

## Appendix D

### NORTH EAST SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

#### Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, 8 December, 2011

Present:- Councillor Yuill (Chairperson), and Councillors Boulton and Dean (Aberdeen City Council); Councillors Argyle, Clark, Robertson and Webster (Aberdeenshire Council); and Mr Eddie Anderson; and Dr Margaret Bochel and Mr Stephen Archer (Advisers to the Board).

In Attendance:- Derick Murray, Rab Dickson and Kirsty Morrison, Nestrans Office; Julie Anderson (Aberdeenshire Council) and Martin Allan (Aberdeen City Council).

Apologies:- Jennifer Craw and Derek Provan.

**The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found at:-**  
<http://www.Nestrans.org.uk/47/board-meetings.html>

#### TREASURER TO THE BOARD

1. The Chair advised the Board that Derek Yule, Treasurer to the Board had left Aberdeenshire Council and that Alan Wood would be Acting Treasurer to the Board. The Chair welcomed Julie Anderson to her first meeting who would present the budget matters on behalf of the Acting Treasurer.

**The Board resolved:-**  
to note the information.

#### MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 5 OCTOBER, 2011

2. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 5 October, 2011.

**The Board resolved:-**  
to approve the minute.

#### LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS (RTPs) AND THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS

3. With reference to article 5 of the minute of the meeting of the Board of 5 October, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on liaison with other Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) and the Scottish Government and others.

The meetings included:-

- Regional Transport Partnership Lead Officers' meeting in Edinburgh on 19 October, 2011;
- Health and Transport Steering Group meeting with Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government's Health Directorate in Aberdeen on 1 November, 2011;
- National Roads Maintenance Review meeting in Edinburgh on 2 November, 2011;
- Regional Transport Partnership Lead Officers' meeting in Edinburgh on 16 November, 2011;
- Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum Steering Group special meeting on access to Union Square in Aberdeen on 17 November, 2011;
- Rail Franchise Consultation meeting in Aberdeen on 28 November, 2011;
- Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum Steering Group meeting in Aberdeen on 5 December, 2011;
- Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group meeting in Aberdeen on 6 December, 2011; and
- Regional Transport Partnership Chairs' meeting including meeting with the Minister for Transport and a meeting with CPT (the trade association representing the UK's bus, coach and light rail industries) and an MSP Briefing in Edinburgh on 7 December, 2011.

The Director provided further information on the meeting with the Minister for Transport on 7 December and explained that topics discussed included the RTPs vision of how Regional Transport Partnerships fit into the Christie Commission's recommendations, the common voice of RTPs across Scotland and also the possibility of RTPs running train services in Scotland. The Director explained that although there was a low turnout of MSPs at the briefing, four were from the Nestrans area and that the discussion centred around similar themes to the meeting with the Minister.

The Board then discussed the importance of co-ordinating a response in relation to the Rail Utilisation Strategy report and Rail Franchise consultation and the importance of presenting a co-ordinated response to the Transport Scotland Rail Directorate at their meeting in Glasgow on 15 December, 2011, which the Chair and the Director would attend.

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to note that the Director would liaise with the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce and other bodies to get their views in relation to the Rail Utilisation Strategy document and Rail Franchise consultation prior to meeting with the Transport Scotland Rail Directorate in Glasgow on 15 December, 2011 to present a co-ordinated response to Transport Scotland; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the report.

**NORTH EAST TRANSPORT CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING**

4. With reference to article 5 of the minute of the meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a report which provided information on the outcome from the latest meeting of the North East Transport Consultative Forum (NETCF) held at Woodhill House on Monday, 31 October, 2011.

**The Board resolved:-**

to note the details contained in the report.

**STRATEGIC TRANSPORT FUND CONSULTATION**

5. The Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information on the results of consultation on the Strategic Transport Fund Supplementary Planning Guidance and informed members of the next steps.

**The Board resolved:-**

to note the report.

