

**Zetland Transport Partnership
Drama Room, Islesburgh Community Centre, Lerwick
Friday 10 March 2017 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

M Stout
S Coutts
D Sandison
G Smith

Advisers:

S Laurenson
S Mathieson

Apologies:

B Fox
R Hunter
I Kinniburgh
J Smith

In attendance (Officers):

M Craigie, Lead Officer
P Mogridge, Transport Policy and Projects Officer
P Wishart, Solicitor
B Kerr, Communications Officer
L Gair, Committee Officer

Chair

Mr M Stout, Chairperson of the Partnership, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

None

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on (i) 3 February 2017 were confirmed on the motion of Mr Coutts, seconded by Mr Sandison; and (ii) 21 February 2017 were confirmed on the motion of Mr Coutts, seconded by Mr Stout.

11/17 **Mandatory Annual Reporting of Climate Change Duties**

The Partnership considered a report by the Transport Policy and Projects Officer (ZTP-10-17-F), that informed on the duties of the Partnership in terms of Mandatory Annual Reporting of Climate Change to the Scottish Government.

The Transport Policy and Projects Officer introduced the report and explained the circumstances for the late reporting but advised that the Scottish Government had now accepted the Partnership's submission. He went on to advise that the Partnership's carbon footprint is difficult to disaggregate from that of the Council, and as the second section ties in strongly with the Transport Strategy Refresh there would

be more information to submit next year. The Lead Officer said that ZetTrans should consider what elements it could control such as the bus services and as there had been no established principles around reporting, Officers were working it out as they go along. The Transport Policy and Projects Officer said that the process of reporting and its structure is fluid and each organisation is free to set its own boundaries regarding its activities concerning carbon. He added that this is a "one-size fits all" structure and there is no sanction or target to follow. He was unsure however whether that would change but that would be a discussion for national Government.

The Lead Officer said that ZetTrans should consider what it should report on and discuss with the Council to ensure Shetland is properly represented. He said that the next monitoring report should be more refined who is accountable for carbon management in each organisation. The Transport Policy and Projects Officer said that he had discussed the response presented with colleagues in the Council in terms of whether anything had been missed or double-counted.

Decision:

The Partnership NOTED the Government's acceptance of the Partnership's Climate Change Duties Report 2016.

12/17 Audit of Ferry Services in Scotland

The Partnership considered a report by the Lead Officer (ZTP-11-17-F), that presented the Audit Scotland project scope in respect of the Audit of Ferry Services in Scotland.

The Lead Officer provided a detailed introduction explaining that the Audit would be carried out between now and July/August. He said that the Audit would be able to input into the North Isles Ferry Services (NIFS) Contract 2018 and comes at a good time where it can influence the changes for the future. The Lead Officer drew attention to Appendix 2, and highlighted the relationships between the Council, ZetTrans and the Government in terms of the inter island ferry services and the fair ferry fares review. The Lead Officer advised that since the scope was written he had been invited to join the overseeing panel for the Audit, which provided another level of input on the conduct of the Audit.

The Lead Officer went on to advise on the key issues he had already raised with Audit Scotland. He explained that there is no evidence of a strategy to tackle the Scottish network and that there is a lean towards the West Coast in terms of investment in services and infrastructure, strategy and ferry plan, where there is very little for the North Isles in terms of NIFS or Inter Island Ferry Services (IIFS). The Lead Officer informed the Partnership that the funds for the NIFS was decreasing but the West Coast were increasing and this was both in terms of capital and service spend. In referring to the consideration of responsibility, delivery and funding of inter-island ferry services, the Lead Officer said that it had been possible, for the first time, to give the government a solid base of information and analysis to support of tackling inequalities in the future. He said that national ownership would not solve the issues as funding was a problem across all services but there needs to be understanding and planning so that when Transport Scotland make decisions it prioritises according to needs such as the age and capacity across the whole network. The Lead Officer said that the response would be refined having presented the Audit scope to Environment and Transport Committee and having now met with Audit Scotland.

The Chair said that he welcomed this audit and commented on the work by HITRANS, Orkney Islands Council, Shetland Islands Council and ZetTrans and that a clear strategy that gives fairness and equity across the network was always the goal. He said that he was content that ZetTrans input into the process could demonstrate benefit to the Scottish Government and North Isles.

In response to a question, the Lead Officer said that he would make comment to the Auditors on the omission of freight from the Audit, as it is important to ensure that, the audit is complete.

