

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 13th December 2022 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors Heather Doran and Lynne Devine (substituting for Councillor 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 and Bryan Doyle (Members).

In Attendance: M Speed (Director); N Gardiner, J Padmore, A Roger, M Smith, J Cooper and C Stuerck (Tactran); S Hendry (Secretary); G Dailly (Angus Council); E MacNaughton (Dundee City Council); D Coyne, N Moran, B Wilson and J Salisbury (Perth & Kinross Council).

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

1. DECLERATIONS OF INEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 20 SEPTEMBER 2022

The minute of meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 20 September 2022 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. BUS ALLIANCES UPDATE

There was submitted a joint report by Tayside Bus Alliance Project Manager (RTP/22/27) providing the Partnership with updates on the Tayside and Forth Valley Bus Alliances.

There was a presentation by J Cooper on the progress of the Bus Alliances STAG appraisals, providing information on the Tayside Bus Alliance bus corridor prioritisation review.

J Cooper highlighted the importance of engaging with council officers and members during the appraisal and said that a workshop for Board Members is currently being arranged.

Cllr Rome welcomed the update on the appraisal. Further information would be required. He welcomed the news that a workshop for Board Members was being arranged. He asked that the date should be set as soon as possible to allow for further discussion. He also stated his concerns of any potential budget

cuts impacting on the work and the upcoming application for funding at the next funding round of the Bus Partnership Fund.

The Director echoed his concerns. He confirmed that Tactran will confirm dates for the upcoming programme of workshops, including the workshop to inform the work of the Alliances, will be confirmed as soon as possible in the new year.

Cllr Devine raised concerns that there had been no priority bus corridors into Angus identified. Angus was not well served by public transport. Such concerns were echoed by Cllr Doran. Cllr Devine cited the withdrawn services into Forfar as a recent example of declining direct bus services in Angus. J Cooper agreed that Angus is less well served by public transport. While there were no priority corridors identified, he outlined how the identified improvements along the Arbroath and Forfar Road, for example, will improve the crossing of the Kingsway and will, subsequently, help to improve connectivity into Angus. Improvements to the current ticketing arrangements will help to improve accessibility of the public transport network for Angus residents.

Cllr Devine asked about the introduction of a more direct link between Dundee and the town centre of Forfar (and further to Aberdeen). J Cooper confirmed that, while bus operators deem which routes are commercially viable for them, he is in discussion with Stagecoach to further improve the connectivity of the network.

The Director highlighted the ongoing work with regards to the Bus Service Improvement Partnership plan and the potential options available to councils under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the ongoing work in the Tayside and Forth Valley Bus Alliances and the direction and defined deliverables of the projects.

4. TACTRAN ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/22/28) introducing the Tactran Annual Report for 2021/22.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve for publication and submission to Scottish Ministers the Tactran Annual Report for 2021/22.

5. 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET AND PROGRAMME

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/22/29) providing the Partnership with a monitoring update on Revenue expenditure and seeking approval of a revised 2022/23 Revenue Programme.

Cllr Doran enquired about the budget line allocated to social media, including social listening as the allocation seemed to be rather high for social media activities. N Gardiner explained that the majority of the allocated budget will be

spent for the continuation of the MaaS (Mobility as a Service) ENABLE Project. The project has launched a number of MaaS pilots with NHS Tayside, Dundee and Angus College and Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

Cllr Doran asked that a further update on MaaS be provided. It was agreed that an update on MaaS ENABLE Project will be provided at the next Partnership Board meeting.

Cllr Devine raised concerns that there was no inclusion of a cycle link between Forfar and Dundee. She sought further clarification whether and why such a link was not included in the programme. N Gardiner explained that the Review of the Active Travel Network as referred to in para. 3.24 of the report includes a comprehensive assessment of the active travel network within the region. The review is funded by Sustrans and will assess corridors and prioritise infrastructure improvements. The work is currently being procured. Following on from the evaluation of tender submissions, a report will be submitted to the Executive Committee to procure the work.

