

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 on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillor Mark McDonald (Via MS Teams) (Angus Council); Councillor Lynne Short (via MS Teams and substituting for Councillor Mark Flynn) (Dundee City Council); Depute Provost Andrew Parrott, Councillors Hugh Anderson and Richard Watters (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillors Rachel Nunn and Jen Preston (Stirling Council); Bryan Doyle and Amy McDonald (Members) and Alan Stewart (Via MS Teams).

In Attendance: M Speed (Director); N Gardiner, J Padmore, M Smith, J Cooper, A Roger and C Stuerck (Tactran); E MacNaughton (Dundee City Council); K Molley (Secretary), N Moran and J Salisbury (Perth & Kinross Council); D Hopper (via MS Teams) and S Hollowood (Stirling Council); J Grant (Audit Scotland via MS Teams).

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Heather Doran (Angus Council); Councillors Mark Flynn and Dorothy McHugh (Dundee City Council).

Depute Provost Andrew Parrott, Chair, Presiding

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair indicated that Councillor Nunn was appointed to the position of Deputy Chair on an interim basis and invited nominations for a permanent Deputy Chair. The Chair nominated Councillor Nunn and was seconded by Councillor Preston. There being no further nominations, Councillor Nunn was duly elected as Deputy Chair.

The Chair advised that Claudia Stuerck was leaving Tactran and thanked Claudia for all her hard work, noting she had been a great asset to Tactran and wished her well in her new job.

2. **MINUTE OF MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2024**

The minutes of meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 11 June 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS STATEMENT**

There was submitted an Outstanding Business Statement by the Director (RTP/24/21) setting out the status of outstanding decisions of Partnership.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the Outstanding Business Statement and to receive updates at future meetings.

4. REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY: DELIVERY PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Officer (RTP/24/22) providing an update on the development of a Delivery Plan for the Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) and recommending actions to assist delivery of the strategy.

J Padmore gave a presentation which outlined the work to date and the next stages for the Delivery Plan following the approval of the Regional Transport Strategy.

The Chair noted that there is a need to co-ordinate actions to ensure limited resources are utilised in the most efficient manner.

Councillor Short noted that the Delivery Plan needed to take cognisance of why people choose to travel in the way they do and for what reason, in addition to where they are travelling to. J Padmore agreed and said this is why an integrated approach is being taken to identify priorities that meet the purpose of people travelling.

Councillor Watters asked if information on the success of interventions will be available to the Tactran Board. The Director advised that once the Delivery Plan is in place, the Partnership can decide on how often they receive a progress report and suggested biennial. Councillor Watters asked if the various interventions within the Councils will feed into the progress report. The Director confirmed they would.

Amy McDonald asked if priority areas could be detailed and used to identify where there are gaps in the resources required. This could be used to ensure resources are targeted where they achieve the highest value. J Padmore agreed and noted that information already gathered e.g. Main Issues Report would be utilised and shared with the Senior Officer Group to identify where resources should be focused. The Director added that identifying what's required and which organisation leads on projects can be used to identify gaps in funding which will translate into a medium-term financial strategy that can be used as a lobbying tool for funding from Scottish Government.

Councillor Nunn asked if Sustran can be included within the Senior Officer Group to ensure Forth Valley is included, and possibly Transport Scotland, so they are aware of the issues being identified. The Director agreed that cross boundary and neighbouring organisations have been and will continue to be included appropriately. He reminded members that the Partnership can invite politicians and national organisations to attend Board meetings on pertinent matters.

Councillor Nunn asked if Tactran officers could attend the appropriate Stirling Council committees to provide information on the Regional Transport Strategy, particularly with the carbon reduction agenda in mind. J Padmore said that Tactran would be happy to attend and that an offer to attend Council committees and groups has been, and continues to be, open to all constituent Councils. It is crucial that each delivery partner has 'buy-in' to the Delivery Plan. The Director noted that Tactran required to be invited rather than ask to attend Council committees.

Councillor Nunn asked if any Council has implemented Demand Management interventions. J Padmore said that there are various types of demand management that have been implemented but recognised that what type and when to introduce Demand Management is a difficult decision. He advised, in relation to the Climate Change reduction target, Transport Scotland previously produced a route map for 20% reduction in car kilometres which is due to be updated this Autumn. This will refocus demand management considerations.

