
SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Meeting of Wednesday 17 January 2018
at 10.30am, Thornhill Community Centre, Thornhill, DG3 5LH

Present

Members

Andrew Wood (Chairman)	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
David Bryson (Vice-Chairman)	-	NHS Dumfries and Galloway
Richard Brodie	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
John Campbell	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Jim Dempster	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
David Stitt	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council

Officials and Advisers

Douglas Kirkpatrick	-	Lead Officer
Claire Rogerson	-	Secretary to the Board
Josef Coombey	-	Policy and Projects Officer
Kirsty Dunsmore	-	Policy and Projects Officer
Janet Sutton	-	Finance Officer
Rebecca Scott	-	Graduate Trainee

Apologies

Alistair McKinnon	-	Scottish Enterprise
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Observers

Christopher Bradberry Craig	-	Thornhill Station Action Group
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1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

6 Board Members present, 1 apology.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NONE declared.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING ON 10 NOVEMBER 2017**Decision**

APPROVED.

4. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2017/18 FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2017**Decision**

The Board **NOTED** the forecast outturn for the revenue budget as at 30 November 2017.

5. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2017/18 - UPDATE**Decision**

The Board **AGREED**

5.1 to reduce the allocation for Cyclepath Development by £40k to £10k; and

5.2 that the allocation for Bus Infrastructure be increased by £40k to £240k.

6. RAIL UPDATE**Decision**

The Board:-

6.1 **NOTED** the response from Transpennine Express on the December 2018 timetable proposals; and

6.2 **AGREED** that the Lead Officer would write to Transpennine Express to ensure full and meaningful discussions are undertaken with regard to the December 2018 timetable proposals.

7. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Decision

7.1 The Board having considered the options provided the following guidance in determining the Calendar of meetings:

- The 13 July 2018, board meeting should be replaced by 29 June 2018 to meet the requirement for the unaudited accounts to be presented to the board before 30 June;
- Recognising the timing of meetings for current business need, other than the switch from July 2018, that dates should be unchanged until 21 September 2018;
- After September 2018, where possible regular board meetings should be on a Wednesday, with a Friday used where that is not possible; and
- To minimise travel disruption for the winter meeting, the January board meeting should be in Dumfries.

7.2 The Board **AGREED** the Calendar of meetings as follows:-

Date	Venue
Friday 9 March 2018	Newton Stewart
Friday 11 May 2018	New Galloway
Friday 29 June 2018 (replacing 13 July)	Langholm
Friday 21 September 2018	Kirkcudbright
Wednesday 31 October 2018	Stranraer
Wednesday 16 January 2019	Dumfries
Wednesday 6 March 2019	Annan
Wednesday 8 May 2019	Castle Douglas
Wednesday 26 June 2019	Wigtown
Wednesday 18 September 2019	Sanquhar
Wednesday 13 November 2019	Gretna

8. REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION

Decision

The Board **AGREED** the response to the Financial Accounting Arrangements for Regional Transport Partnerships as set out in paragraph 3.7 of the report as follows:-

“Do you think that it is necessary to clarify whether a Regional Transport Partnership is able to build up, and carryover, a financial reserve from one financial year to the next?”

Response – Yes. The current position is an anomaly which restricts the ability of RTPs to manage unforeseen financial activity, particularly across financial years. A

power to hold and operate reserves/balances, as is well established for public sector bodies, is essential for effective and efficient financial management where appropriate.

Should there be a limit to the amount of surplus that an RTP may carry forward into the next financial year?

Response – Due to the difference in scale and operational activity across the RTPs, SWestrans does not believe a limit should be applied. The flexibility to hold and operate balances/reserves should be applied consistently across all RTPs.

Should safeguards be provided to limit the financial liability of local authorities towards RTP expenses?

Response – No. RTPs are required to set balanced budgets and do so in partnership with their constituent Councils on an annual basis. The proposed ability to carryover balances/reserves will be subject to this process which provides this level of assurance.

The Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 applies only specific local government finance provisions to Regional Transport Partnerships. Are there any other local government finance provisions which could usefully be applied to the RTPs?

Response - Yes. RTPs should have the same range of powers that are available to other public sector bodies, as referenced in section 2.10 of the consultation document under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975, including repair & renewal funds; insurance funds; and Capital funds.”

9. NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT NETWORK PUBLIC SATISFACTION SURVEY 2017

Decision

The Board **NOTED** the results for the National Highways and Transport Network Public Satisfaction Survey 2017 for Dumfries and Galloway.

10. NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY REVIEW - UPDATE

Decision

The Board **NOTED** the overview of the process being undertaken for the review of the National Transport Strategy.

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

The Board **NOTED**

11.1 that there was one item of business deemed urgent by the Chairman due to the need for a decision.

PROCEDURE - Further it was recommended as the report detailed information that could be considered exempt in respect of paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, and therefore met the requirements of standing orders 25.3.1 and 25.3.3, that the press and public be excluded for this item.

PROCEDURE – The Board **AGREED** to consider the following item of business in private and excluded 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.

11.2 the report “Local Bus Service 101/102 Dumfries to Edinburgh” was presented as an additional late report due to information not being available at the time the papers were distributed for this meeting, and that the decision could not be delayed until the next scheduled board meeting due to the timescales for the procurement process.

11.3 The Board **AGREED** that this report be taken at item 12.

12. LOCAL BUS SERVICE 101/102 DUMFRIES TO EDINBURGH

PROCEDURE – The report was distributed at the meeting.

Summary of Report – This report provided the Board with information regarding the forthcoming tender exercise for the 101/102 Dumfries to Edinburgh service.

Decision

The Board **AGREED** that officers continue discussions with partner authorities seeking to maintain a strategic local bus link between Dumfries and Edinburgh and to receive further reports on this matter to future meetings.