The Partnership Director set out the ongoing work to streamline the current working arrangements to deliver active travel projects within the region. The current arrangements are often impacted by resource pressures, subsequently restricting the amount of funding that can realistically be drawn down from national funding streams for active travel. Discussions with senior officers from each of the constituent Councils are taking place to streamline processes across Councils to identify synergies and to better realise operational efficiencies, thus allowing Councils to draw down the available funding in full.

Cllr Nunn asked whether there is a need to introduce a budget line for Tactran's net zero aspirations, specifically for the Tactran office building. The Partnership Director referred to the Partnership's annual Public Sector Climate Change Duties reporting, noting the annual gross quantity of carbon emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. The Partnership Director highlighted that the Partnership is close to achieving net zero carbon emissions. Calculations include the consideration of the energy performance of the Tactran office. He further advised that the Partnership is looking at options to offset the remaining carbon emissions, such as tree planting projects.

With the current lease for the office running for another two years, Tactran will be looking at potentially moving into an office with an improved energy efficiency.

Cllr Nunn raised concerns about the potential of the Scottish Government to reduce allocations in 2023/24, resulting in less income to the Partnership. The concerns were echoed by the Chair and the Partnership Director.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 31 October 2022 as detailed in Appendix A;

- (ii) To note progress on and approve a revised 2022/23 RTS Revenue Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendices B and C;
- (iii) To note progress on the 2022/23 Capital Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendix D; and
- (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.

6. 2023/24 CORE REVENUE BUDGET

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and Director (RTP/22/30) seeks the Partnership's approval of a proposed 2023/24 Core Revenue Budget.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the proposed 2023/24 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 2023/24 Revenue Budgets;
- (iii) To agree to receive a report with a finalised 2023/24 Core Revenue Budget and proposed 2023/24 Regional Transport Strategy Revenue Programme Budget at its next meeting; and
- (iv) To note the estimated Reserves balance at 1 April 2023.

7. DIRECTORS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/22/18) asking the Partnership to: note the resignation of Paul Cronin from the Tactran Board and agree to advertise for a replacement; note updates on the National Rail Conversation and Hydrogen Decarbonisation Project; consider and approve one consultation response and to note two consultation responses approved by the Executive Committee; consider the format for Board meetings during 2023.

The Chair stated that he would like to reinstate the rota of previous meeting cycles of the Partnership Board when meetings rotated around the four constituent Councils. His ambition is to maximise the opportunity for members to meet face to face. The proposal was welcomed and supported by Cllr Rome.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Partnership looks at the option to hold meetings in all four council locations. However, it was acknowledged that the required expertise and equipment for hybrid meetings may not be available to Tactran via the councils in each location. The Director confirmed that Tactran officers will liaise with the respective Council officers to confirm details and will report back on options for future meeting formats in advance of the next meeting in March 2023. In the meantime, the dates of the meetings for 2023 were agreed.

Referring to the consultation response to the Cycling Scotland Framework and Delivery Plan, Cllr Watters expanded on the highlighted need to improve active travel links to mobility hubs and reported that the Kinross Park and Ride has experienced increased demand over the past couple of months. It has been operating at full capacity which has caused issues. He highlighted the lack of alternative (active) travel access to the site.

The Partnership Director stated that it was welcomed that the site was well used. Reasons for the recent increase in usage could be varied. He will be asking the respective officers at Perth & Kinross Council for an update. The Chair advised that the bus services operated by Ember seem to be very popular and well-used. Ember operates a bus stop at Kinross Park and Ride.

Cllr Nunn requested further information on why Stirling Council has not completed and submitted the fleet assessment as part of the Tayside Hydrogen Project yet. The Partnership Director confirmed that, while no dataset has been submitted yet, Stirling Council is engaged and committed to the project.

Cllr Nunn also requested further information on the National Rail Conversation, wondering whether it will deliver. N Gardiner advised the National Conversation had been instigated at the request of the Transport Minister and that Transport Scotland has set up a steering group including ScotRail and Network Rail to shape the conversation. The Steering Group has commenced a stakeholder mapping exercise and Tactran will provide contacts to ensure that the interests of the region are well covered.

