

## **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 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors Heather Doran (Angus Council); Councillor Steven Rome (Dundee City Council); Councillor Andrew Parrott (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillor Rachel Nunn (Stirling Council); Bryan Doyle (Members).

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

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Mark Flynn (Dundee City Council); Councillor Richard Watters (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillor Danny Gibson (Stirling Council); Dr Jonathan Berg and Amy McDonald (Members).

### **1. DECLERATIONS OF INEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 13 DECEMBER 2022**

The minute of meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 13 December 2022 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

### **3. REVIEW OF RISK REGISTER**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/23/01) presenting the Partnership's Risk Register for annual review and approval by the Partnership.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) To review the Risk Register as detailed in Appendix A to the report; and
- (ii) To agree to receive a further report reviewing and updating the Risk Register not later than March 2024.

### **4. STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS REVIEW**

There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Manager (RTP/23/02) noting the publication of Transport Scotland's Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2).

Cllr Rome asked for additional information on Transport Scotland's position on the development of strategic Park & Choose and Mobility Hub sites. N Gardiner set out that Tactran was in continued discussion on this issue with Transport Scotland through the Bus Partnership Fund. Tactran will also look to continue this discussion during the development of the STPR2 delivery plan. N Gardiner advised that the governance framework to develop the plan is still to be confirmed by Transport Scotland.

Asked about the anticipated timescale by Cllr Rome, N Gardiner advised that no specific timescale has been advised yet by Transport Scotland.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the publication of Transport Scotland's Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2); and
- (ii) To remit officers to continue to engage with Transport Scotland during the STPR2 Delivery Plan development.

## **5. ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE**

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) (RTP/23/03) asking the Partnership to note: progress in 2023/24 Active Travel Capital programme and the appointment of ARUP to develop the Regional Active Travel Network; to endorse the 2023/24 Active Travel Capital projects and criteria and to note progress in the Active Travel Transformation Project.

B Doyle asked for additional information on the allocation of £84,000 for people resource. N Gardiner advised that the allocation covers two full-time posts or equivalent consultancy support to deliver the respective active travel projects as well as to provide additional support to local authorities.

Cllr. Parrott sought additional information on the commissioned work to assess and develop a Regional Active Travel Network. J Padmore advised that the commission comprises of an assessment of the routes identified in each of the four local authority areas to form a regional network. The assessment is evidence based and will provide the basis for future bids to draw down active travel funding. The assessment will also look at new active travel links to deliver a strategic regional active travel network.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note progress being made in the 2022/23 Active Travel Capital Programme, including reallocation of funding as outlined within the report;
- (ii) To note the appointment of ARUP for the Regional Active Travel Network digital mapping and dashboard facility;
- (iii) To endorse the 2023/24 Active Travel Capital Programme criteria and projects; and
- (iv) To note update on the Transport Scotland Active Travel Transformation Project.

## **6. TACTRAN ENABLE MAAS PROGRAMME**

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Officer (RTP/23/04) providing an overview of the Tactran ENABLE Mobility as a Service (MaaS) programme which commenced in January 2020 and is currently programmed to end in March 2023 (subject to the success of an application for Smarter Choices Smarter Places grant).

Cllr Parrott informed the Board about the most recent visit of the Scottish Transport Minister to the Dundee and Angus College. This clearly showed the achievement of the project Tactran engaged in two years ago.

Cllr Rome acknowledged the current situation around the continuation of the project and wanted to know how long the £10,000 contingency allocated for the project will support its continuation should the application for Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) funding not be successful. J Padmore explained that partners were hopeful that SCSP application for funding will be successful after Paths for All had already approved the submitted expression of interest. Partners have worked closely with programme representatives during the development of the funding application.

If the application for SCSP funding was successful, the identified match funding would be used to continue the project until such time that the Scottish Government has received and reviewed the evaluation reports. A decision is due in 2024.

