

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held in the Training, Room, Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar and via MS Teams on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 10.30am.

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

In Attendance: M Speed (Director); N Gardiner, J Padmore, J Cooper, A Roger and C Stuerck (Tactran); S Hendry (Secretary); E MacNaughton and E Gourlay (Dundee City Council); B Wilson, N Moran, J Salisbury and E Williamson (Perth & Kinross Council); S Dickson (Transport Scotland); E Tait and I Hall (ScotRail) for item 4; M Bowman and J Allan (Ove Arup & Partners) for item 5.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Heather Doran (Angus Council) and Amy McDonald (Member).

1. DECLERATIONS OF INEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 13 JUNE 2023

The minute of meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 13 June 2023 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. APPOINTMENT OF NON-COUNCILLOR MEMBER

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/23/23) report requesting the Partnership endorse the appointment of Alan Stewart as a non-Councillor member of the Tactran Partnership Board.

Resolved:

- (i) To endorse the appointment of Alan Stewart as a non-Councillor Member on the Tactran Partnership Board.

4. SCOTRAIL: SERVICE UPDATE

There was a presentation from Ewan Tait, Business Development Manager, ScotRail updating the Board on passenger demand, the December 2023 rail timetable. The [Fife and Tay Cities Consultation](#) launched on 11 September and closing on 23 October 2023.

Councillor McDonald enquired how ScotRail quantify passenger numbers when a number of tickets are not checked and said the changes detailed within the presentation are positive as they provide more connections and stops at stations rather than being focussed solely on journey times. E Tait advised ScotRail are undertaking a survey to understand the scale of the ticketless travel issue. He advised there is an aspiration to reduce city to city journey times but this time the conscious choice was to increase the journey times to enable the service to improve by maintaining frequency. He noted that the impact on average journey times between Glasgow and Aberdeen is only 4 minutes and that there are longer term plans included within the Aberdeen to Central Belt enhancement project which will aim to reduce journey times on the intercity journeys.

Councillor McHugh asked if the consultation is only available online. E Tait confirmed paper copies are available at local stations (e.g. Dundee) and information advising the consultation was underway will be posted on the customer information screens at train stations with details on how to respond.

The Chair welcomed the reintroduction of rail services to Leven but is concerned that the opportunity seems to give Dundee a semi fast service each hour whereas the service to Perth will remain slow. E Tait advised it had been considered whether Perth could be accelerated as opposed to Dundee but due to number of trains available it is currently more efficient to improve Dundee. However, changes to customer behaviours and demand will continue to be reviewed and a Perth semi fast service may be considered in the future.

Councillor Rome asked if off peak travel had increased due to the price difference with peak costs? E Tait advised a 6 month pilot is due to commence on 2 October which will remove the peak fare charges as part the Government's Fair Fares Review. This is a significant trial and the results may influence future fare structures. Councillor Rome also noted the early time of the last train from Glasgow to Dundee and that he had been advised by staff to travel via Edinburgh. E Tait noted the last train from Glasgow to Dundee departs at 23:10 and that on the date in question, Councillor Rome's journey may have been impacted by disruption.

Councillor Nunn asked if the student market could be incentivised towards the train as opposed to buses as currently the train is too expensive. E Tait advised the fares trial will assist in this area but due to the free U22 bus travel it is difficult to encourage students to use the train.

Councillor Nunn also asked whether the number of services between Stirling and Edinburgh/Glasgow had gone down. E Tait confirmed the capacity was comparable.

The Chair thanked E Tait for his presentation.

Resolved:

- (i) To delegate the response to the Fife and Tay Cities Timetable Consultation to the Executive Committee.

5. TACTRAN REGIONAL ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK

There was a presentation from Mark Bowman and Jodie Allan, Ove Arup & Partners on the Tactran Regional Active Travel Network.

Cllr Nunn noted that the map link did not work and the StoryMap had a password. N Gardiner advised these will be amended and the intention is the StoryMap will not require a password but the webmap link will provide an automatic request to use to Tactran in order to keep a register of users.

Councillor Nunn asked how this work feeds into the work that Sustran are doing in Clacks/Falkirk and what behaviour change evaluation will be undertaken. M Smith confirmed Tactran are fully engaged with Sustran as they are developing a similar network. With regards to behaviour change, evaluation will be undertaken but the baseline and what evaluation is required will differ for each Local Authority and agreeing a way forward is part of the next steps. There are also discussions regarding current behaviour change initiatives as to what has worked well and what has not.

Councillor Nunn asked whether there was any best practice in relation to communication before and during construction which could assist, such as during the construction phase of Walk, Cycle, Live Stirling.

Councillor Nunn asked whether any sensitivity testing had been undertaken when applying the multi-criteria assessment, to understand whether altering the weighting changed the priority orders and used the example of land ownership. M Bowman responded that land ownership was only one of many factors and removing one element from the criteria would be likely to have limited impact.

Councillor Watters said in terms of the geographical scope, Kinross-shire appeared to not be mentioned at all and asked that for assurance that this area is included going forward. J Allan advised multi-criteria assessment used census data from 2011, but it was confirmed routes around Kinross-shire will be considered at the next stage involving Local Authorities and their priority routes. Councillor Watters asked that services in Fife and Clackmannanshire, which Kinross residents are likely to use/access, are taken into account.

Councillor McDonald asked if engagement with stakeholders was agreed by the Board as elected members were missing from the list of stakeholders; if Angus Council officers had been involved; and for clarification on the definition of tourist attractions. N Gardiner confirmed the stakeholder list was not approved by Board. Councillor McDonald suggested that elected members are a useful stakeholder group that should be consulted in such exercises. J Allan confirmed engagement with Angus Council officers at the 'show and tell' session and that they fed into the project. The tourist attraction statistics and definition are from the Association for Visitor Attractions which considers specific attractions people go to, but it may be that going forward can add place specific information. Councillor McDonald advised the cycle counter in Broughty Ferry may provide helpful statistics.

6. ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) (RTP/23/24) noting: progress in Tactran's Regional Active Travel Network and Delivery Plan; progress in the 2023/24 Active Travel Capital programme; and noting the creation of a Regional Active Travel Group and providing an update on the Active Travel Transformation Project.

Councillor Nunn asked if Liftshare was being reviewed and whether other models from across the world were being considered as alternatives. M Smith advised there is a Liftshare review being undertaken for the RTPs which is being led by Nestrans and various alternative options are being considered. Councillor Nunn asked how this could be incorporated into the MaaS pilot as there is a need to ensure the tools available are compatible rather than a multitude of options available? M Smith said all options and modes are being considered. The Director confirmed that a report will be brought to a future board with an update on the MaaS pilots and Liftshare.

Councillor Nunn suggested that the case needed to be made to Transport Scotland that MaaS tools can help reduce the costs to the public sector and assist in mitigating against social inclusion and climate change impacts. J Padmore stated that Transport Scotland had offered to help, understand and quantify the wider benefits to society that MaaS journey planning tools could make.

Resolved:

- (i) To note progress and approve Tactran's Regional Active Travel Network, as included at Appendix A.
- (ii) To note progress in the 2023/24 Active Travel Capital programme.
- (iii) To note the creation of a Regional Active Travel Group and an update on the Active Travel Transformation Fund.

7. LOCAL RAIL DEVELOPMENT FUND

There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Manager (RTP/23/25) updating the Partnership on progress on the Stirling Strategic Park & Ride Strategy, Bridge of Earn Transport Appraisal and Tay Cities Park and Choose Strategy being funded by Transport Scotland's Local Rail Development Fund.

B Doyle asked what further actions can be taken with Transport Scotland to speed up the LRDF STAG process? N Gardiner advised quarterly rail meetings are held with Transport Scotland, ScotRail and Network Rail where this is discussed. E-mails requesting progress updates are regularly sent including from Tactran Director to Transport Scotland's Rail Director. The most recent understanding is that Transport Scotland do not currently have adequate resources to review the LRDF projects within an agreed timescale. In terms of Bridge of Earn, Tactran has been informed that there is now a resource issue in the Rail Policy section.

Councillor Rome asked what are the next steps and how long to progress to fruition for the Tay Cities Deal Park & Choose project? N Gardiner confirmed the intention is to complete the appraisal by end of March 2024 and then submit to Transport Scotland for a Technical Review, once feedback is received, a final report will be presented to the Tactran Board. Transport Scotland were present at the Inception Meeting which means comments were received at the start of the Detailed Appraisal process.

The Chair asked for an offline meeting on the Tay Cities Park and Choose Study relating to the option for a new station north of Perth at Luncarty, which has not been recommended for Detailed Appraisal and also regarding Bridge of Earn Appraisal station proposals. This was agreed.

Resolved:

- (i) To note progress against the three Local Rail Development Fund studies funded by Transport Scotland.

8. 2023/24 BUDGET AND PROGRAMME

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/23/26) providing a monitoring update on the Partnership's Revenue and Capital expenditure.

Councillor McDonald asked about the 'Get on the Go' project as he considered the engagement to be low and whether any work has been done to see if it is effective? M Smith advised the annual report from Flourish Marketing has just been produced and in addition to Facebook there is also engagement on LinkedIn and Twitter, as well as Instagram and snapchat. The report shows there has been growth on all the platforms. All the social media platforms are currently being used for the promotion of the RTS Consultation. The Director advised that a report from Flourish will be shared with the Board and consideration will be given as to what is being achieved. He is also happy for any advice/engagement available from Board members/officers. M Smith advised due to the high costs of advertising, the current expenditure and approach is a low-cost option with the limited budget available. Cllr McDonald said more targeted advertising could be considered as opposed to largely relying on organic posting on social platforms.

A McDonald asked if any indication had been received on whether funding to RTPs will be cut going forward. The Director advised there has been no indication yet, but he expect discussions to begin shortly. Previously Transport Scotland has suggested that Tactran speak to Local Authorities regarding their contributions. The Director will advise of any progress.

The Chair discussed the 'Develop to Deliver' Report which highlights the value the RTPs can add and the RTPs are aiming to discuss this with the Minister for Transport and Transport Scotland. The Chair also highlighted the Verity House Agreement which states that funding should be local by default and national by agreement.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 31 July 2023 as detailed in Appendix A;
- (ii) To note progress on 2023/24 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 2023/24 Capital Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendix D.

9. DIRECTORS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/23/27) asking the Partnership to note updates on the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) progress, Bus Alliances, and the Integrated Mobility Partnership (IMP). The Partnership was also asked to consider and approve a proposed response to the Scottish Government's Just Transition discussion paper on Transport and to note a response to the Scottish Government's Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods: planning guidance draft for consultation.

Councillor Nunn asked about the response rate to the consultation on the RTS, the Director advised engagement has been good, but he would like the numbers to be higher for the StoryMap; the team are meeting with a lot of groups and specialist consultants Taylor McKenzie have been employed to undertake quantitative research. Any help in publicising the consultation will be appreciated.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the update on RTS progress and to approve a Special Partnership meeting in early 2024, as required.
- (ii) To note updates on Bus Alliances and Integrated Mobility Partnership.
- (iii) To approve the proposed response to Scottish Government's Just Transition discussion paper on Transport, as detailed in Appendix A.
- (iv) To note the response to the Scottish Government's Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods: planning guidance draft for consultation, as detailed in Appendix B.

10. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

None

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

12th December 2023, Perth