N Gardiner further referred to the continuous discussion with Transport Scotland and both Network Rail and ScotRail at the quarterly rail meetings that the Tactran officers hold.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the resignation of Paul Cronin and agree to advertise for a replacement non-elected member.
- (ii) To note updates on the National Rail Conversation and Hydrogen Decarbonisation Project outlined within the report;
- (iii) To consider and approve a proposed response to Transport Scotland's consultation on Cycling Framework and Delivery Plan for Active Travel in Scotland 2022-2030, as outlined in Appendix A;
- (iv) To note responses approved by the Executive Committee to consultations on Strathclyde Partnership for Transport draft Regional Transport Strategy and Stirling Local Development Plan draft Supplementary Guidance on Developer Contributions, as outlined in Appendices B and C; and
- (v) To agree the dates and reconsider the format of Partnership meetings during 2023.

8. A NEW REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY: 'A CONVERSATION ABOUT CHANGING HOW WE TRAVEL' CONSULTATION SUMMARY

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Officer (RTP/22/32) providing the Partnership with a summary of the responses to the second stage of engagement to inform a new Regional Transport Strategy and outlining the next steps for developing the strategy.

There was a presentation by C Stuerck on the responses to the second stage of engagement to inform a new Regional Transport Strategy and asking questions regarding the step changes required to meet national targets, including those related to climate change.

In response to a question regarding change applying to both urban and rural areas, Cllr Rome agreed that changes to travel habits in both rural and urban areas were required and noted since the pandemic there are more car owning low income households, and therefore issues of affordability would need to be considered.

The Chair also agreed noting that there needs to alternatives e.g. Park & Choose – car for rural part and transfer to other modes in urban area, with this including access to rail interchanges for longer component of journey. Cllr Devine noted that this problem was more acute where there wasn't access to rail and bus is the only alternative for rural travel. Cllr Nunn considered that alternatives such as liftshare, MaaS and park & choose need to be part of the solution and that there needs to be coherence between national, regional and local strategies.

Cllr Doran considered that there needed to be improvements to increase confidence and safety for public transport services.

C Stuerck completed her presentation. However, time constraints at the meeting meant that no further questions were asked. The Director noted that information on the public and stakeholder consultation and market research would be made available in the Members area of the Tactran website. He also stated that the presentation slides would be provided to the Members and welcomed them to provide feedback.

There was a further presentation by J Padmore providing a brief introduction to work undertaken on the assessment of the options to achieve a 20% reduction in car kilometres within the Tactran region. He highlighted that measures that either enable or encourage car trips to be taken by other modes (or not to be taken at all) will not meet the 20% reduction target in the region. It will require measures that discourage car trips, as their reduction potential is much higher. In combination with enabling and encouraging measures, their introduction will enable the region to meet the 20% reduction in car kilometres.

The presentation slides will be made available to Members and a workshop will be arranged in early 2023. This will provide more detail and will enable Members to engage with the subject matter in more depth.

Cllr Nunn asked whether Transport Scotland should be invited to the workshop. The Partnership Director explained that this was not possible. He will discuss the matter further with Cllr Nunn individually, if required.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the responses to the second stage of engagement to inform a new Regional Transport Strategy
- (ii) To note the next stages for developing a new Regional Transport Strategy.

9. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

The Director drew attention to the recently published STPR2 Final Reports and suite of accompanying documents. With the documents having been published on 8 December 2022, there was no opportunity for this to be brought to this Board Meeting. However, a report will be prepared for the next meeting in March 2023.

The Director informed the Board that Transport Minister Jenny Gilruth will be visiting Dundee and Angus College on 9 February 2023 for an overview of the MaaS ENABLE Project. The Director asked whether an Angus Council elected member would wish to join the visit.

10. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 14th March 2023
- 13th June 2023
- 12th September 2023
- 12th December 2023