J Padmore provided an update on the identified risk that the available budget earmarked by partners may still result in a gap period if SCSP bid was unsuccessful.

Cllr Nunn echoed Cllr Rome's concerns. While communicated as a pilot project, not all users would be aware of the demonstration character of the project. Communication will be key to avoid disappointment and take people through a potential gap period. J Padmore agreed and confirmed that the app features the option to directly communicate with user. This communication channel would be used should there be any temporary withdrawal of the service.

The Director stated that there are positive signs of progress with securing funding to continue with the project. He further explained that he is in discussion with Transport Scotland and will be meeting the Director of the respective directorate at Transport Scotland.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To support applications to extend the Tactran MaaS ENABLE programme until the Partnership have an opportunity to consider both the Tactran Project and Transport Scotland Programme Evaluation Reports;
- (ii) To note officers will market the project utilising the Tactran Evaluation Report, during this period; and
- (iii) To agree to consider at a future Partnership meeting the costs and benefits of the Tactran ENABLE programme once Transport Scotland's programme evaluation report has been published.

**7. 2022/23 BUDGET AND MONITORING**

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/23/05) providing a monitoring update on the Partnership's Revenue and Capital expenditure and asking the Partnership to carry forward £12,875 projected underspend variance from Core Revenue and any final year end RTS Revenue Programme underspend to the next financial year.

Cllr Rome ask for the reason behind the significant increase in income from interest received compared with previous years. D Coyne explained is due to Tactran's positive cash balance coupled with the increased interest rates with any underspend being accrued and put into a reserve.

Cllr Nunn sought clarification whether Stirling Council's allocation had been received. The Director confirmed that the respective allocation from Stirling Council had been received.

Cllr Rome asked for further detail on the budget line relating to Park and Ride. There was no budget allocated despite several initiatives being listed. The Director confirmed that this was correct. With regards to mobility hubs, three Scottish Government Local Rail Development Fund projects are considering Park and Choose sites. Additional sites situated along identified strategic bus corridors will be considered by the ongoing work of the Bus Alliances.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 31 January 2023 as detailed in Appendix A;
- (ii) To agree that £12,875 of the projected underspend variance from Core Revenue is transferred to augment the RTS Programme in 2023/24, and any further underspend in the Core Revenue Budget is transferred to the RTS Programme in 2023/24;
- (iii) To agree that £7,000 of earmarked reserve for relocation allowance is earmarked at the year-end for use next year;
- (iv) 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;
- (v) To agree that any final year end underspend in the RTS Revenue Programme funding is carried forward to supplement the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and Programme; and

- (vi) To note progress on the 2022/23 Capital Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendix D.

## **8. 2023/24 BUDGET AND PROGRAMME**

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and Director (RTP/23/06) updating the Partnership on Scottish Government and partner Council contributions towards the Partnership's 2023/24 Revenue Budget and seeking approval of a 2023/24 Core Revenue Budget and proposed 2023/24 RTS Revenue and Capital Programmes.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) To note partner Councils' requested Revenue contributions towards the 2023/24 Core Budget;
- (ii) To note the anticipated award of Scottish Government Grant in Aid of up to £522,750 in 2023/24;
- (iii) To approve the 2023/24 Core Budget as detailed in Appendix A;
- (iv) To approve an initial 2023/24 RTS Revenue Programme budget as detailed in sections 3.8 – 3.37 of the report and to agree to consider approval of a finalised 2023/24 Programme at the Partnership's next meeting on 13 June 2023; and
- (v) To note the potential 2023/24 Capital Income and agrees to receive a further update at its next meeting.

## **9. DIRECTORS REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/23/07) asking the Partnership to note: progress in recruiting a new non-elected board member; the outcome of the Levelling Up Fund applications; the adoption of NPF4 by Scottish Ministers; updates on the EV Strategy, Hydrogen Decarbonisation Project and Bus Alliances. The Partnership was also asked to agree that the 2022/23 Audit Strategy is circulated via e-mail and to consider and approve a proposed response to Scottish Government consultation on a draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan.

