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## SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Meeting of Friday 10 October 2014  
at 10.30am in the South Machars Community Centre, Castlehill, Whithorn

### Present

### Members

<b>Tom McAughtrie</b> (Chairman)	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>David Bryson</b> (Vice-Chairman)	-	External Member
<b>Denis Male</b>	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>Jim McColm</b> (Substitute)	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>John Syme</b>	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council

### Officials and Advisers

<b>Claire Rogerson</b>	-	Secretary to the Board
<b>Janet Sutton</b>	-	Finance Officer
<b>Harry Thomson</b>	-	Lead Officer

### Apologies

<b>Richard Brodie</b>	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>Marion McCutcheon</b>	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>Alistair McKinnon</b>	-	External Member

### Observers

<b>Hugh McCreadie</b>	-	Lochside & Woodlands Community Council
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### In Attendance (until item 8)

<b>Mary Arnott</b>	-	Priory Antiques, Whithorn
<b>Kirsty Currie</b>	-	Whithorn Community Council
<b>Margaret Hawthorn</b>	-	Whithorn Community Council
<b>Julia Muir Watt</b>	-	Whithorn Community Council
<b>Helen O'Neill</b>	-	Whithorn Community Council
<b>George Pattison</b>	-	Whithorn Community Council
<b>Sheila Robbins</b>		

**1. SEDERUNT, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

5 Members present and 3 apologies

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING ON 11 JULY 2014****Decision**

**APPROVED**

**3. REPORT BY EXTERNAL AUDIT ON THE 2013/14 AUDIT OF SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP****Decision**

The Board **HOMOLOGATED** the decision of the Lead Officer after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to:-

3.1 **RECEIVE** the external auditor's report on the 2013/14 audit

3.2 **NOTE** that no issues have been identified in the course of the audit which have impacted on the fairness of the financial statements submitted for audit

3.3 **NOTE** that the final certified accounts would be presented to this Board meeting

**4. FINAL AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2013/14****Decision**

The Board:-

4.1 **AGREED** to receive the audited SWestrans Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2014; and

4.2 **NOTED** that the external auditor had given an unqualified opinion that the accounts present fairly the Partnership's financial position and expenditure for the year.

**5. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD ENCED 30 SEPTEMBER 2014****Decision**

The Board **NOTED** the position of the revenue budget which is forecast to outturn on budget.

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## 6. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2014/15

### Decision

The Board **NOTED** the position for the Capital Programme and the issues arising, in particular the delay in progressing rail station improvements at Lockerbie **NOTING** that Lead Officer had advised that the work would be commenced by the next Board meeting.

## 7. WHITHORN BUS SHELTER PROPOSAL

### Decision

The Board:-

7.1 **AGREED** that officers undertake a further period of consultation with the public and representative bodies in Whithorn and with bus users to determine the most appropriate position for bus shelter facilities in Whithorn which best meets all needs;

7.2 **FURTHER AGREED** that the option of an awning would be further explored by the Lead Officer, and that there would be a public meeting which would be held in the evening **NOTING** that this was part of an iterative process of consultation and engagement.

## 8. DRAFT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2015/16

### Decision

8.1 The Board **NOTED** the draft bid for allocation from Dumfries and Galloway Council towards the SWestrans Capital Programme 2015/16 as detailed in the Appendix to the report and **AGREED** to it going forward.

8.2 **FURTHER NOTED** that although not included in this Draft Capital Programme, that the Lead Officer would investigate the status of the previous work carried out regarding disabled access at Kirkconnel station

## 9. SERVICE REVIEW AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE

### Decision

The Board **NOTED** the work being done to review the governance arrangements and inform the service review **FURTHER NOTING** that reports on both would be presented to the Board in March 2015.

