brown, N Gardiner, N Moran, J Padmore, A Roger and M Scott (Tactran); S Hendry (Secretary); W Scott (Angus Council); E Gourlay (Dundee City Council); S Walker (Treasurer), D Coyne, A Deans and J Salisbury (Perth & Kinross Council); D Hopper (Stirling Council); C Windeatt (KPMG) for Item 3; G McCrae (Urban Foresight) for Item 7.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Mark Flynn and Alan Ross (Dundee City Council); Alasdair Bailey (Perth & Kinross Council); Trudi Craggs, Bob Benson (Members).

Councillor Richard McCready, Chair, Presiding

VALEDICTORY

The Chair noted thanks to two longstanding members of the Tactran Partnership. Cllr Will Dawson, who was Tactran Chair between June 2009 and June 2017, and attended his last meeting in June 2019 and Trudi Craggs, Vice-Chair, who was a member since December 2014 and had resigned from her position on the Board with effect following this meeting.

The Chair recorded thanks to Will and Trudi for their contributions in shaping the vital role of transport policy and delivery in the Tactran Region, Scotland and indeed beyond, all of which was hugely appreciated and will be greatly missed. The Partnership agreed to write to Will and Trudi to express their appreciation.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 18 JUNE 2019

The minute of the meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 18 June 2019 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. 2018/19 DRAFT AUDITED ACCOUNTS

There was submitted a report presenting the Partnership's 2018/19 Audited Annual Accounts (unsigned) in accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

The Treasurer outlined the audit process and findings and thanked KPMG colleagues for their work over the last few months.

C Windeatt was pleased to report that the 2018/19 Audit was unqualified and summarised the audit and areas of significant risk identified as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. He also thanked the Partnership's officers for their assistance in undertaking the audit.

The Chair asked for clarification regarding the pension liabilities. The Treasurer confirmed the valuation is based on a "doomsday" scenario on the basis of all staff retiring on the same date and if that was to happen the four constituent Councils have a duty to make good on that liability.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the contents of KPMG's Draft Annual Audit Report for the year ended 31 March 2019, as attached at Appendix 1 to report RTP/19/32;
- (ii) To approve the 2018/19 Audited Annual Accounts at Appendix 2 to report RTP/19/32 and authorise the Partnership Chair, Director and Treasurer to sign them; and
- (iii) To approve the proposal to hold "in camera" sessions with KPMG in March and September of each financial year.

The Treasurer and C Windeatt left the meeting.

4. LOCAL ISSUES PRESENTATION: STIRLING COUNCIL

There was a presentation by D Hopper, Service Manager, Sustainable Development and Public Transport, Stirling Council on Stirling's Park and Ride Strategy and Electric Vehicles.

Councillor Parrott asked how many Electric buses would be required to run the park and ride successfully and if there were plans to use EV buses from the periphery of the town rather than diesel? D Hopper confirmed 4 buses would be purchased and the aim would eventually be to only have EV buses within the town centre but this is not planned currently.

Councillor McDonald asked whether there had been discussions with the Thistle Shopping Centre regarding parking charges and Park & Choose. Councillor Thomson advised that the Council and the Thistle Centre maintained a good relationship including discussions re parking charges, which also needed to recognise that a balance had to be struck with the business owners in the city centre and sustainable transport as making parking too expensive impacts city centre trade, however, the BID in Stirling is very supportive of the planned public transport changes.

The Chair confirmed there were similar considerations with Dundee City Centre in striking that balance, however, he felt a legislative change for public transport was required to ensure these changes can be made easier.

The Chair thanked D Hopper for his informative presentation. D Hopper left the meeting.

5. APPOINTMENT OF NON COUNCILLOR MEMBER

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and Director (RTP/19/33) informing the Board of the applications received following the advertising of the existing vacancy for a non-Councillor member, reporting on the resignation of a further non-Councillor member and seeking approval from the Board to appoint to both vacancies as per the recommendation of the Executive Committee following interviews on Friday, 13 September 2019.

Following interviews the Executive Committee recommended the appointment of Heather Anderson and Paul Cronin as Non Councillor Members.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the steps taken to advertise the existing vacancy widely through designated web sites and social media;
- (ii) To note the further resignation of a non-Councillor member from the Board;
- (iii) To approve the appointment to both vacancies as recommended by the Executive Committee following interviews on Friday 13 September 2019 and to submit the names to the Scottish Government for endorsement; and
- (iv) To write to Scottish Government to request RTPs be added into the list or organisations that can advertise vacancies on Public Appointments Scotland.

6. NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/19/34) outlining the publication of the National Transport Strategy, highlighting the vision, priorities and outcomes and seeking approval to the Tactran response to the accompanying consultation question by the closing date of 23 October 2019.

Councillor Gibson joined the meeting.

Following presentations and discussion it was decided to add the following points:

- More emphasis on Freight, specifically a freight hierarchy (coastal shipping, rail, road and air) as there seems to be a distinct lack of discussion regarding freight within the NTS document;

- Consistency regarding the governance of 'strategic' roads, some roads, with similar purposes, are trunk roads, some are local roads (e.g. A84 vs A811 in Stirling);
- Difficulty in providing a response to NTS as Transport Bill is still being scrutinised at Parliament and further future legislation may be required;
- Address transport poverty issues around rural communities and connectivity and consider DRT options;
- Status needs to be clarified regarding e-scooters with legislation if necessary
- Include the points raised during the in private discussion at the 28 December Partnership meeting on transport governance within the consultation response.

Councillor Parrott commended the suggestion on free public transport, however emphasised the Tallin example is only for residents, visitors would still be charged.

The Chair proposed the recommendations with the amendments above be agreed and that the amended response is circulated to the Executive Committee for approval.

