

**Regional Transport Partnerships**

**Minute of Meeting of the RTP Chairs**

**Lerwick, Shetland, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Present** Cllr Ryan Thomson, ZetTrans (Chair)  
Cllr Peter Argyle, Nestrans  
Cllr Martin Bartos, SPT  
Cllr Brian Gordon, Tactran  
Cllr Gordon Edgar, SEStran  
Cllr Andrew Wood, Swestrans

**In Attendance** Mr Michael Craigie, ZetTrans  
Mr Douglas Kirkpatrick, Swestrans  
Mr Jim Grieve, SEStran  
Mr Bruce Kiloh, SPT  
Mr Tom Flanagan, Tactran  
Mr Derick Murray, Nestrans  
Ms Nicola Laird, Nestrans  
Mr Frank Roach, Hitrans

**Apologies** Cllr Stephen Heddle, COSLA  
Mr Robert Nicol, COSLA  
Mr Ranald Robertson, Hitrans  
Ms Joanne Gray, Transport Scotland  
Cllr Alan Henderson, Hitrans  
Mr Ewen Milligan, Transport Scotland

Item		Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	
	Ryan Thomson welcomed everyone for travelling to Shetland and gave apologies.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minute of the RTP Chairs Meeting on 6 June &amp; Matters Arising</b>	
	Minute agreed as accurate pending correction in spelling of 'Argyle'.  <b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b>  Minute approved.	
<b>3</b>	<b>National Transport Strategy</b>	
	a) <i>Update from NTS Review Board</i>  Cllr Edgar provided an update. Meeting has been postponed with no future date set as yet. No further update at this time.	

	<p>Cllr Wood asked whether we should feedback a note of concern given this has been twice there has been no update.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b> To submit a note of concern to the NTS Review Board on behalf of the RTPs.</p>	<p><b>GE</b></p>
	<p><i>b) Update from Roles and Responsibilities Group</i></p> <p>Derick Murray gave an update. R&amp;R have produced a report based on report by Jacobs, which gave an examination of transport governance in Scotland and elsewhere to look at best practice. Looked at models based on national, regional and local systems. R&amp;R have made a recommendation to the Minister that there is a case for change and have made a recommendation as to the nature of the change. Awaiting steer from minister as to how to move forward.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b> To note the report.</p>	
	<p><i>c) Update Regarding STPR2</i></p> <p>Derick Murray provided an update. Next stage of review has started and group are trying to appoint a consultant to take it forward. There has been criticism that previous review focused only on trunk roads and motorways. Have been pressed to consider smaller regionally important and strategically important roads as well. Feedback from Transport Scotland has been positive so far.</p> <p>Aberdeen are doing a strategic assessment as part of their city deal. TS are looking at this to inform their own strategic transport review. Planning to make this more inclusive and where regions will provide their own input. To be completed by 2020.</p> <p>Tom Flanagan added they met with TS sustainable team this week. Active travel will also form part of this review.</p> <p>Cllr Edgar asked whether local authorities can also input projects or if it is limited to city deals. Derick Murray noted that TS are currently looking at how to do consultation. Looking to consult local authorities by region. Not sure on the specifics as yet.</p> <p>Michael Craigie noted he had letter from Minister yesterday. Letter was specific in that the review will work with both RTPs and local authorities in contributing to this process.</p> <p>Jim Grieve added there has been a question as to what STPR includes (eg buses etc). He was unsure what the reply was but noted that we tend to look at STPR as infrastructure rather than as a sum of all the parts. Will be interesting to see what comes out from this.</p> <p>Derick Murray noted that last STPR didn't have the benefit of regional transport strategies. This time we have this and hopefully they will be taken into account.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Bartos noted that there is always a case of timing as the RTSs are currently being looked at again. Want to ensure that this review doesn't focus on old strategies and considerations.</p> <p>Douglas Kirkpatrick noted that their RTS is very out of date. TS are aware and working with them to ensure a fresh look.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To note the report.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Scottish Government Cabinet Reshuffle</b>	
	<p>Derick noted that the Government have reshuffled and have changed the Transport Minister. Shame that Humza Yousaf has moved on but now have Michael Matheson who is bringing the role of Cabinet Secretary to the subject of transport for the first time.</p> <p>Cllr Wood asked whether we have plans for the Minister to speak to group. Derick Murray confirmed that the new Minister has been approached and provided a positive response. Will forward dates for next year once confirmed.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To note the report. Secretariat to forward meeting dates to Michael Matheson to assess availability.</p>	<b>RGM</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Active Travel Funding Update</b>	
	<p>Derick Murray provided an update. RTPs providing proposals for active travel funding so that RTPs are given funding directly to improve active travel offerings, rather than through a bidding process by local authorities.</p> <p>Proposals submitted but due to summer break the proposals have not yet been assessed. Should start next week.</p> <p>Derick Murray provided an update on the proposed framework that is currently being worked on. RTPs have provided input to this.</p> <p>Cllr Bartos provided feedback to the proposed framework. KPI 6 focuses on greenhouse gas emissions but has a lot of potential for looking at other particulate emissions and how active travel can improve these emissions in addition to what is being discussed. Item 3: integrated walking and cycling infrastructure focuses on these modes alone but RTPs have a strong role to play in integrations across all modes of transport. Need to keep focusing on integration and interface with other modes in addition to encouraging people to use active travel modes.</p> <p>Frank Roach added an email that Randal Robertson sent on 4<sup>th</sup> September regarding speaking to the low carbon fund for potential funding. Derick Murray noted that the email suggested RTPs should make contact with TS to discuss funding coming via RTPs. Would need</p>	