## 10. COMPLAINTS POLICY

### Decision

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The Board **AGREED** to adopt the Complaints Policy as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

## **11. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES – DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

### **Decision**

The Board **AGREED** that Tom McAughtrie would represent SWestrans on the Dumfries and Galloway Strategic Partnership

## **12. EXTERNAL BOARD MEMBER – SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE**

### **Decision**

The Board **AGREED**:-

12.1 the continuation of the appointment of Alistair McKinnon to the SWestrans Board to be the External Member nominated by Scottish Enterprise for a further 4 years

12.2 that the Lead Officer writes to the Scottish Government to seek the consent of the Scottish Ministers on this reappointment, with an appraisal having been undertaken by the Chairman

12.3 to remit officers to develop a formal appraisal procedure for the reappointment of non-Council Board Members in the future

## **13. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUS SERVICE REGISTRATION**

### **Decision**

The Board **AGREED** the response to be submitted to Transport Scotland on behalf of SWestrans as detailed in the Appendix to the report **NOTING** that the response to Question 4a had been omitted and would be “yes”

## **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN MAY DECIDE IS URGENT DUE TO THE NEED FOR A DECISION**

The Chairman advised that there was one further item of business being an update on the ScotRail Franchise.

### **14.A SCOTRAIL FRANCHISE**

#### **Decision**

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The Board:-

14.A.1 **RECEIVED** a verbal update from the Lead Officer on the successful bid of Abellio for the Scotrail Franchise, as advised by Transport Scotland on 8 October 2014; and

14.A.2 **AGREED** to receive a report at the next Board meeting and to invite Abellio to give a presentation at a future meeting

**PROCEDURE** - The Board **AGREED** to consider the following item of business in private and exclude the press, members of the public and Observers from the meeting given that the report contained confidential or exempt information as defined by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973

## 15. LOCAL BUS TENDERS 2015

Summary of the Report – This report advised the Board of the outcome of the procurement exercise for the provision of local bus services and sought agreement to award the contracts which would commence from 6 April 2015. The Lead Officer drew the Board's attention to a number of services detailed in the report which it was suggested did not generate sufficient usage to justify ongoing support:

Service 111 – Gretna – Kirkpatrick Fleming – Creca – Annan

Service 116 – Johnstonebridge – Templand – Nethermill – Dumfries

Service 118 – Heck – Lockerbie

Service 125 – Rowanburn – Canonbie – Gretna

Service 212 - Moniaive – Penpont – Keir Mill – Thornhill (Saturday journeys only)

Service 390 – Newbie - Annan

This report also sought agreement for the use of capital funding for the purchase of accessible buses in 2014/15.

### Decision

The Board:-

15.1 **NOTED** the outcome of the procurement exercise;

15.2 **AGREED** to award contracts as shown in the report, with no award being made for services 111, 116, 118, 125 and 390, and service 212 being awarded with the option to exclude Saturday journeys, and further **NOTING** options for Service 221 Wanlockhead - Sanquhar – Kelloholm – Kirkconnel and Service 380 Moffat – Beattock – Johnstonebridge – Lockerbie for which consultation with user groups would be undertaken;

15.3 **FURTHER AGREED** that the Lead Officer would contact Dumfries and Galloway Council for the purposes of consulting and informing both Nithsdale and Annandale and Eskdale Area Committees;

15.4 **AGREED** that the capital funding for purchase of accessible buses in 2014/15 to be used to replace assets as indicated in the report.

## 16. LOCAL BUS SERVICES – UPDATE ON AWARD OF CONTRACTS

Summary of the Report – This report updated the Board on the outcome of the award of contracts following the revocation of the Public Service Vehicle Operator Licences for two local bus companies. The report sought agreement to progress the elements of public concern raised and confirm a small number of additional journeys.

### Decision

The Board:-

16.1 **AGREED** the recommendations as stated in the report

16.2 **FURTHER AGREED** that the Lead Officer would contact Dumfries and Galloway Council with a view to updating and informing the Members of both Stewartry and Wigtown Area Committees, and that a press release should be issued detailing the improvements in services provided.