**HEALTH AND TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN – ANNUAL REPORT**

6. With reference to article 8 of the minute of the meeting of the Board of 5 October, 2011, the Board had before it the annual report on the Health and Transport Action Plan.

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to note that officers would investigate whether they could provide a response or advise in relation to concerns from residents in Deeside (particularly in summer) of the noise from motorbikes in the area; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the annual report.

**BUS QUALITY PARTNERSHIP**

7. With reference to article 13 of the minute of the meeting of the Board of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a report which identified correlations between levels of bus patronage and other factors such as fares, journey times and congestion.

The Board discussed issues relating to the bus operators in the City and the Shire. Issues such as the cost of bus fares; the increased journey times (due to the Traffic Commissioner's instruction on punctuality); the safety aspects for passengers on buses; and the marketing of the bus services were all discussed.

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to request that the Director submits the following issues to a future meeting of the Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum:- safety on buses; bus fares; and the marketing of bus services;
- (ii) to request that the Director write to the Traffic Commission to outline the concerns of bus passengers that although the punctuality of buses has become more reliable, this has had a detrimental effect on the increased running times of buses and the amount of time that a bus will sit at a terminus (or other stops) with passengers on board; and
- (iii) to otherwise note the report.

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

8. With reference to article 10 of the minute of the meeting of the Board of 5 October, 2011, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub-strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 30 November, 2011.

### **The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to agree that updates relating to the Health and Transport Action Plan should be reported through the progress report; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the report.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS**

9. With reference to article 11 of the minute of the meeting of the Board of 5 October, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which summarised and advised on a number of different publications and consultations and sought approval of draft responses as appropriate.

The report outlined details relating to:-

- Competition Commission – Local Bus Services Market Investigation – provisional decision on remedies;
- Cairngorms National Park – Main Issues Report on National Park Plan;
- Draft Civil Aviation Bill, an effective regulatory framework for UK aviation;
- Rail Franchise consultation;
- Inveramsay Bridge;
- Strategic Development Planning Authority Main Issues Report; and
- Trans European Network (Transport) (TEN-T).

In relation to the rail franchise consultation document, the report explained that as the consultation closed on 20 February, 2012, there would be time to draft a response to the consultation for the Board's consideration at its meeting on 15 February, 2012.

### **The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to request that any figures/evidence used in the preparation of the rail franchise consultation in relation to requirements in the North East of Scotland be shared; and
- (ii) to otherwise note the report.

## **MATTER OF URGENCY**

**The Chair intimated that he had directed in terms of Section 50(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that (a) the supplementary report requesting approval for a contribution from the Nestrans budget to improvements to bus interchange provision at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, and (b) a virement from the Peterhead Cycling Programme to progress cycling in the Fraserburgh area and the remainder to be spent on strategic**

**maintenance of the A98 at Portsoy be considered as matters of urgency so that the Board could consider these financial requests at the earliest opportunity.**

## **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

**Prior to considering the following item of business, Councillor Dean declared an interest by virtue of her appointment by Aberdeen City Council to the NHS Grampian Board. Councillor Dean chose to remain in the meeting during consideration of the item.**

## **BUDGET MATTERS**

**10.** With reference to article 12 of the minute of the meeting of the Board of 5 October, 2011, the Board had before it a report from its financial adviser which provided an update on spend and programming of the Partnership's 2011/12 budget and which also provided a forecast outturn.

The Board also had before it a request for approval for a contribution from the Board's budget to improvements to the bus interchange provision at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. The supplementary report explained that a preferred option had been developed, in partnership with NHS Grampian and the two Councils and bus operators for improvements to increase the capacity of the bus interchange at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and improve the flow of buses through the site. The report explained that a detailed design and costing of the preferred option was currently being carried out by Aberdeen City Council and the initial cost estimate for this work was £120,000. The report put forward the recommendation that the Board consider approving funding from the Nestrans budget of 50% for this project (£60,000) in partnership with NHS Grampian.

