

MINUTE

“A” & “B”

**Zetland Transport Partnership
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Monday 7 January 2008 at 10.00am**

Present:

A S Wishart	I J Hawkins
C H J Miller	F A Robertson

Observer/Adviser:

J Dickson, General Manager, Ports & Harbours Operations
J G Simpson, Chairman, Shetland Development Trust
A Steven, Sumburgh Users' Consultative Committee

Apologies:

S Laurenson, Chief Executive, Lerwick Port Authority

In attendance (Officers):

G Spall, Executive Director, Infrastructure
M Craigie, Lead Officer
K Duerden, Transport Development Manager
E Perring, Transport Strategy Officer
L Gair, Committee Officer

Also:

R S Henderson

Chairman

Mr A S Wishart, Chairperson of ZetTrans, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Minutes

The note of the meeting held on 5 October 2007 was confirmed on the motion of, Mrs C H J Miller seconded by Mr F A Robertson.

In response to a query from Mrs C H J Miller, the Lead Officer advised that a progress report and early conclusions would be presented to the next Inter Island Ferries Board followed by a full report on the Ferry Fares and Ferry Utilisation Study to ZetTrans and Inter Island Ferries Board in the next cycle of meetings. This meets the study programme previously circulated to Members.

Members' Attendance at External Meetings

A S Wishart	RTP Chairs meeting on 7 December, Edinburgh. Meeting with John Swinney MSP and Stewart Stevenson MSP on 11 December, Edinburgh.
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01/08 **Lead Officer's Report**

The Partnership noted a report by the Lead Officer (Appendix 1).

Approval of Shetland Transport Strategy

The Lead Officer advised that there was still no approval of the Strategy, but it was hoped that he would hear before the next meeting.

Minute of Meeting of RTP Chairs 27 September 2007

The Lead Officer advised that he had today received the draft minutes of the November RTP Chairs meeting and advised that he would circulate the final minutes at the next ZetTrans Meeting.

Meeting Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth and Minister for Transport Infrastructure and Climate Change – 11 December 2007

The Lead Officer advised that the Scottish Government were carrying out a review of the public sector landscape, and therefore there was some uncertainty about the transfer of funds from the RTPs to the Local Authorities, and it was a case of waiting for that review before things would become clear.

The Lead Officer said there was concern amongst other Regional Transport Partnerships as to what the future held.

Mr A S Wishart added that as the budgets had been reduced the work of ZetTrans would be affected and that they had to wait for a decision from the Scottish Government.

In response to a query with regard to the Road Equivalent Tariff, the Chairman advised that the ongoing study was well funded by the Government and it would carry on for some time.

SIC Air Service Member/Officer Working Group

The Lead Officer advised that the first meeting of the group would be held on 21 January 2008.

02/08

Scottish Government Spending Review 2007 & Review of Public Sector Landscape – Implications for ZetTrans

The Partnership considered a report by the Head of Transport.

The Lead Officer introduced and summarised the report. He said that a complete review on services was being carried out and the focus was on Local Authorities as the delivery vehicle. He added that ZetTrans funding had been reduced to £205,000. The Lead Officer advised that capital funding had been cut from £176,719 to zero, and said that the 2008/09 budget would allow ZetTrans to exist with basic activity and would limit progress in other areas.

The Chairman drew attention to paragraph 2.4 and 2.5 and confirmed that the Air Discount Scheme would have continued support. At paragraph 2.7 the Chairman said that the reduction would affect schemes, such as 20mph schemes.

In response to a query from the General Manager, Ports and Harbours Operations, the Lead Officer advised that the 2007/08 running costs were £247,000. The Lead Officer confirmed that the Scottish Government had been clear that any under spend in 2007/08 could not be carried forward, and that work would be scheduled to ensure that this was not lost, and to avoid a further reduction in 2008/09.

Mrs I J Hawkins commented that at the start of preparing the Strategy they had been optimistic and now waited the outcome of the reviews. She was of the opinion

that if the current Government remained in power ZetTrans would not know if the Strategy would be funded as anticipated.

The Chairman drew attention to the table in paragraph 6.1 and advised that “2009/10” should be amended to read “2008/09”, and that the figure “£155,000” should be amended to read “£105,000”.

Mrs C H J Miller moved that the Partnership approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mrs I J Hawkins.

