

**Zetland Transport Partnership
Auditorium, Museum and Archives, Hay's Dock, Lerwick
Friday, 3 February 2017 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

S Coutts
B Fox
R Hunter
D Sandison
M Stout

Advisers:

None

Apologies:

S Laurenson
S Matheson

In attendance (Officers):

M Craigie, Lead Officer
P Mogridge, Transport Policy and Projects Officer
E Park, Transport Contracts & Operations Officer
P Wishart, Solicitor
C Anderson, Senior 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 15 December 2016 were confirmed on the motion of Mr Fox seconded by Mr Sandison.

(Ms Hunter left the auditorium)

01/17 **ZetTrans Other Member – HIE Shetland Nomination**

The Partnership considered a report by the Secretary to ZetTrans/Executive Manager - Governance and Law (ZTP-01-17-F), which sought approval of the person nominated by HIE Shetland as an Other Member to the Zetland Transport Partnership.

The Committee Officer introduced the main terms of the report and on the motion of Mr Fox, seconded by Mr Sandison, the Partnership unanimously approved the decisions required in section 1 of the report.

Decision:

The Partnership APPROVED:

- the appointment of Ms Hunter as an Other Member, nominated by HIE Shetland;
- the submission of the appointment to the Scottish Ministers with a recommended term of office from 4 March 2017 to 4 March 2021; and
- agreed that should there be a delay in the appointment obtaining Scottish Ministers confirmation, that Ms Hunter will be appointed as an Adviser from 4 March 2017 until the date of Scottish Ministers' approval.

(Ms Hunter returned to the auditorium)

02/17

Lead Officer's Report

The Partnership considered a report by the Lead Officer (ZTP-04-17-F), that provided an overview of current and upcoming issues and events relating to the business of the Partnership but which did not, at this time, warrant a full report.

The Lead Officer provided a verbal update on ongoing work streams for which there was insufficient time to produce written reports before the commencement of the pre-election period.

Fair funding for inter-island transport: The Lead Officer said that this was a matter that ZetTrans had been involved in for two years and phase 1 had come to an end. There continued to be positive signs that indicate the Scottish Government remain committed reaching a revised position on funding of inter-island transport. In terms of work done the Lead Officer said that he was confident that there would be a good outcome for Shetland. He said that the collaborative approach with HiTrans, Orkney Islands Council, ZetTrans and the Shetland Islands Council presented a detailed and thorough case for funding which provided a strong foundation for the next phase and provides the bigger picture of the ferry and air services. He said that the work that is underway and will continue on after the Council election period but it was hoped that there would be an announcement in the next two weeks on a different settlement for inter island ferries.

Northern Isles Ferry Services: The Lead Officer commented on the announcement that there may be an extension of the current contract. He said that there had been a significant amount of work done and a STAG study undertaken by the Scottish Government. He advised that consideration was now being given to whether the service needs to be tendered at all, but instead could be done through an in-house provider. This consideration was in its early stages and an extension would build in more time to resolve this issue. The Lead Officer said that Ministers see the involvement of stakeholders as key to going forward and given the number of assurances from the Scottish Government he had a high level of confidence that ZetTrans would be engaged. He added that this would not affect the fare reductions work as this was being considered independently and he would not want to see any delay in achieving this benefit.

During discussion Members commented that it was important to ensure that the new introduction of fare changes is brought forward as soon as possible. It was suggested that it was now time to push harder regarding the reduction of fares and

to continue to have dialogue to ensure fare reductions happen before the expiry of the current contract. Members were assured that an ongoing level of pressure was being applied. It was also clear from the response received yesterday that the two issues of contract procurement and fare reductions are detached. It was also noted that the Transport Minister would be visiting Shetland during February 2017 and an increase in lobbying on this matter may be useful.

Concern was expressed that if ferry fare reductions were pushed before the new contract it may be that less reduction is offered if it is not linked to the new contract. The Partnership was advised that the fare reduction does not only take account of passenger fare but this is an issue of an overnight lifeline services that needs to recognise the social and economic needs of passengers. Therefore, there has to be urgent resolution of this issue but it has to meet the needs of residents in Shetland. The Lead Officer said that it is about getting the right answer for the right reason so that there is longer term confidence in the transport links and what they provide. He went on to advise that taking a 50% reduction approach was not a sophisticated argument. He said that the reduction has to be equitable and fair. The Chair agreed that the fair fares issues must sit with the Scottish Government in order to demonstrate the best use of the public £. The Partnership agreed that the Chair and Officers should continue to apply pressure for a decision on the fair fares issues.