Resolved:

- (i) To note that the National Transport Strategy (NTS2), a Draft Strategy for Consultation, was issued by Scottish Government on 31 July 2019; and
- (ii) To approve the proposed Tactran response to the consultation questions as detailed in Appendix B to the report subject to amendments as agreed at the Partnership meeting and following Executive Committee approval instructs the Partnership Director to submit the response by the closing date of 23 October 2019.

7. REGIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Manager (RTP/19/35) seeking the Partnership's approval of the Tactran Regional Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan and seeking agreement to develop a delivery plan through a Regional EV Forum.

Councillor Thomson asked how car manufacturers can be encouraged to make electric vehicles cheaper. N Gardiner noted by 2022, the whole life cost of an electric vehicle is anticipated to become cheaper than a combustion engine car. Councillor Parrott also advised interest free loans are available through the Energy Savings Trust which can help offset the costs. Councillor McDonald said although this was good, people have to go and find out what incentives are available.

Councillor Barnacle suggested more work could be done with subsidies to encourage the growth of electric vehicles.

Mark Craske said the aim to remove all combustion engine cars by 2050 was commendable; however, an overall reduction in car travel should be targeted. G McRae advised alternative modes have to be available and reliable to begin to slow the growth of private vehicles. Also to note, societal changes in young people and how they view car ownership is changing and the younger demographic no longer feel the need to own a car and do look at alternative options for travel.

Councillor Parrott said over the next 40 – 50 years there are different urban and rural models required to replace reliance on combustion car travel.

Councillor Illingworth noted that advances in technology may make battery swap a viable option.

Councillor Mark McDonald, Provost Ronnie Proctor, W Scott and G McRae left the meeting.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the Tactran Regional Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan; and
- (ii) To agree to develop a detailed delivery plan through a Regional EV Forum.

8. ACTIVE TRAVEL CAPITAL GRANTS

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) (RTP/19/36) asking the Partnership to approve allocation of funding from Regional Active Travel Development Fund for two projects and delegate authority to the Director and Treasurer to agree and award the remainder of the fund. The Partnership was also asked to approve notes of interest in the Tactran Active Travel Grant, pending further information being provided.

Resolved:

- (i) To note progress made in 2018/19 taking forward the Regional Active Travel Development Fund;
- (ii) To approve the allocation of funding from the Regional Active Travel Development Fund 2019/20 to two projects as outlined within the report;
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Director and Treasurer to agree further projects and award funding for the remainder of the Regional Active Travel Development Fund 2019/20; and
- (iv) To approve the allocation of grant funding from the Tactran Active Travel Grant 2019/20 as outlined in Table 1, subject to receipt of more detailed project information.

9. 2019/20 BUDGET AND MONITORING

There was submitted a report by the Treasurer and Director (RTP/19/37) providing a monitoring update on the Partnership's Revenue and Capital expenditure.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 31 July 2019 as detailed in Appendix A;
- (ii) To note progress on the approved 2019/20 RTS Revenue Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendices B and C; and
- (iii) To note progress on the 2019/20 Capital Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendix D.

10. ACTIVE SENIORS CYCLING PROGRAMME

There was submitted a report by the Cycle Training and Development Officer (RTP/19/38) providing information on an Active Seniors Cycling Programme initiative 'Cycling Through the Ages – Breaking Down the Age Barrier'.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the outcomes of the 'Cycling Through the Ages – Breaking Down the Age Barrier' pilot and the ongoing next steps.

11. PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES REPORTING 2018/19

There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Manager (RTP/19/39) updating and informing the Partnership on the Partnership's Public Sector Climate Change Duties and noting officers will complete the Public Sector Climate Change Reporting Template for 2018/19 for submission to the Sustainable Scotland Network.

N Gardiner advised the Scottish Government launched a consultation on 'The Role of Public Sector Bodies in Tackling Climate Change on 11 September with a closing date of 4 December. The Partnership was asked to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve a response by the deadline of 4 December 2019.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the report and the requirement to report on its activities and policies in respect of Climate Change Duties;
- (ii) To note officers will complete and submit the Public Sector Climate Change Reporting Template for 2018/19 to the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN); and
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve a response to the Scottish Government on 'The role of Public Sector Bodies in Tackling Climate Change' for submission by 4 December 2019.

12. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

There was submitted a report by the Acting Strategic Development Plan Authority Manager and Senior Strategy Officer (RTP/19/40) asking the Partnership to note updates on the Planning (Scotland) Bill; respectively to endorse responses to Supplementary Guidance being consulted on by Stirling

Council and Perth & Kinross Council; and for information, note the status of development Plans across the region.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the update on the Planning (Scotland) Bill;
- (ii) To endorse the representation to the Supplementary Guidance on 'Transport and Access for New Development' being consulted on by Stirling Council, as contained in Appendix A;
- (iii) To endorse the proposed representations to the Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions and Green and Blue Infrastructure being consulted on by Perth & Kinross Council, as contained in Appendix B; and
- (iv) To note the status update of the Development Plans within the Tactran region, as contained in Appendix C.

13. DIRECTORS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/19/41) providing updates on the MaaS Investment Fund bid; the development of the Delivery Plans for the respective City Region Deals; the progress made for consultation on STPR2 via the Regional Transport Working Groups; and the items discussed at the recent RTP Chairs' Forum hosted by SPT in Glasgow.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the strategic region-wide bid made to the MaaS Investment Fund building on previous work across the region;
- (ii) To note the update on development of the Delivery Plans for the respective City Region Deals and progress with the transport projects;
- (iii) To note the progress of the Regional Transport Working Groups and proposed stakeholder engagement events to inform STPR2; and
- (iv) To note the items discussed at the recent RTP Chairs' Forum

14. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

None.

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

10:30am on Tuesday 17 December in Forfar

The Chair thanked all for attending.