The Board were then addressed by the representative of the Acting Treasurer to the Board who requested that the Board consider viring money from the Peterhead Cycling Programme budget to enhance cycling programmes in the Fraserburgh area and that the remainder of the funding be used for strategic maintenance of the A98 at Portsoy.

The substantive report explained that an underspend was now expected to occur on the Ellon Park and Ride Project due to delays forced by land acquisition issues and it was proposed that £48,000 of the agreed project cost be allocated instead to the cost of strategic maintenance works on the A947 north of Turriff.

### **The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to agree to funding 50% of the proposed improvements to bus interchange at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary at a cost of £60,000 (to be funded from an underspend in another area of the budget or from an allowance made from the 2012/13 budget);
- (ii) to agree to the virement from the Peterhead Cycling Programme as detailed above; and

(iii) to agree to the proposed budget virement from the Ellon Park and Ride project as detailed in the report.

## **2012/13 FUNDING**

11. The Board had before it a report by the Acting Treasurer which asked the Board to consider outline revenue and capital funding requests for 2012/13 and agree the proposals for preparing draft revenue and capital budgets for future consideration.

The report explained that the challenging economic climate and budget constraints within the public sector must be considered when requesting funding from the constituent local authorities and it was suggested that the Board seek funding commensurate with the budget allocations that relevant services are receiving within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils.

The report advised that the Councils will be considering their own 2012/13 Capital programmes over the next few months and it was suggested that until Council commitments and Government grants become clearer that Nestrans prepares capital and revenue budgets in line with the priorities in the Delivery Plan and based on anticipated available funding from the various funding sources, noting Government and Council's budget considerations.

### **The report recommended:-**

that the Board –

- (a) instruct the Director to write to the two local authorities outlining the Board's considerations and requesting that contributions be allowed for in the Council's budgets; and
- (b) instruct a further report detailing the proposed 2012/13 Capital and Revenue budget expenditure for consideration at the next Board meeting in February, 2012.

### **The Board resolved:-**

to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

## **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11 AND THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE PARTNERSHIP 2010/11**

12. The Board had before it a report by the Acting Treasurer to the Board which submitted for the information of the Board members the audited Statement of Accounts for 2010/11 and the external Auditor's report to members of the Board for 2010/11.

The Board heard the representative of the Acting Treasurer explain that the Board had received an unqualified audit from Audit Scotland and that this would be the last year that Audit Scotland would be the external auditor for the Board. She explained that for next year Deloitte would be the external auditor. The report explained that during the course of the audit, the auditors raised a number of matters with officers and the Action Plan in the appendix to the external auditor's report summarised the main issue to be addressed by the Partnership (the adjustment for accumulated absences was not correctly

accounted for in the financial statement submitted for audit). The report explained that the Acting Treasurer and appropriate officers have discussed the Action Plan and have produced a response which includes the planned management action, the responsible officer(s) and target dates for the action.

**The report recommended:-**

that the Board –

- (a) consider the Statement of Accounts for 2010/11 and the external Auditor's report;
- (b) agree the responses to the external Auditor's Action Plan and that the responsible officers address the issues raised in the Action Plan as set out in the appendix to the external Auditor's report; and
- (c) agree that a £10 charge for a printed copy of the Statement of Accounts be made and that the accounts can be accessed and downloaded free of charge from the Nestrans website.

**The Board resolved:-**

to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

**MATTER OF URGENCY**

**The Chair intimated that he had directed in terms of Section 50(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that a supplementary information bulletin report on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent response to the air passenger duty consultation be considered as a matter of urgency so that the Board could consider the details at the earliest opportunity.**

**INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**13.** With reference to article 13 of the minute of the meeting of the Board of 5 October, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring a decision.

