

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 12th December 2023 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors Mark McDonald and Heather Doran (Angus Council); Councillor Mark Flynn (Dundee City Council); Councillors Hugh Anderson and Richard Watters and Depute Provost Andrew Parrott (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillor Rachel Nunn and Jen Preston (Stirling Council); Bryan Doyle and Alan Stewart (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); M Bruce and J Grant (Audit Scotland).

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Dorothy McHugh and Steven Rome (Dundee City Council) and Amy McDonald (Member).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

3. DRAFT AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022/23 AND DRAFT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TACTRAN AND THE CONTROLLER OF AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

There was submitted a report by the Treasurer and Director (RTP/23/30) presenting the Partnership's 2022/23 Audited Annual Accounts (unsigned) in accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

D Coyne introduced the report and provided an update and advised that the audit will be unqualified.

M Bruce presented the Audit Report and confirmed all is correct and approved and advised the audit is now concluded.

J Grant introduced the Annual Audit Plan and detailed the standard risks identified within the report and advised the pensions liability has been adjusted based on the actuarial calculations and this does not impact the Tactran resources. J Grant advised all 4 recommendations have been accepted.

Councillor Nunn asked if outputs and their impact were considered. M Bruce confirmed outputs and impacts are not considered as part of the audit recommended for a smaller sized body/organisation. The Director advised this information is captured within the Annual Report under item 4.

The Chair asked for an explanation of the adjusted pensions liability which M Bruce provided.

The Chair formally thanked the Treasurers team and Audit Scotland for their hard work in finalising the audit.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the contents of Audit Scotland's Draft Annual Audit Report for the year ended 31 March 2023, as attached at Appendix 2;
- (ii) To approve the 2022/23 Audited Annual Accounts at Appendix 3 and to authorise the Partnership Chair, Director and Treasurer to sign them; and
- (iii) To authorise the Treasurer to sign the Letter of Representation as attached at Appendix 4.

4. TACTRAN ANNUAL REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/23/31) introducing the Tactran Annual Report for 2022/23.

Councillor Flynn requested the wording on page 17 around active travel be amended from 'intended to seek approval' to 'approval was sought' or similar. This was agreed.

Councillor Flynn noted that on page 26 there was mention of discussions with HIAL and Dundee City Council regarding Dundee Airport and asked if he could have more information regarding Tactran's involvement. The Director advised the engagement is through the Tay Cities Deal in regard to the airport project. Councillor Flynn requested further information and more frequent feedback on the engagement around Dundee Airport.

B Doyle requested an update on the Bridge of Earn Rail LRDF Study. N Gardiner advised that there has been no official comment back from Transport Scotland and this has again been raised several times with the Transport Scotland Rail Policy Division and they are aiming to provide comment early next year.

Councillor Nunn requested more detail on outcomes as well as outputs and it was agreed this would be included within future Monitoring Reports.

Councillor Anderson asked how the changes to Sustrans funding will affect funding in the future for Tactran's Active Travel Development Fund. The Director advised that following the Verity House Agreement the majority of infrastructure funding will be distributed directly to the Local Authorities. RTPs will be directly funded by Transport Scotland for the behaviour change element

of the Active Travel budget. The amount will be confirmed after 19 December Scottish Government Budget setting. The direct funding to RTPs is to deliver active travel behaviour change and achieve mode shift targets. There are significant implications to the third sector which could mean a lot of organisational change over the next 12 – 24 months.

Councillor Anderson asked if Tactran were able to engage with Transport Scotland in relation to capacity improvements at Broxden junction. The Director advised he will discuss with Councillor Anderson separately.

Councillors McDonald and Doran asked in relation to Flourish Marketing and the Get on the Go Campaign: further evidence of outcomes from social media campaign with Flourish Marketing; what work Flourish have undertaken in relation to engagement; and assurance that the correct groups are being targeted and engaged; further information and actual figures be provided to fully understand what the project is achieving. The Director suggested a meeting is scheduled with both Councillors and M Scott to discuss further.

Councillor Nunn noted that given the number of different pieces of work such as the STPR it could be quite confusing what is and is not included. The Director advised the Delivery Plan for the RTS will identify and cover all of the above.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve for publication and submission to Scottish Ministers the Tactran Annual Report for 2022/23.

5. 2023/24 BUDGET AND PROGRAMME

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/23/32) providing a monitoring update on the Partnership's Revenue and Capital expenditure and seeking the Partnership's approval of a revised 2023/24 RTS Revenue Programme.

