

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of the Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 15 December 2020 at 10.30am.

Present: Provost Ronnie Proctor and Councillor Mark McDonald (Angus Council); Councillors Richard McCready, Steven Rome and Lynne Short (substituting for Councillor Mark Flynn) (Dundee City Council); Councillors Alasdair Bailey, and Andrew Parrott (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillor Jim Thomson (Stirling Council); Heather Anderson, Dr Jonathan Berg, Bryan Doyle, Paul Cronin and Amy McDonald (Members).

In Attendance: M Speed (Director); N Gardiner, N Moran, J Padmore, A Roger and M A Scott and M Scott (Tactran); S Hendry (Secretary); W Scott (Angus Council); E MacNaughton and E Gourlay (Dundee City Council); D Coyne and A Deans (Perth & Kinross Council); K Argue (Stirling Council).

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Mark Flynn (Dundee City Council), Councillor David Illingworth (Perth & Kinross Council) and Councillor Danny Gibson (Stirling Council).

Councillor Richard McCready, Chair, Presiding

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised of the protocol regarding the virtual meeting.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

2. **MINUTE OF MEETING OF 15 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The minute of the meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 15 September 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR AND NON COUNCILLOR MEMBERS**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/20/39) requesting that the Partnership endorses the appointments of Mrs Amy McDonald and Dr Jonathan Berg as two non-Councillors Member of the Tactran Board. It also noted and welcomed Councillor Steven Rome as Council Member of the Tactran Board representing Dundee City Council.

The Director noted that the Cabinet Secretary for Transport Infrastructure and Connectivity had now endorsed the appointment of the two non-Councillor members.

Resolved:

- (i) To endorse the appointment of two non-Councillor members of the Tactran Board, appointed through a competitive recruitment process by the Executive Committee; and
- (ii) To welcome Councillor Steven Rome to the Tactran Board.

4. 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/20/40) introducing the Tactran Annual Report for 2019/20.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve for publication and submission to Scottish Ministers the Tactran Annual Report for 2019/20.

5. 2020/21 BUDGET AND MONITORING

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/20/41) providing a monitoring update on the Partnership's Revenue and Capital expenditure and seeking the Partnership's approval of a revised 2020/21 RTS Revenue Programme.

Councillor Short asked about the mechanism for funding Spaces for People and how information is fed back to Local Authorities. The Director noted that Tactran actively pursued options for funding and followed the mechanisms required, in the case of Spaces for People, funding from Transport Scotland via Sustrans. The Director also noted there are a number of Tactran groups involving officers from each of the Local Authorities and this information, as well as being on the Tactran website, is provided for officers to disseminate within their own Local Authorities as they deem appropriate.

Councillor Rome requested that in future changes to budget figures are included within the body of the report as well as the appendices.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 31 October 2020 as detailed in Appendix A;
- (ii) To note progress on and approve a revised 2020/21 RTS Revenue Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendices B and C;
- (iii) To note progress on the 2020/21 Capital Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendix D;
- (iv) To agree to delegate authority to approve the use of remaining Contingency budget in the RTS Revenue Programme budget to the Partnership Director and Treasurer;
- (v) To approve the proposals at Sections 3.4 to 3.6 for the use of 2020/21 Core Budget underspend; and
- (vi) To delegate authority to the Executive Committee to endorse any new submissions to Transport Scotland's MaaS Innovation.

6. 2021/22 CORE REVENUE BUDGET

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/20/42) seeking the Partnership's approval of a proposed 2021/22 Core Revenue Budget.

Amy McDonald asked for an explanation on the salary underspend, D Coyne explained this was due to virement of costs to Third Party to cover paternity cover and staffing changes.

Councillor Bailey asked for an assurance a rent review would be carried out before a new lease was signed, the Director confirmed a review would be undertaken.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the proposed 2021/22 Core Revenue Budget as detailed in Appendix A to the report;
- (ii) To request that partner Councils make provision for their proposed respective funding contributions within their 2021/22 Revenue Budgets; and
- (iii) To agree to receive a report with a finalised 2021/22 Core Revenue Budget and proposed 2021/22 Regional Transport Strategy Revenue Programme Budget at its next meeting.

7. NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2 AND STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS REVIEW UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Manager (RTP/20/43) providing the Partnership with an update on progress with the National Transport Strategy and Strategic Transport Projects Review and asking the Partnership to delegate consideration and approval of a response to anticipated STPR Case for Change consultation, if the timescale requires.

Councillor Short asked if assurances could be given regarding the inclusion of the Tay Road Bridge Joint Board going forward. The Director noted that he is arranging a meeting with Councillor Short early in New Year to discuss.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the update provided for the National Transport Strategy and Strategic Transport Projects Review; and
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve a response to the anticipated consultation on the STPR Case for Change Reports, if the timescale requires.

8. DIRECTORS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/20/44) asking the Partnership to note updates on the Tay Cities Region Deal; Tactran Regional Transport Transition Plan; Bus Partnership Fund and Various Cycling Initiatives. The Partnership is also asked to note responses to Scotland's Road

Safety Framework to 2030 and Free bus travel for people resident in Scotland aged under 19, and to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve a response to Scottish Governments Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 consultation.

Councillor Short noted in regard to the Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 Consultation that Dundee Low Emission Zone was a significant part of Air Quality within the region and asked for assurance that Dundee City Council officers' views would be sought. N Gardiner noted that Tactran was a member of the Dundee LEZ steering group and would ensure the response included the groups views.