The report provided updates on the current position of the following projects/issues:-

- Letter from Transport Scotland's Director of Rail;
- High Speed 2 – High Speed Rail;
- Rail Overcrowding Surveys;
- Rail Changes in new December timetable;
- Aviation matters;
- Access to Union Square;
- Aberdeen Royal Infirmary Bus Tickets;
- Nestrans Press Releases; and
- Getabout Events.

The Board also had before it a supplementary information bulletin report. In relation to the Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation consultation, the Board noted that the proposed purchase of BMI by BA is to be assessed for consideration by the European Union (DG Competition) and should BA be the

purchaser this would remove competition between the Scottish Airports and Heathrow as BMI have already pulled out of the Glasgow to Heathrow route. The report explained that Nestrans officers had contacted the Office of Fair Trade in the UK to highlight the possibility of the loss of competition between Scottish airports and Heathrow and the Office of Fair Trade were aware of the proposals and are monitoring the proposed sales progress. The report explained there is a process where the DG Commission can refer the sale back to the UK for consideration and Nestrans has asked the Office of Fair Trade to consider whether this may be appropriate given that the concern is for flights internal to an EU member country.

In relation to Access to Union Square, the Board were informed that Dr Bochel had spoken to Grampian Police regarding the issues and they will be in attendance at Union Square every weekend in the lead up to Christmas to try and alleviate the access problems to the shopping centre. The Board also noted that work was ongoing in relation to the traffic light timings at the junctions leading into Union Square. The report had appended to it a minute of a meeting held to discuss the access at Union Square which outlined short term and longer term proposals to alleviate the traffic concerns in this area.

The supplementary report outlined the highlights of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's response to the air passenger duty consultation which included details such as:-

- helicopters are to be exempt from the duty;
- air passenger duty rates are to increase as identified in the budget report with no changes to the geographical bandings;
- investigations are still underway into the feasibility and impacts of the devolution of air passenger duty to Scotland but devolution to Northern Ireland was confirmed;
- whilst reaffirming the UK Government's intention to rebalance the UK economy, the Government noted that the regional impact of air passenger duty was tied to the UK Government's Aviation Policy deliberations due to be published for consultation in March, 2012;
- in relation to the Scottish Government's published Infrastructure Investment Plan for the period 2012 to 2030 the Plan outlined details relevant to the North East of Scotland which included timing of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route development and Balmedie to Tippetty improvement;
- timings for the Aberdeen to Inverness rail improvements; and
- timings in relation to the Aberdeen to Central Belt rail improvements.

The document also explained that the upgrading to dual carriageway of the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen was important, however, the expenditure plan only showed the dualling between Inverness and Nairn by 2030.

**The Board resolved:-**

- (i) to request that the Director arrange a joint meeting with Hitrans and the European Union to discuss the regional airport issues relating to the possible loss of competition between Scottish airports and Heathrow;
- (ii) to request officers to consider other options to alleviate the traffic concerns at Union Square, including a stacking lane on Market Street and the use of additional car parking facilities in the area;



(iii) to request that the Director add the timing of the improvements to Inveramsay Bridge to the agenda for the meeting with Francis Duthie, Director of Rail, Transport Scotland;

(iv) to agree that the Chair and the two leaders of the Councils write to Keith Brown, MSP, Minister for Transport outlining their concern as to the timing of the improvements to the Aberdeen to Inverness railway and the dualling of the A96; and

v) to otherwise note the detail of the reports.

## **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

**14.** With reference to article 14 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 5 October, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director summarising recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to the Partnership along with presentations by Nestrans and its partners.

### **The Board resolved:-**

to note the details.

## **PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**15.** With reference to article 15 of the minute of meeting of the Board of 5 October, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director detailing pending business and information on reports to be submitted to future Board meetings.

### **The Board resolved:-**

to note the report.

