

## **TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held virtually via MS Teams on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillors Heather Doran (Angus Council); Councillors Heather Anderson (substituting for Mark Flynn) and Siobhan Tolland Dundee City Council); Councillors Hugh Anderson and Depute Provost Andrew Parrott (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillor Rachel Nunn (Stirling Council); Bryan Doyle and Alan Stewart (Members).

In Attendance: M Speed (Director); N Gardiner, J Padmore, A Roger and C Stuerck (Tactran); E MacNaughton (Dundee City Council); D Coyne, K Molley, N Moran, J Salisbury and B Wilson (Perth & Kinross Council); D Hopper (Stirling Council); M Bruce and J Grant (Audit Scotland).

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Mark McDonald (Angus Council); Councillor Mark Flynn (Dundee City Council); Councillor Richard Watters (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillor Jen Preston (Stirling Council) and Amy McDonald (Member).

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Following the resignation of Cllr Steven Rome, the Chair welcomed Councillor Siobhan Tolland to the Board and advised that a new Member of the Executive Committee and a new Deputy Chair were required to be appointed. Cllr Heather Anderson nominated Cllr Mark Flynn for the Executive Committee and this was agreed by the Board.

With no nominations for the Deputy Chair, it was resolved to defer the appointment of the Deputy Chair.

### **2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 12 DECEMBER 2023 AND 30 JANUARY 2024**

The minutes of meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 12 December 2023 and 30 January 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

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

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/24/02) presenting the Partnership's Risk Register for annual review and approval by the Partnership.

Cllr Nunn questioned the inclusion of Brexit as a potential risk area as the referendum vote for the UK to leave the European Union took place in 2016. The Director advised that there are still implications on the sector that are not yet understood. The Director is to amend the risk register accordingly.

Cllr Nunn further asked whether the risks around annual funding allocations to councils should be identified as a specific risk. Annual funding allocations posed

the risk of projects being defunded without prior notice. This also poses considerable risks to attract and retain staff. The Director advised that the risk register brought to the Board identified such risks but agreed to revise to better highlight this risk area.

Cllr Nunn further considered it worthwhile to identify the Partnership model that Tactran currently adopts to facilitate the implementation of the RTS, with the Level 1 model providing the RTP only with a limited number of statutory powers. Other models would see the RTP taking on certain transport powers from its constituent local authorities. This would enable the Partnership to implement the RTS, when constituent councils may not have the capacity and resources to deliver against it as a result of the continued funding cuts to councils' budgets. Cllr Hugh Anderson cited the anticipated withdrawal of several Stagecoach services in Perth and Kinross as an example. The Director advised that this was a matter that required careful consideration and that the RTP Chairs were developing a joint paper titled Develop to Deliver which aims to highlight how RTPs can best assist Scottish Government. He advised that it is proposed to bring a paper on this to a future Board Meeting.

An amended version of the risk register, addressing the matters raised will be circulated to all Board Members for information.

**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 2025.

**4. AUDIT STRATEGY 2023/24**

There was submitted the Audit Strategy 2023/24 (RTP/24/03) which was introduced by M Bruce and presented by J Grant.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the Audit Strategy for 2023/24

**5. ACTIVE TRAVEL GRANT UPDATE**

There was submitted a report by the Director and Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) (RTP/24/04) asking the Partnership: to note regional active travel infrastructure projects for 2023/24; to note active travel behaviour change funding 2024/25 and endorse Tactran's proposal and delegate authority to Director to finalise in consultation with Local Authorities; to note Active Travel community fund with Paths for All and funding for embedded officer posts within Local Authorities; to note Active Travel Infrastructure and development proposal for 2024/25.

The Director gave a presentation outlining the most recent arrangements for Active Travel Behaviour Change funding in 2024/25 and also providing an overview of progress in taking forward Tactran's Active Travel Behaviour Change delivery programme.