Members commented on the need to ensure that value for money is achieved and the Chair said that there also had to be policies in place relevant to the outcomes being pursued. The Lead Officer said that it would be easy to leap to the conclusion that the North Isles do not get enough funding but it is important to ensure that the data drives that conclusion, as it could still be the case that more money is needed on the West Coast and less on the North Isles. In that regard, it was crucial that the information provided is robust, complete and accurate.

In response to a comment, the Chair advised that Audit Scotland had quickly understood that the internal ferry service forms part of the overall picture in terms of establishing what is fair and would produce good outcomes. He said that Audit Scotland also acknowledged that the West Coast costs do include inter-island ferry services within their contracts.

The Chair advised that there had been a recent announcement from the Scottish Government on the contract for NIFS and that it would be looked at further. He said it was important to support the Scottish Government in getting to a place where Transport Scotland can provide adequate services to all Island groups.

The Vice-Chair said that the distinction between internal and external ferry services was important, as these services were not external to Scotland. He said that it was crucial to have a strong evidence based approach.

The Chair advised that at a meeting of the RTP Chairs yesterday he met with the Minister for Transport and the Islands, they discussed the need for quality engagement with RTPs and to have a good flow of information between RTPs and the civil services. He said that partnership working was acknowledged, and that there are elements, which will be beneficial to all involved.

During further discussion, the Partnership was advised that, in terms of the commitment made by the Minister for Transport and the Islands regarding fair fares on Northern Isles Ferry Services, there is a letter to the Orkney Islands Council and the Shetland Islands Council that sets out the principles agreed around this issue. In terms of these commitments, the Lead Officer said that having received such reassurance, the details of any proposals on fare levels are not yet available. The Lead Officer advised that questions had been presented to the Minister indicating that the working group are unclear where matters stand at this stage.

The Lead Officer advised that the decision required should include at 1.2 the addition of "in consultation with the Chair". The Partnership unanimously approved the recommendations with that addition.

Decision:

The Partnership NOTED:

- The Audit Scotland project scope covering their audit of Ferry Services in Scotland attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- The main Audit questions given on the second page of Appendix 1 discuss the draft responses to those questions in Appendix 2 and the supplementary discussion points in Appendix 3 and, subject to any comments raised, agree that the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chair, will submit the responses to Audit Scotland.

13/17 **National Transport Review Early Engagement Survey**

The Partnership considered a report by the Transport Policy and Projects Officer (ZTP-12-17-F), that presented a draft response to the National Transport Review Early Engagement Survey.

The Transport Policy and Projects Officer introduced the report.

The Partnership was advised that there would be further opportunity to engage as it is expected that Regional Transport Partnerships (RTP's) will be consultees. Members agreed on the importance of further engagement in the process, to ensure the needs of Shetland are taken into the National Strategy.

The Partnership unanimously approved the recommendations contained in the report.

Decision:

- The Partnership approve the proposed response to the Government's National Transport Strategy Review Early Engagement Survey as contained in Appendix 1; and
- Noted that subject to comment from the Partnership, the Lead Officer will issue the response, in consultation with the Chair.

14/17 **Councillors Code of Conduct Consultation**

The Partnership considered a report by the Secretary and Standards Officer for ZetTrans (ZTP-13-17-F), that presented a view on the Councillors Code of Conduct Consultation issued by the Scottish Government.

The Solicitor introduced the report. In providing background to the issue that arose for a Councillor Member on NesTrans, he explained that the Standards Commission responded to a request for advice stating that there were issues under Article 5, of the Councillors Code of Conduct, that required to be addressed in more detail and they would not be responding on the Consultation at this time.

The Chair said that he appreciated that while there was no direct response required from ZetTrans on this matter, it was important to keep a watching brief as the matter progressed.

The Partnership unanimously approved the recommendation contained in the report.

Decision:

The Partnership RESOLVES to offer no comment in relation to how conflicts of interest are managed by individual Councillors or in relation to any proposals the Government may have insofar as that affects ZetTrans and any other public body.

The Chair advised that as this was the last meeting of ZetTrans before the local elections he extended his thanks to the Partnership for their support over the years.

Ms Laurenson thanked the Chair for his service and wished him good luck, should he stand for re-election. The Partnership concurred.

The meeting concluded at 11am.

CHAIRPERSON