**IAN YUILL, Chairperson.**

## NORTH EAST SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

### Minute of Meeting of the North East Scotland Transport Partnership Board

Aberdeen, 15 February, 2012

Present: Councillor Yuill (Chairperson), and Councillors Boulton, Dean and John West (as substitute for Councillor McCaig) (Aberdeen City Council); Councillors Argyle, Clark, Robertson and Webster (Aberdeenshire Council); Jennifer Craw and David Sullivan; and Dr Margaret Bochel and Stephen Archer (Advisers to the Board).

In Attendance: Derick Murray, Rab Dickson and Kirsty Morrison (Nestrans Office); Julie Anderson (Aberdeenshire Council); and Martin Allan (Aberdeen City Council).

Apologies: Councillor McCaig (Aberdeen City Council), Eddie Anderson and Derek Provan.

**The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located at the following link:**

<http://www.nestrans.org.uk/48/board-meetings.html>

### **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 8 December, 2011.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the minute as a correct record.

### **LIAISON BETWEEN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS (RTPs) AND THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS**

2. With reference to article 3 of the minute of its meeting of 8 December, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided an update on liaison with other Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs), the Scottish Government and others.

The meetings included –

- Local Authority and Bus Operator Forum Steering Group meeting in Aberdeen on 5 December, 2011
- Transport Scotland Rail Directorate meeting in Glasgow on 15 December, 2011
- Scottish Ambulance Service meeting in Edinburgh on 12 January, 2012
- Meeting with the Minister for Transport in Edinburgh on 24 January, 2012
- First ScotRail and Tactran meeting in Aberdeen on 26 January, 2012
- Regional Transport Partnership Lead Officers' meeting in Edinburgh on 15 February, 2012.

In relation to the meeting with the Minister for Transport held in Edinburgh on 24 January, 2012, the Director advised that a series of workshops involving stakeholders would be held in February/March 2012 to discuss how to progress the dualling of the road at the Inveramsay Bridge, and that these meetings would advise decisions on progress of this and other schemes. The Director then informed the Board that he was to have a separate meeting with Transport Scotland on 29 February, 2012 to discuss the Inveramsay Bridge proposal.

The Director then advised of potential changes to the train timetables which would affect Aberdeen and the North East, including extra stops at Portlethen and Laurencekirk. He further explained that it was proposed that the 05:56 Aberdeen to Edinburgh train leave six minutes earlier, and that these proposals would be put out for consultation prior to being considered by Transport Scotland, and if agreed, would be incorporated into the timetable by 12 December, 2012.

The report also provided details of future meetings planned –

- Health and Transport Action Plan Steering Group to be held in Aberdeen on 28 February, 2012
- Local Authority and Bus Operators Forum Steering Group meeting to be held in Aberdeen on 1 March, 2012 and
- The Regional Transport Partnership Chairs' meeting to be held in Dumfries on 7 March, 2012.

**The Board resolved:**

to note progress on liaison arrangements with other RTPs, the Scottish Government and others and arrangements for future meetings.

## **REGIONAL PARKING STRATEGY**

3. With reference to article 4(C) of the minute of its meeting of 24 August, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which presented the draft Regional Parking Strategy for consideration.

**The Board resolved:**

- (i) to instruct that the draft Regional Parking Strategy be submitted to the two Councils for their consideration;
- (ii) following consideration of the draft Strategy by the two Councils, and incorporation of their comments, to instruct that the draft Strategy be published for formal consultation with stakeholders and the public; and
- (iii) following consultation, to instruct that a final Strategy be brought back to the Board for approval.

## **REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY REFRESH**

4. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its meeting of 8 December, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which updated members on the proposed timescales for reviewing and refreshing the Regional Transport Strategy.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the proposed timeframe for the refresh of the Regional Transport Strategy, as appended to the report.

**ALTERNATIVE FUELS – HYDROGEN BUSES**

5. Reference was made to article 3 of the minute of its meeting of 24 August, 2011, at which time the Board were advised that Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) had submitted a bid for European funding for a hydrogen bus trial. Members had before them on this day a report by the Director which advised members of progress made to date with this project, and requested future consideration of any possible Nestrans' involvement.

