

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held in the Council Chambers, 2 High Street, Perth and via MS Teams on Tuesday 14th June 2022 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors Heather Doran and Mark McDonald (Angus Council); Councillor Steven Rome (Dundee City Council); Councillors Hugh Anderson, Andrew Parrott and Richard Watters (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillor Rachel Nunn (Stirling Council); Paul Cronin, Paul Reid and Bryan Doyle (Members).

In Attendance: M Speed (Director); N Gardiner, J Padmore, A Roger and C Stuerck (Tactran); S Hendry (Secretary); W Scott (Angus Council); E MacNaughton (Dundee City Council); A Deans, D Coyne and J Salisbury (Perth & Kinross Council); M Wilkie, KPMG for Item 9.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Mark Flynn and Dorothy McHugh (Dundee City Council); Councillor Danny Gibson (Stirling Council) and Amy McDonald (Member).

1. INTERIM CHAIR OF MEETING

The Secretary presided over the meeting until the Chair of the Partnership was appointed under item 4.

2. NOTIFICATION OF COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The appointment of the following Members by each of the four constituent authorities was noted:

Angus Council

Councillors Heather Doran and Mark McDonald

Dundee City Council

Councillors Mark Flynn, Dorothy McHugh and Steven Rome

Perth & Kinross Council

Councillors Hugh Anderson, Andrew Parrott and Richard Watters

Stirling Council

Councillors Danny Gibson and Rachel Nunn

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

The Secretary invited nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Partnership.

Cllr Watters nominated Cllr Parrott and was seconded by Cllr Rome.

There being no other nominations Cllr Parrott was duly elected as Chairperson and took the Chair.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON(S)

The Chair invited nominations for the office of Deputy Chairperson of the Partnership.

Cllr Watters nominated Cllr Rome and was seconded by Cllr Parrott.

There being no further nominations, Cllr Rome was duly elected as Deputy Chairperson.

6. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chair invited nominations to the Executive Committee comprising five members, being one member from each of the constituent Councils and one non-Councillor member.

It was agreed that Cllr Parrott and Cllr Rome as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, would be the Perth & Kinross Council and Dundee City Council representatives. It was also agreed that Cllr Doran and Cllr Nunn would be the Angus Council and Stirling Council representatives and that, subject to her agreeing to continue in the post, Amy McDonald would continue to be the non-Councillor member representative.

7. APPOINTMENT OF NON COUNCILLOR MEMBER

There was submitted a report requesting that the Partnership endorses the appointment of Paul Reid as a non-Councillor member of the Tactran Partnership Board.

Resolved:

- (i) To endorse the appointment of Paul Reid as a non Councillor Member of the Tactran Partnership Board.

8. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 15 MARCH 2022

The minute of meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 15 March 2022 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

The Chair thanked the previous Chair of the Partnership, Cllr McCready, for his work for Tactran over the last term.

9. DRAFT UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2021/22

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/22/13) presenting the Draft Unaudited Annual Accounts for 2021/22.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the contents of the Draft Unaudited Annual Accounts for 2021/22; and
- (ii) To authorise the Treasurer to sign the Annual Accounts at the appropriate sections prior to submission to the Controller of Audit by 30 June 2022.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES REFORM ACT ANNUAL STATEMENTS

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/22/14) seeking the Partnership's approval of Annual Statements which require to be published under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

Cllr Nunn noted the expenditure against active travel and sought further information on the evaluation evidence of this spending. N Gardiner advised that Tactran submits annual reports both to Sustrans and Transport Scotland, providing further details on the respective projects.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve publication of the Public Services Reform Act Annual Statements for 2021/22 as detailed in the Appendices to the report.

11. 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET AND PROGRAMME

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/22/15) providing the Partnership with a monitoring update on Revenue expenditure and seeking approval of a revised 2022/23 Revenue Programme.

Cllr Nunn noted the expenditure allocated for a review of the Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign and questioned whether the campaign has not been as successful as it was hoped. N Gardiner explained that the Tayside Road Safety Forum was considering alternative formats that could engage and target an audience of young and new drivers. The review is ongoing.

The Chair noted that from his personal experience the current Safe Drive Stay Alive format was effective.

Cllr Nunn further noted the expenditure allocated for Travel Planning and the Liftshare campaign. Cllr Nunn asked whether there is data available to determine the average costs per Liftshare user. N Gardiner advised that although Liftshare has not been promoted heavily over the past two years due to the impacts of the Covid Pandemic, data is available and can be provided.

Cllr Anderson enquired about the Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal as the report mentioned a Park and Choose site. The latter had not been originally

considered in 2003. N Gardiner provided further information on the current status of the appraisal which is funded by the Scottish Government's Local Rail Development Fund (LRDF). It follows the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG). The Case for Change and Preliminary Appraisal stages have been completed and the project is now at the final Detailed Appraisal stage. Options being looked at during Detailed Appraisal include a new rail station, a new bus Park and Choose site and further improvements to the existing public transport offer.

The Director offered Cllr Anderson an individual session to outline the project and the developments since 2003 in more detail.

Cllr McDonald noted the allocated expenditure towards the Get on the Go Tayside campaign. He wondered about the effectiveness of the campaign as there seem to be a significant share of lobbying groups following the respective Twitter account compared to only a few individual members of the public.

