

## TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership held via MS Teams on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 10.30am.

Present: Councillor Ronnie Proctor (Angus Council); Councillor Siobhan Tolland (Dundee City Council); Depute Provost Andrew Parrott, Councillor David Illingworth (substituting for Councillor Hugh Anderson) (Perth & Kinross Council); Councillors Rachel Nunn and Jen Preston (Stirling Council); Bryan Doyle and Amy McDonald (Members).

In Attendance: M Speed (Director); N Gardiner, J Padmore, J Cooper, M Smith, K Ewan and A Roger (Tactran); M Roberts (Angus Council); E MacNaughton (Dundee City Council); S Hendry (Secretary), J Salisbury and N Moran (Perth & Kinross Council); D Hopper and E Williamson (Stirling Council); D Gonzalez (Audit Scotland).

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Brenda Durno (Angus Council); Councillor Kevin Cordell (Dundee City Council); Councillor Hugh Anderson and Richard Watters (Perth and Kinross Council) and Alan Stewart (Member).

Depute Provost Andrew Parrott, Chair, Presiding

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

There were no declarations of interest.

Following changes to Angus Council members, the Chair welcomed Councillors Durno and Proctor to the Board.

### 2. **MINUTE OF MEETING OF 18 MARCH 2025**

The minutes of meeting of the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership of 18 March 2025 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### 3. **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS STATEMENT**

There was submitted an Outstanding Business Statement by the Director (RTP/25/16) 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. PUBLIC SERVICES REFORM ACT ANNUAL STATEMENTS 2024/25**

There was submitted a report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/25/17) seeking the Partnership's approval of Annual Statements which require to be published under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To approve publication of the Public Services Reform Act Annual Statements for 2024/25 as detailed in the Appendices to the report.

#### **5. DRAFT UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2024/25**

There was submitted a report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/25/18) presenting the draft Unaudited Annual Accounts for 2024/25.

Councillor Nunn asked that going forward if section 4 "Plans for the Future" could be expanded to identify outcomes and outputs and to which local authority each pertains.

A McDonald said it was good document and that it is important to note there was a surplus which was a good outcome for the previous financial year.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To approve the contents of the Draft Unaudited Annual Accounts for 2024/25; and
- (ii) To authorise the Treasurer to sign the Annual Accounts for submission to the Controller of Audit by 30 June 2025.

#### **6. PEOPLE AND PLACE UPDATE**

There was submitted a report by the Projects Manager (RTP/25/19) asking the Partnership to note the award of funds from Transport Scotland for the current financial year and the award of grant funding by Tactran to delivery partners. The report also notes progress on the Tactran People and Place Programme for financial year 2025/26 and the continued delivery of the programme.

Councillor Nunn asked if the methodology for the social return on investment had been completed and whether academic input from university would assist. J Cooper advised this is being developing internally. Councillor Nunn then asked if the proposed methodology would be approved by Transport Scotland to ensure there are not 7 different versions from each RTP. The Director confirmed there is a working group between the 7 RTPs and Transport Scotland which is working towards having the same methodology.

Councillor Nunn asked, in terms of Tactran resource staffing, are there seconded officers from each local authority to ensure all projects are being aligned?

J Cooper said made all efforts have been made to engage with Local Authority officers and thanked officers for their input and support received so far. J Cooper noted that it is likely that additional time and effort will result in additional support and collaboration between Tactran and Local Authority officers, which is one of the intended steps for the 26/27 programme.

N Gardiner advised that more resource was required to support the People & Place programme in 2025/26. The resource options were to advertise for more staff on a fixed 1-year term, as multi-year funding is currently not available for People and Place, or to ask whether seconded staff was available from Tactran's constituent Local Authorities. All 4 Local Authorities were approached and asked whether suitable staff were available for secondment to Tactran. Dundee City Council had suitable staff available for secondment and that has been the option chosen at present. N Gardiner stressed that it is important to note that the seconded staff are now a Tactran resource and are supporting the whole region for People and Place and not just one Council area.

Councillor Preston joined the meeting.

A McDonald asked if future reports could detail the progress of each project which could help identify any underspend or requirement for redistribution, suggested a RAG status. N Gardiner advised Tactran will receive quarterly progress reports from all People and Place project delivery partners, which will be summarised and included in future Board reports. He also noted that a report on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2024/25 outcomes and outputs is scheduled for the September Board meeting.