Paul Cronin asked if Tactran will be feeding further into Road Safety Consultation, N Gardiner advised that Tactran supports road safety via Safe Drive Stay Alive and is also involved in the Tayside Road Safety Forum so any feedback from the consultation will be actioned through involvement in that forum.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the updates on the Tay Cities Deal; Tactran Regional Transport Transition Plan; Bus Partnership Fund and various Cycling initiatives;
- (ii) To note the responses to Scottish Government consultations on Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 and Free bus travel for people resident in Scotland aged under 19 as approved by the Executive Committee in November 2020, as shown in appendices A and B; and
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve a response to Scottish Government's Cleaner Air for Scotland 2, Draft Air Quality Strategy Consultation.

9. A NEW REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR THE TACTRAN REGION

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Officer (RTP/20/45) updating the Partnership on the work to produce a new Regional Transport Strategy for the Tactran region and asking the Partnership to consider in a workshop session at the Partnership meeting (i) the strengths and weaknesses of the transport network (ii) the uncertainties of travel demand and supply.

Jonathan Padmore gave a [presentation](#) outlining the process around the Main Issues Report and seeking members' input to strengths and weaknesses of the transport network and scenario planning.

Strengths & Weaknesses of Transport Network

Reduce Inequalities

The following points were noted:

- Councillor Short noted that the cost of travel is an issue in all 4 Councils
- Councillor Thomson asked if dementia could be included
- Provost Proctor said a lot of the streets in smaller towns in Angus are not suitable for cycle corridors – can be difficult to retrofit

- Heather Anderson asked whether there was the intention to engage with communities and stakeholders on the issues being discussed. The Director advised today's discussion was based on meetings with officers and a full draft MIR for consultation with communities and stakeholders will be presented to Board in March 2021, which will include a detailed consultation plan.
- Amy McDonald said a strength is a good public transport network but shift workers don't have the same availability so this needs to be addressed.
- Councillor Short said Dundee City was "car poor" so there was a reliance on a good public transport network, and hence that low car ownership is a weakness
- Councillor McDonald advised that some of the examples of deprived areas (in Appendix A) were well served by public transport and did not necessarily have a problem with access to facilities. J Padmore advised that plenty of the areas do have reasonable accessibility, and advised that the MIR, will highlight the links between evidence bases, problems and objectives.
- Councillor Parrott asked if "enabling access to health facilities" could have a specific mention rather than generic
- Councillor Rome asked if within the bus partnerships consideration could be given for public transport that served assisted living areas to ensure sufficient space is available on buses for people for mobility issues
- Dr Berg advised access to healthcare is exceptionally important and there are gaps for people getting to Ninewells and for staff at the site. J Padmore advised Tactran has been working closely with NHS Tayside to identify these access issues
- Amy McDonald said within the Spaces for People section there are two pools of people 1) where people can drive seem to be more content and 2) where people are relying on public transport, they seem to be less satisfied – should be identified as a potential weakness going forward and therefore a need for a greater understanding in that area. The Director advised there are data sources on satisfaction and attitudes which will be analysed and feed into the RTS

Climate Change etc

- Councillor Short suggested that it was often difficult to retrofit bus priority and cycle infrastructure.
- Councillor Parrott suggested: greater use of ports for short sea freight; incorporating further electrification of the rail network north of Dunblane; road freight be encouraged to be carried by rail – continue to support rail terminal at Blackford
- Dr Berg suggested the quality of, and facilities available on, buses puts people off using buses e.g. cycle racks being available on the buses, and the buses running on cleaner fuels – for example, hydrogen

Promote Inclusive Economic Growth

- Councillor McCready reflected that the future of public transport is a threat and weakness

- Dr Berg suggested that rail links to Edinburgh airport from Tayside were poor e.g. more trains to stop at Edinburgh Gateway

Promote Health & Wellbeing

- Councillor Short advised bike storage for tenement buildings is a problem
- Provost Proctor advised electric vehicle infrastructure and charging points required in rural communities and tourist destinations

Councillor Bailey left the meeting

Scenario Mapping Section

- Councillor Parrott said events have shown that we are underestimating the impact of climate change on our existing transport infrastructure and improving that infrastructure will take more resource than we currently allow
- Councillor Short said a generational element has to be built into the scenario planning/mapping
- Councillor Parrott advised there is a tendency to overestimate what we can do in a year, but underestimate change over a decade. The impact of moving away from petrol / diesel is an uncertainty. The impact of technological advances in respect of autonomous vehicles is an uncertainty and as COVID has shown there must be uncertainties around the total demand for transport going forwards and the balance of drivers behind those demands
- Amy McDonald suggested it could assist the understanding uncertainties, if the short, medium and long term impacts could be highlighted. J.Padmores advised that these are important considerations and will be presented to the Board at a later stage of the process
- Provost Proctor suggested an early DRT report highlights many of the uncertainties we need to consider
- Heather Anderson said consideration of the social impacts of changes in how and where we travel need to be taken into account e.g. a shift to electric vehicles may disadvantage those that can't afford to switch
- Councillor Rome said major uncertainty going forward will be whether we have in place a network that is able to support mass use of electric vehicles

The Director noted that he would arrange for further informal Board 'drop-in' workshops in the new year to provide further opportunities for members to contribute to the development of the RTS.

The Chair thanked all for their time and comments.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the continuing work on a new Regional Transport Strategy, and the proposed next steps, including further discussion of the Main Issues Report in early 2021; and
- (ii) To consider the strengths and weaknesses of the transport networks, and uncertainties in terms of travel demands and supply.

10. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

None.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair confirmed the dates for 2021 and advised the meeting scheduled for 16th March will be held via Microsoft Teams and the options for future meetings will be discussed and agreed in due course.

16th March 2021 at 10.30am

15th June 2021 at 10.30am

14th September 2021 at 10.30am

14th December 2021 at 10.30am