

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 2nd August 2022 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors Lois Speed (substitute for Councillor Heather Doran) and Mark McDonald (Angus Council); Councillors Mark Flynn, Dorothy McHugh and Steven Rome (Dundee City Council); Councillors Hugh Anderson, Andrew Parrott and Richard Watters (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillor Rachel Nunn (Stirling Council); Dr Jonathan Berg, Bryan Doyle and Amy McDonald (Members).

In Attendance: M Speed (Director); N Gardiner, J Padmore, A Roger, M Smith and C Stuerck (Tactran); W Scott (Angus Council); E MacNaughton (Dundee City Council); N Moran (Perth & Kinross Council).

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Heather Doran (Angus Council); Councillor Danny Gibson (Stirling Council); Paul Cronin and Paul Reid (Members).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. A NEW REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY: A CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW WE TRAVEL

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Officer (RTP/22/19) seeking Partnership approval to undertake a second stage of public and stakeholder engagement and additional market research to inform the writing of the new Regional Transport Strategy.

There was a presentation and workshop led by the Senior Strategy Officer and Strategy Officer (Strategic Connectivity).

J Padmore sought views on key determinants of scale of the challenge.

Councillor Flynn asked whether the statistics on travel presented were pre or post Covid and also for clarity on the data sources overall. He considered that more up to date information needs to be provided for the consultation process moving forwards. JP noted that data sources would be provided in a list of references.

A McDonald noted that the financial challenges need to be considered and that the presentation was well received. The financial considerations will dictate whether this is deliverable and that there should perhaps be a financial plan moving forward. This question would largely be focussed on what other external organisations need and for this to be part of the consultation process.

The Director agreed that there could be a two-part plan moving forwards – what is affordable and an aspirational plan and he noted ongoing conversations with Scottish Government as well as other organisations at present.

Councillor Rome noted that the joined-up nature of public transport and the connections required for individuals to complete their journey must be considered. The health outcomes were also raised on how these impact on the modes which are accessible to individuals. The Director agreed.

Councillor Watters raised the free bus travel for people under 22 years and asked what uptake there has been on this. The data associated with this would be welcome for the purpose of this project. J Cooper responded that anecdotal evidence from the Tayside Bus Alliance indicates there had been a positive uptake and he noted that data is being collected and should be available shortly. The Director noted the Forth Valley Bus Alliance would also be collecting data. Both Bus Alliances are developing Bus Service Improvement Partnerships (BSIP) and there will be data associated with this that can be made available in the coming months.

Councillor Anderson noted the cost associated with electric cars and that these remain to be too high. The ongoing costs need to be considered in addition to the initial outlay. The free bike scheme was also noted and he understood that very few had taken up this offer and noted that we have a long way to go. The Director responded that there is a significant challenge in meeting government targets and also noted the cost of living increases is having an impact on affordability across transport. Tactran has good communication with the Scottish Government and will act as the voice around these issues.

The Chair agreed and hoped that the economies of scale will align in due course and costs associated with electric vehicles will reduce.

W Scott provided information on the free bike scheme which has been available in the region and that between 500-600 have been taken up.

J Padmore reassured that there has been extensive data used and analysed to date and will continue to be sourced.

J Padmore continued the presentation and sought views on what can be done to meet or better climate change and child poverty targets by 2030 and what this might mean to individuals, businesses and delivery agencies.

The Chair noted that this is complex and cannot simply be met through only transport measures. Society must play a role overall.

Amy Macdonald requested to know how the 2030 targets can be achieved in what is a very tight timescale and gave the example of the time taken to deliver Low Emission Zones. The targets are very challenging and we should concentrate on what can be achieved noting that financial support is required. The Director agreed and observed that there are no simple solutions to these issues. Social, cultural and behaviour change is required. N Gardiner noted

the LEZ in Dundee is now in place; however, there is a “grace period” of two years before it is enforceable. A McDonald considered that it is about doing something rather than nothing. J Padmore thanked A McDonald for her comments and considered the focus needs to be on what is most important and has the biggest impact and therefore the outcomes are important.

Councillor Flynn agreed that targets are very demanding. Meeting the needs of the region's cities, towns and rural considerations will be a challenge. The communities need to be involved in this conversation. It will require collaboration and smart use of finances.