The Director confirmed that a report on the updated route map will be included as an item at the December Board, depending upon timing of the updated route map.

The Chair asked that an update on progress with the Delivery Plan is reported at the Partnership meeting scheduled in March 2025.

Resolved:

- (i) To note progress on preparing a Delivery Plan for the Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Strategy;
- (ii) To endorse the formation of a RTS Delivery Senior Officer Group with representatives from the four Councils;
- (iii) To endorse a RTS Delivery Board with representatives from all agencies with responsibility for delivery of identified RTS actions; and
- (iv) To note progress of design work to enable publication of the adopted RTS, an Executive Summary, and an easy read Executive Summary.

5. BUS PLAN PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Projects Manager (RTP/24/23) providing the Partnership with details of the draft Tactran Bus Plan.

J Cooper gave a presentation outlining the work that has been undertaken to develop the draft Bus Plan and the subsequent recommendations.

Councillor Short asked if the revenue income is not currently adequate to cover costs, how will the Bus Plan help going forward as there is a need to make the journey more pleasant, otherwise the current customers will stop using bus services. J Cooper agreed that the journey experience needs to be good not only to ensure existing users get a better service but need to make it better for everyone to bring in further users.

A Stewart asked if there was an understanding as to why the reduction of bus travel has happened. J Cooper said the diagram is based on the whole of Scotland so not route specific, but he believes societal change, particularly the growth in car ownership and use, has contributed to the decline in bus transport. The Director said that a lack of integration, quality, frequency, cost and reliability have all contributed to the decline in bus use. J Cooper added that to be effective and reverse the decline more is required to be done to create a virtuous circle of improvement.

The Chair asked if the graph was available to be split between urban, suburban and rural. J Cooper advised that he will provide this, if the information is available.

Councillor McDonald asked if details of reliability in Angus was available and if more information was available on the single branded Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) and how would it work. J Cooper advised currently working with bus operators to identify specific reliability issues but that has not been included in this presentation. With regards to the branded DRT, the key outcome is to demonstrate to users that what is being delivered is better than what was previously offered.

Councillor Watters asked about DRT and said it is not suitable for all areas and there is a geographical challenge. In order to reverse the decline of buses, reliability is an issue which is pushing car ownership up, however the Glenfarg Community Bus has increased patronage significantly and is an example of good practice which can be learned from. J Cooper agreed Glenfarg Community Bus has been extremely successful and is a great example of DRT. He noted that Community Bus Funded Tactran report identified good practice from within the UK and beyond and that there is a need to agree what will work in particular circumstances.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the development of the Tactran Bus Plan; and
- (ii) To approve the continued consultation, development and implementation of the Tactran Bus Plan, in agreement with the local transport authorities in the region.

6. TACTRAN GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/24/24) providing an update on the governance documents:

- Financial Regulations
- Scheme of Delegation
- Risk Management Strategy and Policy
- Standing Orders

Resolved:

- (i) To approve the following governance documents: financial regulations, risk management strategy and policy, scheme of delegation and standing orders, as reviewed and amended.

7. ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Manager (RTP/24/25) asking the Partnership to note updates on various Active Travel Behaviour Change and Access to Bikes projects.

Councillor Doran asked via email how it will be determined that the projects are successful. N Gardiner advised a Monitoring and Evaluation group has been formed by Transport Scotland to provide specialist advice. The group has produced national Monitoring and Evaluation guidance for the Active Travel Behaviour Change fund. The aim is to provide a consistent approach throughout Scotland. All Tactran delivery partners have been provided with a before survey template which is to be completed for each project and location. These surveys are currently underway. An after-study template survey will be finalised in early October. These surveys will provide the basis for measuring the outcomes achieved throughout the process.

Councillor Preston said it is great to see so much is happening and, recognising the importance of behaviour change, asked if there is confidence that this is happening at the scale required. N Gardiner advised projects have been concentrated on where there is good active travel infrastructure available rather than spread resources too thinly throughout the region to provide the best opportunity of achieving actual behaviour change. He noted that it will be interesting to see how that approach has worked at the end of the year when the monitoring and evaluation is completed.

