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## SOUTH WEST OF SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

Meeting of Friday 30 June 2023  
 at 10.30am at Dumfries and Galloway Council Headquarters, English Street,  
 Dumfries and via Microsoft Teams

### Present

#### Members

<b>John Campbell</b> (Chair)	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>Karen Jackson</b> (Vice-Chair)	-	South of Scotland Enterprise
<b>David Bryson</b>	-	NHS Dumfries and Galloway
<b>Jim Dempster</b>	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>Willie Scobie</b>	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
<b>Keith Walters</b>	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council

#### Officials

<b>Douglas Kirkpatrick</b>	-	Lead Officer
<b>Claire Rogerson</b>	-	Secretary to the Board
<b>Kirsty Dunsmore</b>	-	Policy and Projects Officer
<b>Janet Sutton</b>	-	Finance Officer
<b>Grant Coltart</b>	-	SWestrans
<b>Linda Richardson</b>	-	SWestrans
<b>Jason Bentley</b>	-	SWestrans

#### Apologies

<b>Andrew Wood</b>	-	Dumfries and Galloway Council
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#### Observers

<b>Frazer Smith</b>	-	Stagecoach
<b>Graham Whiteley</b>		

#### In Attendance

<b>Peter Lindsay</b>	-	Audit Scotland
<b>Ciaran O'Brien</b>	-	Audit Scotland
<b>Franca Bruno</b>	-	Beattock Station Action Group
<b>Caroline Burke</b>	-	Keir, Penpont and Tynron Development Trust
<b>Ron McLean</b>	-	Beattock Station Action Group

## 1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

4 Board Members present and 1 apology.

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

Keith Walters attended via MS Teams.

2 Board Members not present at the start of the meeting.

**PROCEDURE** – The Secretary confirmed those observers who were present at the meeting. It was noted that apologies were received from Hugh McCreadie.

**PROCEDURE** - The Secretary advised the Board that Rhian Davies had stood down as an Observer to the Board on 22 June 2023.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**NONE** declared.

## 3. MINUTES OF MEETING ON 31 MARCH 2023

### Decision

**APPROVED.**

## 4. REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2023 TO 2042

**BOARD MEMBERS** – David Bryson and Jim Dempster joined the meeting via MS Teams – 6 Board Members present.

### Decision

**AGREED** the SWestrans Regional Transport Strategy 2023 to 2042 at Appendix 1 of the report for submission to Scottish Ministers for approval; and **FURTHER AGREED** that a seminar would be arranged on the Regional Transport Strategy Delivery Plan.

## 5. STAG UPDATE

The Chair expressed his extreme disappointment that none of the 3 rail stations were going to be considered for progression or investment and that it was Transport Scotland's view that further work would not fundamentally change this outcome.

### VOTE

5.1 **MOTION** proposed by **JIM DEMPSTER** and seconded by **WILLIE SCOBIE** to agree to cease progress in work relating to the re-opening of the rail stations at Beattock, Eastriggs and Thornhill unless there was a fundamental shift in the attitude of Transport Scotland.

5.2 **AMENDMENT** proposed by **JOHN CAMPBELL** and seconded by **KAREN JACKSON** (1) to consider the feedback from Transport Scotland and provide guidance on further action for officers to pursue in relation to the re-opening of the rail stations at Beattock, Eastriggs and Thornhill, (2) agree that clarification is sought from Transport Scotland regarding feedback on the Business Cases (STAGs), and (3) agree that the Chair will raise the matter when he meets with the Transport Minister with the other Regional Transport Partnership Chairs.

5.3 On a vote undertaken by roll call Board Members voted as follows:-

5.4 **Motion** – 2 votes being: Jim Dempster and Willie Scobie

5.5 **Amendment** – 4 votes being:- John Campbell, Karen Jackson, David Bryson and Keith Walters.

### Decision

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The Board :-

5.6 **CONSIDERED** the feedback from Transport Scotland and provided guidance on any further action it wishes officers to pursue in relation to the re-opening of rail stations at Beattock, Eastriggs and Thornhill;

### **AGREED**

5.7 that clarification is sought from Transport Scotland regarding feedback on the Business Cases (STAGs), and

5.8 that the Chair would raise the matter when he meets with the Transport Minister with the other Regional Transport Partnership Chairs.

**BOARD MEMBER** – Jim Dempster left the meeting – 5 Board Members present.

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**6. REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN REPORT 2022/23****Decision**

The Board **NOTED** the draft financial outturn for 2022/23 and that a break-even position was achieved.

**7. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/2024 FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MAY 2023****Decision**

The Board **NOTED** the forecast outturn for the revenue budget as at 31 May 2023.

**8. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2022/23 OUTTURN REPORT****Decision**

The Board **NOTED** the outturn position on the 2022/23 SWestrans Capital Programme.

**9. DRAFT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2023/24 – 2025/26****Decision**

The Board **AGREED** the draft Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2025/26 outlined in Table 1 of the report.

**10. DRAFT ANNUAL (UNAUDITED) ACCOUNTS 2022/23****Decision**

The Board **NOTED** the unaudited Annual Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 which would be submitted to the Board's external auditors for review.

**11. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS****Decision**

**AGREED** a change to the Calendar of Meetings to accommodate the presentation of the audited accounts by end of October 2023; and **FURTHER AGREED** that there would be a session for the Board on the Regional Transport Delivery Plan on 29 September 2023.

## 12. RAIL UPDATE

### Decision

The Board **NOTED** :-

12.1 the update on Carstairs junction improvement;

12.2 the update on TransPennine Express; and

12.3 the update on the line closure between Kilmarnock and Glasgow.

## 13. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23

**BOARD MEMBER** – Jim Dempster rejoined the meeting – 6 Board Members present.

### Decision

The Board **NOTED** and commented on the external audit plan for 2022/23 in the Appendix of the report.

## 14. 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 and 9 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## 15. LOCAL BUS CONTRACTS

Summary of Report – This report provided an update to the Board following the sustainability issues reported to the Board in March 2023. The report advised the Board of the work being undertaken in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council and sought agreement of the Board on the way forward for the coming year.

**BOARD MEMBER** – Jim Dempster left the meeting – 5 Board Members present.

### Decision

The Board **AGREED** the extension of all current local bus contracts due to terminate in August 2023 for a one-year period and to advise Dumfries and Galloway Council of the decision.