
SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Meeting of Friday 31 March 2023
at 10.30am at Dumfries and Galloway Council Headquarters, English Street,
Dumfries and via Microsoft Teams

Present

Members

John Campbell (Chair)	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Karen Jackson (Vice-Chair)	-	South of Scotland Enterprise
David Bryson	-	NHS Dumfries and Galloway
Jim Dempster	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Keith Walters	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Andrew Wood	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council

Officials

Douglas Kirkpatrick	-	Lead Officer
Claire Rogerson	-	Secretary to the Board
Kirsty Dunsmore	-	Policy and Projects Officer
Janet Sutton	-	Finance Officer
Grant Coltart	-	Team Leader
Linda Richardson	-	Public Transport Officer
Jason Bentley	-	Public Transport Assistant

Apologies

Willie Scobie	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
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Observers

Hugh McCreddie	-	Lochside and Woodlands Community Council
Graham Whiteley		

In Attendance

Rebecca Lister	-	Grant Thornton
Ron McLean	-	Beattock Station Action Group
Jo Lynch		

1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

6 Board Members present and 1 apology.

John Campbell and Karen Jackson attended at Dumfries and Galloway Council Headquarters,

David Bryson, Jim Dempster, Keith Walters and Andrew Wood attended via MS Teams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NONE declared.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING ON 27 JANUARY 2023

Decision

APPROVED.

4. BOARD MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Board were advised that since the report had been written that it was confirmed that Richard Brodie would be continuing as a substitute. The Chair thanked Maureen Johnstone and welcomed Willie Scobie to the Board.

Decision

The Board **NOTED** the amendment to the membership of SWestrans on behalf of Dumfries and Galloway Council as detailed at paragraph 2.5 of the report.

5. REPORT BY EXTERNAL AUDIT ON THE 2021/22 AUDIT OF SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Decision

The Board: -

5.1 **AGREED** to receive the external auditors' report on the 2021/22 audit as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report.

APPROVED

5.2 the Letter of Representation to be certified by the Treasurer and appended to the audit report as detailed at Appendix 2 of the report;

5.3 the audited accounts which will be certified by the Treasurer and Grant Thornton as detailed at Appendix 3 of the report;

NOTED

5.4 that the certified accounts will be made available to all Board Members and they will be available on SWestrans website as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report; and

FURTHER AGREED

5.5 to write to the Transport Minister to make representation about a 3 or 5 year budget settlement.

6. DRAFT REVENUE EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2023/24**Decision**

The Board **AGREED** the draft revenue budget for 2023/24 as set out in Table 1 of the report.

7. SWESTRANS ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**Decision**

The Board **AGREED** the SWestrans Annual Report for 2021/22 attached as the Appendix to the report and provided feedback to officers to improve the presentation for future years to be easier to read.

8. EQUALITIES REPORTING**Decision**

The Board **NOTED**

8.1 SWestrans duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2012 (Scotland) Specific Duties Regulations; and

8.2 the SWestrans Equalities Mainstreaming Report 2021-2023 as shown in the Appendix to the report.

9. REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY – CONSULTATION UPDATE

Decision

The Board **NOTED**

9.1 the progress with the new Regional Transport Strategy;

9.2 the content of the Draft Regional Transport Strategy Consultation Report at the Appendix and

9.3 that it is intended to bring the final Regional Transport Strategy to the next Board meeting in June 2023, after which it will be submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval; and

9.4 that a session for the Board and Observers would be arranged with Stanec on the Regional Transport Strategy before the June Board.

10. LOCAL BUS NETWORK UPDATE

The Board: -

NOTED

10.1 the update on the review of all current supported local bus services to meet the delivery challenges previously identified for 2023/24;

10.2 the update on progress for replacing local bus contracts as presented in Table 1 of the report;

AGREED

10.3 the procurement that will seek prices for all existing supported local bus services on a like for like basis and on the alternative specifications highlighted in paragraph 3.12 of the report; and

FURTHER NOTED

10.4 that an update on the monitoring of bus usage would be provided to the Board prior to any decisions on the award of local bus contracts.

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

Decision

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

PROCEDURE – The Board **AGREED** to consider this item in private and adopt a resolution to exclude the press, members of the public and observers from the meeting in terms of paragraphs 6,8,9 and 10 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

12. LOCAL BUS CONTRACTS – SUSTAINABILITY

Summary of Report – This report advised the Board of sustainability issues and associated potential impact.

The Board:-

12.1 **NOTED** the sustainability issues raised; and

12.2 having discussed the issues provided guidance on a preferred SWestrans approach.