As the recommendations asked for delegated authority to be given to the Director to finalise the Active Travel Behaviour Change and Access to Bikes delivery programme in consultation with Local Authority partners, the Chair asked whether it was possible for the Executive Committee to approve the finalised delivery programme. The Director advised that this proved difficult because of the changing funding landscape. He cited the most recent changes to the revenue funding with the tight timescales to adjust the delivery programme as an example of the challenges faced in finalising the programme.

Cllr Nunn agreed that encouraging people to cycle requires huge efforts. She stated that discussions should include the voluntary sector. The Director outlined details of the transition period that has been introduced to address those concerns. Cllr Doran echoed Cllr Nunn's concerns. She requested additional information, providing an overview of the current funding landscape to avoid duplication of funds. She also asked for more information on the national priorities used to prioritise funding and to ensure the regional priorities identified during the development of the RTS are also reflected.

Cllr Heather Anderson welcomed the presentation but remained unclear whether the approach was enough to warrant the difference to measures that have been in place for the past ten years. The Director explained that the outlined approach aims to deliver a truly coordinated approach across stakeholders and between infrastructure provision and behaviour change initiatives. This was different to previous approach.

Cllr Heather Anderson pointed out any Active Travel programme must include walking and the Director agreed. B Doyle stressed the resource requirements to deliver an effective programme.

Cllr Doran enquired whether the presented approach in identifying geographic clusters for delivery also considered the number of students of the education sites in addition to staff numbers. She stated that both must be considered and that, with regards to primary and secondary schools, also parents should be considered.

Cllr Heather Anderson asked whether any gender analysis has informed the approach. The Director noted that the initiatives included audit of urban trails, which would include gender considerations.

Cllr Nunn referred to the Institute for Social Marketing and Health at Stirling University and asked if the institute has been actively engaged to feed into the process as their expertise would have been valuable. She also noted the proposed monitoring seemed output focussed rather than outcome focussed.

Cllr Hugh Anderson cited the Local Development Plan process as an opportunity to introduce change and to truly encourage more people to walk and cycle more often. The Director agreed and referred to the policies and actions identified in the Draft Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) as being a statutory document.

Given the demanding timescales and changing funding requirements, it was agreed to delegate authority to the Director to finalise the Active Travel Behaviour Change and Access to Bikes delivery programme in consultation with Local Authority partners and to also keep Board Members updated on the programme.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note progress of regional active travel infrastructure projects for 2023/24;
- (ii) To endorse the approach taken on the submission to Transport Scotland for Active Travel Behaviour Change and Access to Bikes delivery funding, as included at Appendix A;
- (iii) To delegate authority to Director to finalise the Active Travel Behaviour Change and Access to Bikes delivery programme in consultation with Local Authority partners;
- (iv) To keep Members updated on the Active Travel Behaviour Change and Access to Bikes delivery programme;
- (v) To note detail of National Active Travel Community Fund and embedded Officer posts; and
- (vi) To note active travel infrastructure and development proposal for 2024/25.

**6. BUS INITIATIVES UPDATE**

There was submitted a report by the Tayside Bus Alliance Project Manager (RTP/24/05) providing the Partnership with updates on the development of bus and sustainable transport projects, including the work of the Tayside and Forth Valley Bus Alliances.

The Chair expressed his disappointment that the Bus Fund had been paused in 2024/25.

Cllr Nunn sought further clarification how the outputs related to any identified projects within the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2). N Gardiner briefly outlined the STPR2 proposals in relation to active travel freeways and bus infrastructure.

Cllr Nunn further sought assurance that the pause in funding does not impact on staff working on the project. N Gardiner advised that this is a risk, but funding options were being explored to keep the Tayside Bus Alliance Project Manager in post.

Cllr Nunn noted that while some community transport operators received income from the Under 22s and Over 60s passes, not all of them do. The Chair advised that it was depending on the individual set-up of each community transport provider and that their individual circumstances need to be considered.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the ongoing work in relation to bus projects, their direction and deliverables;
- (ii) To note the ongoing delivery of Bus Priority measures at signalised junctions in Perth and Dundee; and
- (iii) To note the continuing development of bus priority measures as part of an integrated sustainable transport approach on three corridors in Perth and Dundee, including an application(s) to further funding sources for their development.