Councillor Nunn asked about outcomes relating to modal shift and if this is being recorded. J Cooper said the nature of outcomes and outputs differs, as do the timescales, so there is a need to maintain a longer-term review to identify the outcomes detailed in monitoring & evaluation reports. He is confident that the detailed information will be available in due course. However, the standard evaluation from Transport Scotland does not include social return on investment.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the Transport Scotland grant award for the delivery of a People and Place programme for the financial year 2025/26;
- (ii) To note the development of a Tactran People and Place programme for Financial Year 2025/26 as approved by the Executive Committee, and summarised in Appendix A; and
- (iii) To note continued delivery of the Tactran People and Place in the existing year, and continued planning for application to potential future awards for subsequent financial years.

## 7. BUS INITIATIVES UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Projects Manager (RTP/25/30) providing the Partnership with updates on bus initiatives within the Tactran area and progress within and related to the Bus Infrastructure Fund (BIF). The report also asks the Partnership to note the development of associated bus initiatives, to note content of the submission to Transport Scotland under BIF, and to support the further development of these initiatives at Alliance and Local Authority levels.

The Chair welcomed the report and noted that it was good that funding for bus initiatives was continuing through the Bus Infrastructure Fund.

Councillor Nunn asked in relation to the infrastructure proposals, could a presentation be given on the carbon savings for each project to understand the strength of the link between these corridors and the carbon being saved. This would help understand the importance of the work.

Councillor Nunn further noted the different approaches from the two Bus Alliances. She noted that the Tayside Bus Alliance is considering infrastructure, whereas the Forth Valley Bus Alliance is looking at a digital approach and questioned why they are different. She also enquired about the intended evaluation on the outcomes produced and what information will be available to ensure growth in patronage. Councillor Nunn asked if any elected members had questions could they be submitted to Tactran officers for consideration and response.

The Director agreed to write to Members asking for questions to be submitted. He also advised he will consider the best way to report the requested information to Board. He further advised he will reach out to SEStran regarding the Forth Valley Bus Alliance projects, as SEStran are Chair for the Forth Valley Bus Alliance.

J Cooper advised the Tayside Bus Alliance project also has a digital element.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) To note the development of the various bus initiatives;
- (ii) To note the content of the Tayside Bus Alliance and Forth Valley Bus Alliance submissions to Transport Scotland's Bus Infrastructure Fund; and
- (iii) To support the continued development of bus initiatives by the Bus Alliances and Local Authorities.

## **8. CLIMATE ACTION: REDUCING CAR KM**

There was submitted a report by the Senior Strategy Officer (RTP/25/) providing an update and asking the Partnership to note that a new Transport Scotland/COSLA car use reduction policy statement is expected imminently and asking the Partnership to agree to undertake a workshop to consider the issues.

J Padmore advised Transport Scotland/COSLA issued the revised policy statement on 12 June 2025, after the Board reports had been circulated to members, and provided a verbal update on the policy statement.

The Chair expressed his concern at the national 20% car reduction target as he considers it to be a blunt tool and feels the introduction of more demand management is not the correct direction across the country. However, he is supportive of a workshop to discuss the issues.

Councillor Nunn said that reduction in car distance travelled is the crux of transport policy in the future and would be concerned if demand management measures were introduced before sustainable alternatives are in place. She asked how the workshop will inform and link into the policy group and whether there is merit in having an attendee from COSLA or Transport Scotland at the workshop to hear firsthand concerns that will be raised. J Padmore advised throughout the process Tactran have maintained a good relationship with Transport Scotland and the work that has been done so far has helped focus the work Transport Scotland has undertaken. He has offered to brief Transport Scotland on the work done by Tactran to date, and it would be feasible to invite Transport Scotland to be involved in the workshop. With regards to a working group that Transport Scotland are establishing to investigate ways forward, Tactran are aiming to be the RTP representative in this group. The Chair advised he has been nominated as the RTP Chair on the National Transport Strategy Board, which the car km reduction working group will report to.

The Director noted Tactran is in a strong position to advise as Tactran provided input into the Audit Scotland work. The Director also suggested it may be better to have a workshop as a Board first to develop the Tactran narrative before inviting Transport Scotland.

Councillor Proctor said he is pleased this is being brought forward. However, he considers that one size does not fit all. Some proposals are almost punishing rural communities where cars are a necessity, as Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) and Electric Vehicles (EV's) do not yet provide a viable alternative.