The Chair asked about the funding situation regarding Tayside Bus Alliance Project Manager. The Director explained there are two Bus Alliances within the Tactran region and J Cooper is the Tayside Bus Alliance Project Manager and this post is funded by Transport Scotland. The Tayside Bus Alliance proposal has been submitted to Transport Scotland and an announcement on funding is due soon. Discussions with Transport Scotland are ongoing to fund the post going forward.

Councillor Watters asked for an update on the Kinross Park & Ride Sustainable Transport project. N Gardiner advised PKC Officers had advised that due to some planning issues the Kinross P&R project will be delayed into next financial year and that Executive Committee approval had been sought and approved to reallocate the funding to another Perth & Kinross project this financial year. It is understood that it is the intention to seek funding to deliver the Kinross P&R project next year.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 31 October 2023 as detailed in Appendix A;
- (ii) To note progress on and to approve a revised 2023/24 RTS Revenue Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendices B and C;
- (iii) To note progress on the 2023/24 Capital Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendix D and to agree to delegate authority to the Executive Committee for any required reallocation of funding within the Capital Programme; and
- (iv) To agree to delegate authority to approve the use of the remaining Contingency budget in the RTS Revenue Programme budget to the Partnership Director and Treasurer.

6. 2024/25 CORE REVENUE BUDGET

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/23/33) seeking the Partnership's approval of a proposed 2024/25 Core Revenue Budget.

Councillor Flynn asked if funding Tactran was a statutory requirement for the Councils or is there leeway since Tactran will be receiving additional funding for Active Travel Behaviour Change projects. The Director advised it is a statutory requirement and Transport Scotland has already raised the issue of Tactran receiving sufficient funding from the constituent councils.

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the proposed 2024/25 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 2024/25 Revenue Budgets;
- (iii) To agree to receive a report with a finalised 2024/25 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 2024.

7. TACTRAN ENABLE MAAS PROGRAMME

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Manager (RTP/23/34) providing an update on the Tactran ENABLE Mobility as a Service (MaaS) programme and sharing the project Monitoring and Evaluation report submitted to Transport Scotland in September 2023.

The Chair asked why the figures from the National Park trials are higher and in terms of recommendations, what is the timescale for the report being published? J Padmore advised the approach taken on gathering the figures was based on users' destinations so as the national park is more leisure based, the regularity of the trip is more frequent than travelling to NHS Tayside; Transport Scotland's report is due out once all Monitoring & Evaluation reports have been submitted, therefore, expected Spring 2024.

Councillor Nunn asked if learning from this will be shared with other relevant work being undertaken e.g. National Ticketing workstream. The Director advised all work streams are being considered and he is a member of the National Ticketing workgroup.

Councillor Nunn asked whether consideration was being given to how the IMPs project was taking account of other Apps that are available. J Padmore explained that this was part of the joint IMPs project and that it is being investigated with Sustran.

B Doyle asked for a better understanding of the MaaS project finance opportunities. J Padmore gave an explanation of the project and it was agreed to provide more detail at an appropriate time. The Director noted that consideration may need to be given in how to tie in with Active Travel Behaviour change initiatives.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the Monitoring and Evaluation Report of the Tactran ENABLE Mobility as a Service Programme;
- (ii) To note the ongoing work between Tactran and Sustran officers to continue to develop and grow the project until a time when Transport Scotland determine their preferred way forward; and
- (iii) To agree to consider options for meeting the costs of the Tactran ENABLE programme at a future Partnership meeting, once Transport Scotland's programme evaluation report has been published.

8. DIRECTORS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/23/35) asks the Partnership to note updates on Bus Alliances, Community Bus Fund, Hydrogen Decarbonisation Project and Social Media Strategy. The Partnership is also asked to note a response to ScotRail's Fife and Tay Cities Timetable Consultation.

Councillor Flynn asked if the Tayside Bus Alliance had met with Ellie Harrison and to confirm the Bus Alliance is going down the right path in relation to Bus Service Improvement Partnerships (BSIP) and Transport Act 2019 bus service options. The Director confirmed Tactran Officers had met with Ellie Harrison. He also noted that the Tayside Bus Alliance was formed to participate in the Bus Partnership Fund and that alliances were required to work towards a BSIP. However, the Community Bus Fund award that has been received is working in parallel to this and taking all options into account to ensure the best model is identified going forward.

Councillor Nunn requested that the Forth Valley Connectivity Report produced by Stirling University be considered. J Cooper noted he was aware of the report and will contact Stirling University in this regard.