Councillor McHugh noted that the strategy remit is very wide and that we must focus on what is achievable. She considered that transport solutions alone are unlikely to have a significant impact on child poverty targets.

Councillor Nunn asked what the Scottish Government is doing with regards to communications to the public to encourage them to travel differently and considered that there must be a national led campaign on this. Another challenge is recruitment and Councillor Nunn sited difficulties Stirling Council is having recruiting suitably qualified and experience staff. In addition, road material cost increases are impacting affordability of projects which are currently being undertaken. Councillor Nunn considered the option to wait until alternatives are in place before individuals are encouraged to make significant changes is unlikely to happen in the time available and that these need to be done in parallel.

The Director agreed that a national campaign to influence hearts and minds was required. With regards to finances, the Scottish Government is also under extreme financial pressure due to inflation. As a result, this is affecting Regional Transport Partnerships and Local Authorities and it is anticipated there may be further cuts.

J Berg asked how Tactran can be assured that the Partnership have the right access and approach to development plans with each local authority in order to ensure the right measures are being put in place. The Director noted planning permission processes and that this current work is vital to influence and guide local authorities moving forwards. Councillor Nunn noted that Cornwall Council has a good tool available online for organisations.

C Stuerck provided a presentation giving details of the engagement proposed, noting that a link to the story map will be sent out w/c 15th August to all Board members and they would be invited to provide feedback.

Councillor Flynn noted the public engagement and the meaningful engagement opportunities available and asked to clarify this as well as avenues to promote it and would welcome a list of the agencies Tactran will be engaging with. C Stuerck noted the story map tool is the main consultation tool and that a market research company is being brought in to support the consultation process. The Director agreed to provide all Board members with a list of agencies that will be consulted and would welcome suggested additional groups.

Councillor McHugh asked if there are timescales around these various stages of engagement. She noted that we must all be mindful of digital exclusion and that this is largely online. Disadvantaged communities may be affected by this restriction. C Stuerck noted that the consultation process will be closing beginning of November and acknowledged the point on digital exclusion. The market research is proposed to address this consideration. J Padmore reiterated this and noted that Tactran will work as closely as possible with community engagement teams within the Local Authorities.

Councillor McDonald asked to confirm that the Board will be given the opportunity to feedback on the consultation process. C Stuerck confirmed that today's presentation was an opportunity to do so. Board members will also be invited to give feedback on the story map and at appropriate points in the RTS development programme. The Director reiterated this point and acknowledged the digital exclusion point made.

Councillor Speed asked for clarity and assurances on other formats such as Easy Read versions and paper copies. This must be accessible to all. J Padmore noted the data sources and data pack in Appendix A will be used in the exercise and this will be reduced to a user-friendly shorter format that will be more accessible to all. If additional formats are required, Tactran will work with the Local Authority teams to provide this. Councillor Speed asked if an equality impact assessment will be undertaken. The Director confirmed that a full EQIA will be undertaken.

Councillor Rome asked that it be noted that Dundee City Council could provide good information with regard to the EQIA.

Councillor Rome also noted Dundee Volunteers and Voluntary Action is a good network to distribute RTS consultation and seek input. J Padmore acknowledged that Dundee had several supportive channels to communicate through in the previous stages of the RTS consultation process and that this would be done again.

C Stuerck sought views on the survey questionnaire and how the scale of change is discussed with stakeholders.

Councillor Speed asked what will be done to ensure hard to reach groups have confidence that their views will be taken on board. The Director noted that their opinions will be welcomed as part of the process and will use the outcomes to provide feedback. Jonathan Padmore noted that a feedback report will be provided to those who wish to receive it.

Councillor Macdonald asked if the questions had been omitted from the agenda pack. C Stuerck noted that story map will be based on the questions included in Appendix A of the Board report. The Director noted that the market research is part of the next stage of the process and that appropriate questions will also be developed by the successful market research agency.

J Berg left the meeting.

Councillor Nunn asked for confirmation on what monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken and asked what will be determined as success. The Director confirmed that KPIs would be embedded as part of this strategy. This will be an ongoing live document and meaningful KPIs will be considered as part of this process.

The Director thanked all for their patience with this process.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the second stage of public and stakeholder engagement to inform the writing of a new Regional Transport Strategy.
- (ii) To approve the commissioning of market research work to support the engagement exercise.

3. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

None

4. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

10.30am on 13 September 2022
10.30am on 13 December 2022