**The Board resolved:**

(i) to support the project in principle, and to agree to further discussions with the project developers and stakeholders;

(ii) to request that these discussions should take cognisance of the potential funding discussions underway and the operational aspects of the project;

(iii) to request that the discussions should consider the priority for funding from the transport budget for this type of project, given the priorities and commitments already made in the Nestrans delivery programme; and

(iv) to instruct that a further report be prepared for the Board's consideration in due course, incorporating the aspects discussed above, once further detail and clarification is available.

**DYCE SHUTTLE BUS/ DYCE STATION UPGRADE**

6. With reference to article 4(B) of the minute of its meeting of 8 June, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which advised members of progress in relation to the proposal to upgrade Dyce railway station, and sought approval for funding to continue the Nestrans funded shuttle bus, linking the train station to the airport and industrial estates.

**The Board resolved:**

(i) to note the content of the report;

(ii) to instruct that further work be undertaken to develop proposals to enhance the station, including the potential for bus access to the west side;

(iii) to authorise the issuing of a tender for the continuation of the service 80 shuttle bus; and

(iv) to delegate authority to the Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board, to appoint an operator for the next 12 months.

**SCOTRAIL 2014 CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

7. The Board had before it a report by the Director which sought approval of a response to Transport Scotland's document titled "Rail 2014 – Public Consultation", which was appended to the report.

The appendix contained a suggested response to the main questions contained in the consultation document, however, there were a number of key points which formed the basis of the proposed submission, as follows –

- That maintaining through trains between the North East and London was critical both for economic/business and for leisure trips. The possibility of requiring all passengers to change trains at Edinburgh was unacceptable, would inconvenience many travellers, harm economic and tourism potential, create severe capacity issues and limit travel choice to/from the North East. Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government should insist on the Department for Transport's commitment to dual purpose rolling stock being commissioned as soon as practical.
- That maintaining an overnight sleeper service between Aberdeen and London was a priority. The sleeper provided an important link and the Scottish Government should commit to its long term future whether as part of, or as separate from, the new franchise.
- The possibility of splitting the franchise into economic and social parts of the railway causes concern. There were many uncertainties around this possibility which were unresolved, such as what parts of the network would be considered "economic", particularly if that may include some parts of routes.
- That there was a need for further development of rail potential in and around the North East, including new stations and incremental enhancements towards a local cross rail service. Stopping patterns, stations and pathing in this area all suffer from under investment and lack of priority within the planning of railway infrastructure and services. Commitment was required to improve track, signalling, rolling stock and stations to fulfil the potential of the railways in the North East.
- Fare structure needs to be reconsidered to ensure that services were operated efficiently and fairly.

**The Board resolved:**

(i) at question 27 to the response (how can local communities be encouraged to support their local station?) that proper fare structures be added at this point;

(ii) to remove the word "perceived" in the response at question 29(7) (comfort of trains);

(iii) to add the word "absolutely" in front of unacceptable at the start of the response to question 30;

(iv) to emphasise as strongly as possible the importance of improving the quantity and quality of rolling stock and the requirement for further availability of seats on the network;

(v) to emphasise the importance of passengers being able to park at local stations prior to embarking on journeys (i.e. cars, motorbikes and bicycles);

(vi) to emphasise the importance of using the available seats on trains in the most efficient manner (including reserved seats);

(vii) to emphasise that tourists using the rail network can use it for both social and economic reasons and to add at question 28 the importance of addressing disabled users' needs; and

(viii) to otherwise agree the contents of the report and endorse the response as Nestrans' comments on the Rail 2014 consultation document.

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

8. With reference to article 8 of the minute of its previous meeting of 8 December, 2011, the Board had before it a progress chart summarising the work in the three sub strategies of the Regional Transport Strategy as at 7 February, 2011.