Councillor Tolland asked that the positive benefits of car km reduction in terms of reducing pollution – especially for some of the most vulnerable in society - are included in the health impact assessments.

J Padmore advised Tactran is aligning the pace of our work with the National Conversation. Hence the intention of this stage of the work is to tease out these types of issues that would then need to be included in the respective health and equality assessments if/when more detailed analysis is required.

Councillor Nunn requested Officers be invited to the workshop and said she would prefer Transport Scotland to be included from the start. J Padmore confirmed Officers will be invited. The Director advised he would take the Board's advice on when to involve Transport Scotland and confirmed a draft proposal will be circulated to Members which will detail the proposed invitees and topics to be discussed.

The Chair advised he would like Tactran to be leading on this discussion and noted that the region was a good representative area for consideration as it has a diversity, ranging from the 3 cities to deep rurality, within the region.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note that a renewed policy statement by Transport Scotland / COSLA on achieving car use reduction in Scotland has been published; and
- (ii) To agree to undertake a workshop to consider the issues in this report to enable the Partnership to consider a position statement at the Partnership Meeting in September 2025.

**9. 2025/26 BUDGET AND MONITORING**

There was submitted a joint report by the Director and Treasurer (RTP/25/22) providing a monitoring update on the Partnership's Revenue and Capital expenditure and seeking the Partnership's approval of a 2025/26 RTS Revenue Programme.

Councillor Nunn asked how many months the reserves cover. J Salisbury confirmed the reserves are there to cover unanticipated costs for the full financial year and the policy is 3 – 5% of the overall budget.

**Resolved:**

- (i) To note the position regarding Core Revenue expenditure as at 30 April 2025 as detailed in Appendix A;
- (i) To note progress and approve the 2025/26 RTS Revenue Programme and related expenditure as discussed within the report and detailed in Appendix B; and
- (ii) To note progress on the 2025/26 Active and Sustainable Travel Behaviour Change, People and Place 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/25/23) asking the Partnership to note the resignation of Paul Reid and providing updates on RTS Delivery Plan progress, MaaS and Tactran social media, as well as information on Scottish Government's Programme for Government. The report also asks the Partnership to note Tactran's Public Sector Equalities Duties reporting and a consultation response on Scottish Government's 'A Draft Just Transition Plan for Transport in Scotland', as approved by the Executive Committee.

The Chair asked if MaaS was still be taken forward in conjunction with Sestran. The Director confirmed that Sestran were no longer part of the project, and as such Tactran were the last RTP dealing with MaaS. M Smith confirmed that the funding received from Transport Scotland will continue to develop the MaaS project. Tactran will enhance this by developing Digital DRT projects in conjunction with the Glenfarg Community Trust and Angus Council, funded as part of the Tactran People and Place programme.

Councillor Nunn asked if at a future board meeting a MaaS report could be presented. The Director confirmed he will consider a report for either the September or December. Councillor Nunn asked if targeted outcomes could be included within the report.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) To note the resignation of Paul Reid;
- (ii) To note updates on RTS Delivery Plan progress, MaaS, Tactran social media and information on Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2025/26;
- (iii) To note Tactran's Public Sector Equality Duties reporting, as approved by the Executive Committee; and
- (iv) To note response to Transport Scotland's consultation on 'A Draft Just Transition Plan for Transport in Scotland', as approved by the Executive Committee.

## 11. MEMBERS ISSUES AND AOCB

Councillor Proctor noted he has concern about how 20mph speed limits are going to be enforced by the Police and asked if Tactran could raise a question with Transport Scotland. Councillor Nunn advised there were the same issues in Stirling and they have been advised that due to resource issues the only areas the Police would monitor is around schools. N Gardiner advised Tactran officers would raise the issue at the Tayside Road Safety Forum, which is attended by the Tactran, the Tayside Local Authorities, Police and Fire & Rescue.

The Chair advised N Gardiner was due to retire on 27 June and thanked him for all his hard work for Tactran and wished him all the best for a very well deserved retirement. N Gardiner thanked the Chair and all Board members, past and present.

The Chair advised both he and Councillor Nunn are seeking a meeting of the elected members and asked that they respond to the email sent out requesting their availability.

**12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

16 September 2025 – in Person in the Council Chambers, 2 High Street, Perth  
16 December 2025 – via MS Teams