Councillor Lynne Short said the hierarchy of sustainable transport puts walking at the top followed by cycling and public transport and asked whether the resources are being targeted effectively. N Gardiner agreed that walking is the most sustainable mode and good for integrating with other sustainable modes, such as bus travel. In terms of resources, the urban trails project is reviewing walking routes and Living Streets are promoting walking within schools, communities and workplaces. Work is also continuing with Travelknowhow, the travel planning toolkit, which promotes sustainable commuting and business travel.

Amy McDonald asked for percentage spend to ensure budgeting is being utilised correctly and can it be made available to the Board. N Gardiner confirmed that the outcomes of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the projects will include costs and will be reported to future meetings.

Councillor Nunn asked about “sticky behaviour” which references continued behaviour change and not just for a short period of time. The Director referenced the monitoring reports, noting that the intention will be to continue to monitor over time which will help identify short and long term benefits.

The Chair said a lot of work has been done to get to this point and is pleased with the work undertaken to date.

Resolved:

- (i) To note updates on various Active Travel Behaviour Change and Active Travel Infrastructure projects.

8. MAAS UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Strategy Officer (Sustainable Transport) (RTP/24/26) providing an update on the Tactran ENABLE Mobility as a Service (MaaS) programme and Integrated Mobility Partnership collaborative working with SEStran.

The Chair noted a lot of work has been undertaken to maintain the MaaS projects going forward and asked if Transport Scotland have advised when the evaluation will be available. M Smith confirmed the end of September is the expected date for the evaluation report to be available and it is anticipated that this will include information on future funding of MaaS.

B Doyle requested a future report once Transport Scotland produce the Evaluation Report. The Director confirmed a report will be brought to the Board in December, timing permitting.

Councillor Nunn asked how integrated ticketing was incorporated into MaaS and gave an example of Fairtiq in Europe. The Director noted that he was a member of the National Integrated Ticketing Advisory Board and that they were aware of Fairtiq and other good practice examples. He noted that a MaaS platform could include this type of integrated ticketing.

Resolved:

- (i) To note updates on Transport Scotland's review of the MaaS Investment Fund programme and MaaS Scotland routemap; and
- (ii) To note the continuation of the Tactran ENABLE and Integrated Mobility Partnership MaaS programme and procurement update.

9. 2024/25 BUDGET AND MONITORING

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/24/27) providing a monitoring update on the Partnership's Revenue and Capital expenditure.

A McDonald asked for an explanation on the underspend on staff costs and, if it is a realisable saving, can the negative overspend for the end of year be reviewed. She also asked if Perth & Kinross Council has yet to invoice for support services. J Salisbury said Tactran use accrual accounting and the payroll underspend relates to the pay award that has not yet been agreed. He also confirmed that Perth & Kinross Council has not yet invoiced for support costs.

Resolved:

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 31 July 2024 as detailed in Appendix A;
- (ii) To note progress on the 2024/25 RTS Revenue Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendices B; and
- (iii) To note progress on the 2024/25 Active Travel Behaviour Change and Access to Bikes Grant and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendix C.

10. DIRECTORS REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Director (RTP/24/28) asking the Partnership to note updates on Sustainable Transport Corridor projects and rail services and initiatives. The Partnership was also asked to note a response, approved by the Executive Committee, to Perth & Kinross Council's consultation on their Mobility Strategy and to note officer responses to Dundee City Council's Draft Air Quality Action Plan; Dundee City Council's Local Development Plan 3 Evidence Report and Topic Papers and Perth & Kinross Council's Local Development Plan 3 Evidence Report and Topic Papers.

A McDonald said the responses were very good and asked if there had been any follow up from Dundee City Council as the responses were not in agreement. The Director confirmed that Tactran and Dundee City Council officers has been in discussion but a formal response has not been received.

Resolved:

- (i) To note updates on Sustainable Transport Corridors projects and rail services and initiatives;
- (ii) To note the response to Perth & Kinross Council Mobility Strategy and associated Delivery Plan, as approved by Executive Committee and provided in Appendix A; and
- (iii) To note Tactran officer responses to Dundee City Council's consultation on their Draft Air Quality Action Plan; Dundee City Council's Local Development Plan (LDP 3) Evidence Report and Topic Papers consultation and Perth & Kinross Council's Local Development Plan (LDP 3) Evidence Report and Topic Papers consultation as provided in Appendices B, C and D.

11. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

None.

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

10 December 2024 – virtual via MS Teams