Councillor Watters asked about how Transport Scotland will divide up the active travel funding. The Director said a model yet to be identified but not expecting a bidding situation.

Resolved:

- (i) To note updates on Bus Alliances, Community Bus Fund, Hydrogen Decarbonisation Project and Digital Media Strategy; and
- (ii) To note the response to the ScotRail's Fife and Tay Cities Timetable Consultation, as detailed in Appendix B.

9. A NEW REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Manager (RTP/23/36) providing feedback on the public and stakeholder engagement undertaken on the draft Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy. The report asked members to consider the proposed responses to the issues raised to inform a final draft of the Regional Transport Strategy and its companion impact assessment reports to be presented to the Partnership in early 2024.

J Padmore gave a presentation outlining the purpose of the report and the consultation process and responses received.

Cllr McDonald welcomed the report and asked for more detail on the emerging issues. He referenced sections 3.2 to 3.4 of the draft RTS, noting that although he welcomed acknowledgment and the needs of the rural areas, Angus Council believe road user charging or parking charges would increase road km in their area. Given the feedback from the away day he asked for this to be reflected in the final document. He did not think the Board agreed to the concept that the stick measures are going to be fundamental to the RTS. He asked if there can be more detail into how rural Scotland can be kept away from reduction of car km and for that to be reflected in the final document.

The Director said that in order to make the changes that are required and to meet objectives it is understood the alternatives can do a certain amount and some of the 'sticks' are required. However, the demand management has to be bespoke to the communities being served e.g. if no alternative to the private car that will be taken into account. Within the delivery plan, charging across the region will have mitigation to ensure any charging will not produce more social deprivation. There will be a need to create a demand management plan which will take time to consider all options and consequences. There is a recognition that urban areas will be able to contribute more to the 20% reduction to enable rural areas to do less. The Chair said Perth & Kinross Council have the same concerns and believes the RTS does address the issues.

Councillor McDonald said the draft RTS does not answer his concerns and it is not reflected in the document and the public's reaction to road charging is not accepted. Asking the Councils to implement parking and road charging is not beneficial to a significant part of the Tactran region and would have economic detriment and would encourage more car km as opposed to less. The measures do not benefit Angus.

Councillors Flynn and McDonald left the meeting.

Councillor Nunn asked if the roles and responsibilities of the Scottish Government have been articulated in the document? J Padmore confirmed it is detailed within the documents in the actions near the end of the document and greater detail will be within the Delivery Plan. Councillor Nunn said this is fundamental to success and would like it to be a clearly defined ask within the document. N Gardiner noted that under each action the partners required to deliver the action are identified within the document.

Councillor Doran said it was important to outline who has the responsibility as opposed to just who the partners are, so it helps people understand Tactran's role in delivering the Strategy. Councillor Doran also shares the same concerns as Councillor McDonald in relation to charging and is also concerned that the targets seem to be pushing people out of rural areas as the interventions appear to benefit urban areas. The impact a transport strategy can have on where people live needs to be considered. The Chair said the impact of each intervention will be looked at and properly considered before it is progressed to ensure the impact is positive.

The Director advised when it comes to the interventions, impact assessments will be undertaken for each intervention, including economic impact assessments, and there are robust requirements to mitigate any negative impact.

Councillor Doran thanked the National Youth Parliament for their input regarding anxiety and felt this could be stretched to include women travelling on transport on their own.

Councillor Nunn welcomed the comments on the delivery plan and focussing on solutions that have the most impact, but it would be helpful for Stirling Council to have conversations with each Local Authority to see how this helps all of the Councils.

Cllr Anderson said IT and technology must have an impact on the strategy due to the reduction in requirement to travel to work. The Director advised reducing the need to travel forms a significant part of the RTS and also includes wider aspects such as more healthcare in the communities and working with Community Planning Partners to consider how to achieve a shift in delivering public sector services.

The Director advised for the Special Partnership meeting scheduled for 30 January 2024, due the Christmas and New Year break, the papers will be circulated on 23 January 2024.

Resolved:

- (i) That the public and stakeholder responses to the Draft Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) and its

accompanying impact assessment reports included in this report and Appendices A, B and C to this report had been considered;

- (ii) To approve the suggested amendments to the draft RTS and its companion impact assessment reports as identified in Tables 6 and 7 of this report; and
- (iii) To agree for a final draft of the RTS to be brought to the Special Partnership Meeting on 30 January 2024 for Members to consider its submission to the Minister for Transport.

10. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

None

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

12 March 2024
11 June 2024
10 September 2024
10 December 2024