N Gardiner advised that Get on the Go has not been promoted heavily over the past two years due to the impacts of the Covid Pandemic, mainly ensuring messages followed the Scottish Government guidelines for the various modes of transport. Efforts to promote the campaign will be stepped up again this year with a comprehensive evaluation to follow. This was confirmed by the Director.

Cllr Rome stated that the funding allocation against the Climate Change heading seems very low, given the significant challenges ahead.

N Gardiner referred to the Regional EV Strategy and provided a brief overview of the recent Scottish Government grant offers to all four Local Authorities under the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Investment Fund (EVIF). All four constituent Councils have accepted the grant offer and are now engaging with the Scottish Futures Trust to take the development of respective public electric vehicle charging strategies and expansion plans. Against this background, the regional EV Steering Group met on 9 June to discuss regional implications and the potential role of Tactran and the Regional EV Strategy in this.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 30 April 2022 as detailed in Appendix A;
- (ii) To note progress on the 2022/23 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 2022/23 Capital Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendix D.

12. ACTIVE TRAVEL GRANT SCHEME

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) (RTP/22/16) asking the Partnership to approve the projects to be funded by the Regional Active Travel Development Fund (RATDF) and Tactran Active Travel

Grant (ATG) and to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to approve or reallocate a reserve list allocation of projects in 2022/23 if required.

Cllr Nunn noted the expenditure spent on consulting services and wondered whether consultant fees could be reduced by investing into the staff of the four constituent Councils instead. The Director highlighted the issues around more annualised external project funding, noting that this is a major barrier to developing permanent staff within the Councils and the Regional Transport Partnership. This was acknowledged and echoed by the Chair. However, the issue is being discussed with Transport Scotland. The Director also advised that he is a member of the SCOTS (Society for Chief Officers in Transportation in Scotland) Executive Board. In this function, he is looking to progress a Graduate Training Scheme which is aimed at addressing the aforementioned issues.

The Director also noted that it is difficult to advise on any potential savings in consultants' fees compared to providing the services in house. This is due to the complex and potentially very specialised services being delivered through consulting services.

Resolved:

- (i) To note progress on developing projects on Active Travel (ATG) and Regional Active Travel Development Fund (RATDF) grants;
- (ii) To approve projects funded by the Regional Active Travel Development Fund (RATDF) and Tactran Active Travel Grant (ATG) in 2022/23; and
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Executive Committee to agree or reallocate reserve projects and award funding for the ATG and RATDF 2022/23.

13. A NEW REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Officer (RTP/22/17) updating the Partnership on the development of a new Regional Transport Strategy, the process, work completed to date and the proposed next steps.

Cllr Doran welcomed the sessions with new Board Members to update them on the work to date and discuss the next steps. She requested that engagement with the public to date will also be covered as this is an important aspect in developing the Regional Transport Strategy.

J Padmore confirmed that the engagement to date will be covered in the upcoming briefing sessions. In the meantime, reference was made to the respective links within the main body of the report which will provide an initial overview of the engagement to date.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the process and progress to date in developing a new Regional Transport Strategy for the Tactran partners;
- (ii) To endorse arranging workshop sessions for the new Board to discuss work to date, including the issues, objectives, outcomes and options; and

- (iii) To approve the arrangement of a special meeting of the Partnership to consider the undertaking of an 'Options Conversation' public engagement exercise.

14. DIRECTORS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/22/18) asking the Partnership to note updates on the Bus Alliances and ScotRail's emergency timetable and to note a response to consultation on Public Sector Equalities Duty. The Partnership was also asked to consider the form and location of the remaining Board meetings during 2022.

At the request of Cllr Nunn, the Director provided further information on both the Forth Valley and Tayside Bus Alliances. He explained about the different workstreams, including Bus Priority, Match in Kind and the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Cllr Rome noted the streamlined timescale of the respective STAG appraisals and sought further clarification on the timescale. The Director stated that this will be provided.

The Chair introduced the topic of upcoming Board meetings and sought the opinion of the Board whether they preferred to continue to have their meetings online, in a hybrid format or, in person.

Resolved:

- (i) To note updates on the Bus Alliances and ScotRail's emergency timetable;
- (ii) To note the Spaces for People monitoring report as shown in Appendix A;
- (iii) To note the response to Scottish Government consultation on Public Sector Equalities Duty as approved by the Executive Committee in April 2022, as shown in Appendix B; and
- (iv) To agree that Tactran Partnership Board meetings continue to be hybrid during 2022 providing for on-line virtual and in-person at Perth.

15. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

The Director noted that he had been approached by Dundee City Council with the request to provide a letter of support for the Council's bid to the UK-wide Levelling Up Fund (LUF). Dundee City Council is applying to the LUF to transform Bell Street Car Park in Dundee into a sustainable Green Transport Hub. The Director noted that he would circulate a letter of support and ask the Board members to endorse the letter of support.

Cllr McDonald sought clarification whether support for the Bell Street Car Park Levelling Up Fund bid would prevent Tactran endorsing and supporting other bids to the fund. The Director confirmed that it would not and other Councils could seek support from Tactran.

A Deans advised that a request from Perth & Kinross Council for Tactran to provide a letter of support is imminent.

The Board agreed for the Director to circulate letters of support to the LUF as required for endorsement.

Closing the meeting, the Chair extended his welcome to the new Board members again.

16. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

10.30am on 13 September 2022

10.30am on 13 December 2022