## **7. 2023/24 BUDGET AND MONITORING**

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/24/06) providing a monitoring update on the Partnership's Revenue and Capital expenditure and seeking approval to carry forward any final year end RTS Revenue Programme underspend to the next financial year.

The Chair welcomed that funds were made available to continue the post of the Tayside Bus Alliance Project Manager for the first quarter of 2024/25. Cllr Nunn echoed this. She enquired about any work on freight and stated that this was an important workstream to gain further insights into the sector. The Director advised work is continuing engaging with Transport Scotland to identify tangible content that is relevant for the freight and haulage industry.

B Doyle asked for more information on the hydrogen decarbonisation project. The Director provided an update and advised on the recent discussions with Transport Scotland on the Public Sector Fleet Fund. The fund will make £4m available to public sector fleet pilots in 2024/25. A further update will be provided at a future Board Meeting.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 31 January 2024 as detailed in Appendix A;
- (ii) To note progress on the 2023/24 RTS Revenue Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendices B and C;
- (iii) To agree that any final year end underspend in the Core and RTS Revenue Programme funding is carried forward to supplement the 2024/25 Revenue Budget and Programme; and
- (iv) To note progress on the 2023/24 Capital Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendix D.

## **8. 2024/25 BUDGET AND PROGRAMME**

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/24/07) updating the Partnership on Scottish Government and partner Council contributions towards the Partnership's 2024/25 Revenue Budget and seeking approval of a 2024/25 Core Revenue Budget and proposed 2024/25 RTS Revenue.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) To note partner Councils' requested Revenue contributions towards the 2024/25 Core Budget;
- (ii) To note the anticipated award of Scottish Government Grant in Aid of up to £522,750 in 2024/25;
- (iii) To approve the 2024/25 Core Budget as detailed in Appendix A;
- (iv) To approve an initial 2024/25 RTS Revenue Programme budget as detailed in sections 3.8 – 3.23 of the report and to agree to consider approval of a finalised 2024/25 Programme at the Partnership's next meeting on 11 June 2024; and
- (v) To note the potential 2024/25 Capital Income and to agree to receive a further update at its next meeting.

## **9. DIRECTORS REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/24/08) asking the Partnership to; note updates on the new Regional Transport Strategy and Electric Vehicles; agree that Partnership meetings are held virtually except for one meeting per annum which will be held in person and to choose a new Deputy Chair. The Partnership was also asked to approve responses to LNER's Consultation to remove direct Glasgow and Stirling Services and Transport Scotland's consultation on Inclusive Design in Town Centres and Busy Street Areas

Cllr Nunn welcomed the representative research undertaken to inform the development of the RTS. She also suggested that it would be beneficial to hold wider Elected Member briefings to effectively disseminate the information and insights across partner Council services. The Director will consult with Senior Officers to identify a way forward to offer wider Elected Member briefings for each Council.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) To note updates on the new Regional Transport Strategy and Electric Vehicles;
- (ii) To agree that future scheduled Partnership meetings are held virtually, with the exception of one meeting per year which will be held in person;
- (iii) To defer appointing a new Deputy Chair, following the resignation of Councillor Steven Rome; and
- (iv) To approve the responses to LNER's Consultation to remove direct Glasgow and Stirling Services as included at Appendix C and Transport Scotland's consultation on Inclusive Design in Town Centres and Busy Street Areas.

## **10. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB**

Following deferral of appointing a Deputy Chair, Cllr Nunn asked if an Interim Deputy Chair could be appointed on a quarterly basis to provide continuity. Following advice from K Molley, on behalf of the Partnership Secretary, it was confirmed that an Interim Deputy Chair could be appointed. It was agreed to appoint Cllr Nunn as Interim Deputy Chair.

## **11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The Chair reminded Members that all Board meetings will be held via Teams, except for the meeting scheduled for 10 September 2024. This meeting will be held in person at 2 High Street, Perth.

11 June 2024

10 September 2024

10 December 2024