
SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Meeting of Friday 20 September 2019
at 10.30am, Cargen Tower, Garroch Business Park, Dumfries, DG2 8PN

Present

Members

Andrew Wood (Chairman)	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
David Bryson (Vice-Chairman)	-	NHS Dumfries and Galloway
Richard Brodie	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Ian Carruthers (substitute)	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Alistair McKinnon	-	Scottish Enterprise
Sean Marshall (substitute)	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Adam Wilson	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council

Officials and Advisers

Douglas Kirkpatrick	-	Lead Officer
Claire Rogerson	-	Secretary to the Board
Josef Coombey	-	Policy and Projects Officer
Janet Sutton	-	Finance Officer

Apologies

John Campbell	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Davie Stitt	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council

Observers

Christopher Bradberry Craig	-	Thornhill Station Action Group
June Hay	-	Outdoor Access Forum
Hugh McCreadie	-	Lochside and Woodlands Community Council
Frazer Smith	-	Stagecoach Scotland
Graham Whiteley		

In Attendance

Martin Brown	-	Beattock Station Action Group
Ron McLean	-	Beattock Station Action Group
Colin Smyth MSP		

1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

7 Board Members present and 2 apologies, noting that Sean Marshall was attending as a substitute on behalf of Davie Stitt and Ian Carruthers was attending as a substitute on behalf of John Campbell.

The Chair on behalf of the Board thanked Alistair McKinnon for his contribution over many years to the SWestrans Board and wished him well in whatever he went on to do next.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Andrew Wood declared an interest in item 7 – Stag Appraisals by virtue of the fact that Thornhill Station was in his ward as a councillor of Dumfries and Galloway Council but determined his interest was such that there was no requirement for him to leave the meeting for consideration of this matter.

2.2 Sean Marshall declared an interest in item 7 – Stag Appraisals by virtue of the fact that he was a member of the Eastriggs Station Action Group but determined that his interest was such that there was no requirement for him to leave the meeting for consideration of this matter.

2.3 Richard Brodie declared an interest in item 7 – Stag Appraisals by virtue of the fact that Eastriggs Station was in his ward as a councillor of Dumfries and Galloway Council but determined his interest was such that there was no requirement for him to leave the meeting for consideration of this matter.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2019

Decision

APPROVED.

4. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2019/20 FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 AUGUST 2019

Decision

The Board **NOTED** the forecast outturn for the revenue budget as at 31 August 2019.

5. REPORT BY EXTERNAL AUDIT ON THE 2018/19 AUDIT OF SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Decision

The Board:

5.1 **AGREED** to receive the external auditors' report on the 2018/19 audit as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;

5.2 **NOTED** 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; and

5.3 **NOTED** that the audited accounts will be certified by the Treasurer and Grant Thornton after the meeting.

6. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2018/19 OUTTURN REPORT

Decision

The Board:

6.1 **NOTED** the upgrade provided on the progress with the Capital Expenditure Programme 2019/20;

6.2 **AGREED** a virement of £10K is made from the STAG Studies element to the Active Travel Projects element of the programme;

6.3 **NOTED** the advice from Dumfries and Galloway Council that the £150K contribution to the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary mitigation work is not required this financial year;

6.4 **AGREED** a virement of £150K from the Active Travel Projects to the Purchase of Accessible Buses element of the programme; and

6.5 **AGREED** that work is undertaken to bring back a future report on the possible options for short paths to be taken forward which would include a couple of project examples, with details on liabilities, social value, need versus cost.

7. STAG APPRAISALS

The Chair on behalf of the Board thanked Josef Coombey, Policy and Projects Officer, and all three Station Action Groups for Beattock, Moffat and Thornhill for their support in progressing the STAG appraisals.

Decision

The Board:

7.1 **NOTED** the final STAG Reports for Beattock, Moffat, Eastriggs and Thornhill areas; and

7.2 **AGREED** that all three final STAG reports, for Moffat, Eastriggs and Thornhill would be submitted to Transport Scotland for assessment to get on the investment "pipeline" (noting that recent Transport Scotland documents suggest that no major

transport infrastructure investment decisions will be made prior to the Strategic Transport Projects Review being concluded).

8. RAIL UPDATE

Decision

The Board:

8.1 **NOTED** and welcomed the award of a grant from Transport Scotland's Local Rail Development Fund to complete the Initial Appraisal: Case for Change stage of a multimodal transport appraisal; in line with Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) which will look at transport problems and opportunities in Kirkconnel;

8.2 **AGREED** that authority to award contracts relating to completion of the Kirkconnel Initial Appraisal: Case for Change be delegated to the Lead Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair; and

8.3 **NOTED** the announcement of First Trenitalia as the successful bidder to operate the West Coast partnership, which will start in December 2019.

9. NATIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY – DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Decision

The Board:

9.1 **NOTED** the publication of the National Transport Strategy (NTS2) a Draft for Consultation; and

9.2 **AGREED** the SWestrans response to the National Transport Strategy (NTS2) a Draft for Consultation as shown Appendix 2 of the report.

10. SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND – INITIAL APPRAISAL: CASE FOR CHANGE

Decision

The Board **AGREED** the SWestrans response to the Draft Report “ South West Scotland Transport Study Initial Appraisal: Case for Change”.

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

Decision

The Board **NOTED** that there was no item of business deemed urgent by the Chairman due to the need for a decision.

PROCEDURE - The Board **AGREED** to consider the following items of business in private and exclude the Press, members of the public, observers from the meeting given that the reports contained confidential or exempt information in respect of paragraphs 6,8, and 9 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

12. EXTERNAL BOARD MEMBER – LOCAL ENTERPRISE AGENCY

Report summary – This report advised the board of an impending vacancy and sought direction from the Board on which organisations should be approached.

Decision

The Board:

12.1 **NOTED** that Alistair McKinnon would be stepping down as the Scottish Enterprise representative on the SWestrans Board with effect from 30 September 2019; and

12.2 **AGREED** that Scottish Enterprise should be approached regarding representation on the SWestrans Board, noting that this may be an interim arrangement pending the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency being established.

13. LOCAL BUS CONTRACTS

Report summary - This report updated the Board on the replacement of local bus services due to expire in April and August 2020. The report also informed the Board of the proposed Transformation Event being held by Dumfries and Galloway Council on 'Public Transport and Travel' on 29 October 2019 and sought agreement to a position statement from SWestrans to inform this event.

Decision

The Board:

13.1 **NOTED** the update on the replacement of local bus services due to expire in April and August 2020; and

13.2 **AGREED** that a position statement from SWestrans would be provided to inform the Transformation Event being held by Dumfries and Galloway Council on 29 October 2019 based on the key points highlighted in paragraph 6.2 of the report.