03/08

Workforce Travel Plan

The Partnership considered a report by the Transport Strategy Officer.

The Transport Strategy Officer briefly introduced the report and said that the report would be submitted to the Infrastructure Committee and the Council. She advised that the NHS were to carry out a survey and that the Plan would be in place by March 2008.

Mrs I J Hawkins said that she was sympathetic to car users, and cyclists. Mrs Hawkins said that the bus services needed to be modified and asked that one or two of the services from Mossbank make a detour through Laxfirth. The Chairman said that this should be passed to the Service Manager – Transport Operations.

Mrs C H J Miller said that public transport should be made affordable, reliable and should run from 6am to 11pm and that services cost money and have to be subsidised. Mrs Miller said that consideration should be given to providing buses with the facility to carry bicycles which would allow passengers to cycle part of their journey and travel by bus for the remainder. She said that there needed to be a much better service to get people out of their cars. Mrs I J Hawkins agreed stating that there were limited services at night and on Sunday, and there needed to be a better quality of service provided. The Lead Officer advised that the Area Transport Forums had been created to establish the views and needs of the local areas.

During further discussions, Mr J G Simpson said that with the cost of fuel at £1.20/litre and crude oil over \$100/barrel, the Plan could be looked at as a money saving exercise as well as reducing carbon emission.

Mrs C H J Miller moved that the Partnership approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mr F A Robertson.

04/08

Atlantic Airways – Request to be included in Air Discount Scheme

The Partnership considered a report by the Transport Development Manager (Appendix 4).

The Transport Development Manager briefly introduced the report and following brief discussion, the Lead Officer suggested that paragraph 5.1 be amended to read “ that officers of ZetTrans investigate the principle that has been raised by Atlantic Airways with regard to achieving recognition for its Sumburgh / Stanstead route in the ADS Scheme”

Mrs C H J Miller moved that the Partnership approve the recommendations contained in the report, with the inclusion of the amendment to paragraph 5.1 suggested by the Lead Officer. Mrs I J Hawkins seconded.

05/08 **Disability Equality Scheme**

The Partnership considered a report by the Transport Development Manager (Appendix 5).

The Transport Development Manager briefly introduced the report and on the motion of Mrs I J Hawkins, seconded by Mrs C H J Miller, the Partnership approved the recommendations contained in the report.

06/08 **Note of Shetland External Transport Forum – 7 November 2007**

The Partnership approved the Note of the Shetland External Transport Forum held on 7 November 2007 (Appendix 6).

07/08 **Zetland Transport Partnership – Audit Report 2006/07**

The Partnership noted a report by the Financial Controller (Appendix 7).

Mrs I J Hawkins commented that if ZetTrans was to continue, the employees should be paid by ZetTrans and not the Council. The Chairman said that would become clearer when the Scottish Government review was complete.

In response to a query regarding the revenue costs, the Lead Officer advised that the cost of finalising the Strategy on 31 March 2006 was greater than anticipated. The Chairman advised that as ZetTrans was a new body, the cost was not known and the Lead Officer added that as there was a delay in getting staff in place, which meant that there was a greater reliance on consultants.

08/08 **Implementation of the Shetland Transport Strategy**

The Partnership noted a report by the Transport Development Manager (Appendix 8).

The Transport Development Manager introduced the report and advised that this report has previously been produced by consultants, however the format had been quite lengthy. He said that the report attached provided a brief paragraph on each item, and asked Members if this was a format they would like at future meetings. The Partnership approved the new format of the report.

The Chairman advised that the Inter Island Ferries Board would meet at 10am on Friday 11 January, where the Fares Study of the Inter Island Ferry Service would be discussed. The Chairman advised that an invitation to attend had been extended to include the Members and Advisers of ZetTrans.

The Transport Development Manager responded to a query and advised that at 2.10 the proposed Norwegian Ferry Link had gone back out to tender and tenders were expected back by the end of February. He added that it was hoped the preferred bidder would be appointed by the end of March 2008 which would allow them time to meet the deadline for Marco Polo funding application.

In response to a query about the Skerries South Mouth project at paragraph 2.3, the Transport Strategy Officer advised that if approved and money was available, data would be collected and reported back to the Partnership in March 2008.

The meeting ended at 10.45am.

A S Wishart
CHAIRPERSON