During further discussion, the Chair confirmed that strong emphasis was being put forward, at every opportunity with the Scottish Government, on the contribution that Shetland makes to the national economy. In addition, it was noted how important it is to ensure that potential growth activity is taken on board, as growing the population is a key priority for the Shetland Islands Council and the population is affected by the cost and difficulty of travel.

The Aviation Stakeholder Group meeting

The Regional Transport Partnerships Chairs Workshop

The Lead Officers advised that having attended both the Aviation Stakeholder Group meeting and the Regional Transport Partnerships Chairs Workshop he would provide more information on these at the next meeting of the Partnership.

Decision:

The Partnership NOTED the Lead Officer's update.

03/17

ZetTrans Draft Main Issues Report for the Transport Strategy Refresh

The Partnership considered a report by the Transport Policy and Projects Officer (ZTP-06-17-F), which presented ZetTrans First Draft Main Issues Report for the Transport Strategy Refresh.

The Transport Policy and Projects Officer introduced the report and timetable for stage two and presentation of the final main issues report.

During consideration of the report a number of points including the attendance at the recent working group; an explanation was provided on the level of consultation being undertaken on this matter without proceeding to a full-scale review; how the place standard consultation can inform this work; and some changes to the wording in some areas were requested. The Partnership were advised that these points would be taken on board and provided to Members in a second draft to the next meeting of the Partnership.

The Lead Officer said that the transport refresh gives the Partnership the opportunity to address public perception and show what is being done in this area, what is in the strategy and action plan providing an evidence base that is clear. In terms of the road safety strategy the Vice-Chair said that it ties into the transport strategy and covers all aspects of living in Shetland and highlights why this piece of work is being done. He said that this is about realism regarding objectives and the ability to influence transport provision and there needs to be proactive access to training and business links, not just to be reactive but influence what is done in the future. Discussing road safety issues further, it was noted that in terms of the need for speed limits in rural areas it was suggested that more could be done to educate the public on driver and pedestrian safety as this is something that is everyone has responsibility for.

The Chair commented on the work in preparing this paper and noted that there is more work to be done which will take time. He said he was confident that this paper would provide a good basis for getting the Partnership's new members up to speed following the forthcoming elections.

Members unanimously agreed that a second draft Main Issues Report be presented to the next meeting on the Partnership, on 21 February 2017.

Decision:

That the Partnership, having commented on the first DRAFT Main Issues Report, agreed that an amended second Draft Main Issues Report would be presented to the next meeting of the Partnership on 21 February 2017.

04/17

ZetTrans Meeting Dates and Business Programme 2017/18

The Partnership considered a report by the Secretary to ZetTrans/Executive Manager - Governance and Law (ZTP-03-17-F), which presented the meeting dates and business programme for ZetTrans for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

The Committee Officer introduced the report and on the motion of Mr Fox, seconded by Mr Sandison the Partnership approved the decisions required in section 1 of the report.

Decision:

The Partnership approved the meeting dates for ZetTrans and its Shetland External Transport Forum set out in paragraph 4.1 of this report and the Business Programme for 2017/18.

05/17

Shetland External Transport Forum Minutes – 12 December 2016

The Partnership considered the minutes of the Shetland External Transport Forum meeting held on 12 December 2016.

Decision:

The Partnership noted the minutes of the Shetland External Transport Forum meeting held on 12 December 2016.

In order to avoid the disclosure of exempt information, Mr Stout moved, and Mr Coutts seconded, and the Partnership agreed to exclude the public in terms of the relevant legislation during consideration of the following items.

06/17 **Westside Mainline Services 9 and 12 - Tender**

The Partnership considered a report by the Transport Contracts and Operations Officer, which presented the proposal to tender Public Bus Services No. 9 (Lerwick to Walls) and No. 12 (Lerwick to Aith).

Mr Coutts moved that the Partnership approve the decisions required in section 1 of the report. Mr Fox seconded.

Decision:

The Partnership APPROVED the decision required.

The meeting concluded at 11.25am

CHAIRPERSON