### **The Board resolved:**

- (i) to note that the Director will circulate details on the deadlines for submissions to the Green Bus Fund; and
- (ii) to note the content of the progress chart.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS**

9. With reference to article 9 of the minute of its previous meeting of 8 December, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which summarised and advised on a number of different publications and consultations as follows and sought approval of draft responses as appropriate –

- Scottish Ferries draft plan
- Possibility of road user charging for HGVs.

### **The Board resolved:**

to note the report and the documents referred to above, and to endorse the comments as Nestrans' response to the consultations.

## **BUDGET MATTERS**

10. With reference to article 10 of the minute its previous meeting of 8 December, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Acting Treasurer which provided an update on spend and programming of the Partnership's 2011/12 budget and forecast outturn in this regard.

The report explained that there was an underspend on the Ellon Park and Ride project and it was proposed that £47,000 of this project's money be allocated to the cost of strategic maintenance works on the A98 at Smiddybone to Kindrough, Portsoy.

### **The Board resolved:**

- (i) to note the monitoring position and forecast as detailed within the report; and
- (ii) to agree to the budget virement as detailed above.

## **2012/13 BUDGETS**

11. With reference to article 11 of the minute of its meeting of 8 December, 2011, the Board had before it a joint report by the Director and the Acting Treasurer to the Board which asked the Board to agree capital and revenue budgets for 2012/13 subject to available funding being confirmed.

The Director explained that the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) were to hold a meeting with the Minister for Transport (Keith Brown) and he proposed that Nestrans meet the cost of the dinner at a cost of approximately £2,000 to £3,000.

**The report recommended:**

that the Board approve the 2012/13 revenue and capital budgets as shown in the appendices to the report, subject to anticipated funding levels being confirmed and making any appropriate adjustments following the Board's consideration.

**The Board resolved:**

- (i) to agree to meet the cost of the SCDI dinner with the Minister for Transport;
- (ii) to request that the Director liaise with Ian Armstrong of the SCDI with regard to subject matters to be discussed at the dinner which will be of benefit to Nestrans and its partners and following which to request that the Director email all members of the Board with a draft set of topics to be considered; and
- (iii) to approve the recommendation contained in the report.

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2012/13**

**12.** The Board had before it a report by the Acting Treasurer which sought approval for the revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2012/13.

**The Board resolved:**

to approve the revised Treasury Management Strategy as appended to the report.

**MATTER OF URGENCY**

The Chair intimated that he had directed in terms of Section 50(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that details of a meeting held on 13 February, 2012 regarding parking/traffic flow at Union Square, Aberdeen be considered as a matter of urgency so that the Board could consider the details at the earliest opportunity.

**INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**13.** With reference to article 13 of the minute of its previous meeting of 8 December, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director which provided information and updates for the Board on a number of matters not requiring a decision as follows –

- Railway Stations Win Awards
- Draft Civil Aviation Bill: An Effective Regulatory Framework for UK Aviation
- H2S – High Speed Railway
- Aviation Consultation Update
- Laurencekirk Junctions
- Strategic Transport Fund
- Scottish Transport Awards

- Green Corridors in the North Sea Region (GreCor)
- Rail Changes in December, 2011 Timetable
- Nestrans Press Releases
- Getabout Events
- Performance Indicators
- Union Square/Market Street – Parking/Traffic Flow - Update

**The Board resolved:**

to note the content of the bulletin.

**CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

**14.** With reference to article 14 of the minute of its previous meeting of 8 December, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director summarising recent and forthcoming conferences of interest to the Partnership along with presentations by Nestrans and its partners.

**The Board resolved:**

to note the information as presented.

**PENDING BUSINESS AND REPORTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**15.** With reference to article 15 of the minute of its previous meeting of 8 December, 2011, the Board had before it a report by the Director detailing pending business and information on reports to be submitted to future Board meetings.

**The Board resolved:**

to note the information.

**- IAN YUILL, Chairperson.**