The Director advised the Board that it is with regret that Dr Jonathan Berg has resigned from the Board as his other commitments had become too onerous for him to be able to fulfil the requirements of this position on the Board. It was agreed that as Dr Berg fulfilled the role of a health representative on the Board that a suitable replacement be sought.

Cllr Rome sought further information in relation to both the update on Electric Vehicle and on Hydrogen Decarbonisation project. N Gardiner provided further information on the assessment work undertaken by each of the four local authorities with funding from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund. Initial funding was made available to each local authority to develop infrastructure expansion plans. Angus, Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils are each developing expansion plans for their areas. Stirling Council is developing an expansion plan with Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Council, but which can also be disaggregated into each Council area. Following this, the Regional EV

Steering Group will consider the benefits of a more regional approach to further develop the charging infrastructure within the region.

The Partnership Director provided an update on the work of project partners in assessing the potential to introduce hydrogen fuel cell electric heavy-duty vehicles into fleets within the region and the subsequent requirements for green hydrogen refuelling infrastructure.

Identified work packages to advance the project include:

1. Supply
2. Fleet Replacement
3. Fleet Workshops
4. Skills

The work package on developing a model for fleet replacement will also consider retrofitting diesel engines to run on hydrogen.

Cllr Nunn enquired about the national fiscal measures referred to in the draft response to the consultation of the National Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan. The Director advised that this is linked to national road user pricing schemes. He referred to the recently commissioned assessment to identify preferred mechanisms to achieve the 20% reduction in car kilometres within the Tactran region and also advised that Transport Scotland has commissioned a national assessment with the report being published by the end of May.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note progress in recruiting a new non-elected member to the Tactran Board and agree to recruit a new health representative to the Board;
- (ii) To agree the 2022/23 Audit Strategy will be circulated to Members via e-mail for noting and comment.
- (iii) To note the outcome of the Levelling Up Fund applications;
- (iv) To note the adoption of NPF4 by Scottish Ministers and to note updates on the EV Strategy, Hydrogen Decarbonisation Project and Bus Alliances outlined within the report; and
- (v) To approve a response to Scottish Government's consultation on draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, as outlined in Appendix A.

## **10. A NEW REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Officer (RTP/23/08) collating for the Partnership Board the work that has been undertaken to date to inform the writing of a new Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy and helping to inform discussion on the strategy prior to consideration of a draft strategy at the 13 June 2023 Partnership Meeting.

Cllr Rome welcomed the comprehensive work completed by Tactran officers to inform the development of the new Regional Transport Strategy 2023 – 2033 (RTS). He raised concerns, however, in relation to the presented timescales with the draft RTS being brought to the Board in June 2023 and the final RTS in March 2024. Both Cllr Nunn and Cllr Parrott shared his concerns.

While the presented timescales are taking account of the required periods to consult on the final draft strategy, there was agreement that timescales should be reviewed and, if required, special Board Meetings should be called to approve the final strategy ahead of the presented timescales to allow for it to be submitted to the Minister for approval at the earliest opportunity.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) To note the work members may wish to refer to prior to discussing the content of a Draft Regional Transport Strategy; and
- (ii) To note the summary of the 'A Conversation About Changing How We Travel' engagement as included at Appendix A and to approve its circulation to stakeholders and the public.

## **11. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB**

Cllr Nunn will attend the Scottish Rural and Islands Transport Community 2023 Gathering which will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. She, subsequently, asked for the next workshop session to develop the new Regional Transport Strategy 2023 – 2033 to be scheduled after the 11<sup>th</sup> May so that she can feed back any information from the Gathering to the Board on the day. The Partnership Director confirmed that Tactran will try to accommodate this.

Cllr Parrott asked for further information on the aforementioned Gathering. Cllr Nunn will forward respective information to the Director to forward to Board Members.

## **12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

13<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Stirling  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Forfar  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Dundee