	<p>to consider whether we want to do that given the process currently ongoing regarding the Active Travel fund.</p> <p>Cllr Bartos noted that providing initial engagement now will not preclude engaging more later. Agreed that it would be good to act.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To note the report and look at engaging with low carbon fund.</p>	<b>RGM</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Consultation Responses</b>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>a) Transport (Scotland) Bill</i></p> <p>Bruce Kiloh provided information on consultation. First transport bill in 13 years (since last one established the RTPs), which is testament to the strength of the previous bill. Noted that RTPs have provided overall support of bill although noted some concerns.</p> <p>Stressed the importance of the Transport Bill and that it needs to be robust. Is a step in the right direction although bus elements may need to be made stronger.</p> <p>Cllr Bartos noted that the response has commendable brevity. He noted that ticketing arrangements has a few different things mixed in there and gets the feeling some of the smart card considerations are now history. Has some concerns that we are relying a lot on the guidance given by TS as report does not provide the same explicit references. Wonders whether we should give comment in the response on guidance we have been given regarding it being advisory etc. Some assertions in response are not taken from a bald reading of the report but from the context of discussions.</p> <p>Cllr Bartos also noted RTP finance and is keen that this is labelled as 'reserve management/technical amendment' as this is a technical amendment welcome on reserves rather than providing additional resourcing (whereas all other parts of bill are dependent on additional resourcing). May undermine any case in the future for receiving better funding (given that it is headlined as funding).</p> <p>Bruce Kiloh noted that there will always be an element of trust between RTPs and others, and the government regarding how secondary legislation and regulations will go, however will do no harm to add explanations as to how we believe it will progress or what we have been told regarding this advice and trust. This will provide more context to the boundaries of the support given, depending on the outcome suggested through advice and discussions that took place outside the pages of the written bill.</p> <p>Will update response to reflect this.</p> <p>No further comment.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To update response with recommended amendments above.</p>	<b>BK</b>

*b) Workplace Parking Levies*

Jim Grieve provided a description of the consultation and the proposed response.

Nottingham only place in UK where this is active so much of study was based on this area.

Was considered in the past but dropped due to reaction from business community. However, it is possible for this to be considered in conjunction with an LEZ. Jim Grieve noted that RTPs should potentially have control over this due to the implications on neighbouring authorities as a result. Substantial implications of workplace levies. Good potential as another tools in the bill but will need careful management.

Derick Murray added that workplace parking levy is only one mechanism. Others may be more appropriate for certain areas such as road charging etc. To jump to one without looking at others is wrong. Should consider all options.

Cllr Gordon noted that we need to consider where money from charging goes. Money should be spent on a better transport system. Tom Flanagan followed up on comment as charging systems likely have a limited lifespan given the planned petrol and diesel bans and changes in travel patterns. Need a positive message regarding incentives linked to this rather than focusing on the charging mechanism.

Cllr Bartos noted that this needs to be considered carefully given that it will be a nudge method but will also be a finance raising method. Agrees that depending on method used it may have limited life expectancy. If writing to Cab Sec should stress importance of the regional aspect of this. Need to ensure it is not just seen as a money spinner by local authorities so it is important that we suggest that any funds raised are regionally delivered for transport. Important that regions consider which tools are used based on best fit for region. Important that we expand out the language in that there are different alternatives.

Jim Grieve noted income could be similar to decriminalised parking as to where it is ringfenced. Presumes that this would be done similarly but noted that this needs to be communicated well to the public.

Cllr Edgar noted a concern regarding implementation. In a regional basis some LAs may complain there is an inequality across the region. Would prefer it to be an LA implementation rather than a regional implementation.

Tom Flanagan noted key word is partnership as in Nottingham there was a consensus and could see where funding was going. Was very transparent. Same in infrastructure levies down south. Key is the partnership approach.

	<p>Cllr Wood asked who would be the purse holders? Agreed it should be the RTPs rather than the LAs alone. RTPs ideal to be operator of scheme. To reflect in response.</p> <p>Bruce Kiloh checked whether there was consideration of this being added to the current Transport Bill. Jim Grieve noted that there has been discussion but unsure as to how far this has gone. Bruce Kiloh noted it would be unlikely to be included specifically due to its controversial nature.</p> <p>Derick Murray noted that Transport Scotland are considering a Transport Bill 2 given that the potential outcome of NTS may require further legislation, but stressed that this was only a remote possibility at the moment.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To agree to response and to initiate discussions with Transport Scotland through a letter to the Cabinet Secretary. To focus on looking at ways to widen language so that it is not exclusively a workplace parking levy and discuss a partnership model regarding specific arrangements, as well as any concerns regarding the need for a regional transport element to any funds raised.</p> <p>It was agreed that any discussions with TS would not focus on specifically adding this to the Transport Bill but it should be discussed as a consideration either as a section in the Bill, or as in its own right.</p> <p>To be added to agenda for meeting with transport minister.</p>	<b>RGM</b>
	<p><i>c) Cross Country Rail Franchise</i></p> <p>Tom Flanagan provided a brief description of the consultation and response.</p> <p>Highlighted a couple of the key issues. Noted response was submitted last week.</p> <p>Cllr Wood asked whether there was a parallel discussion regarding freight. Tom Flanagan noted there are discussions regarding freight due to timetable changes in relation to revolution in rail. Opportunity to make changes in passenger transport is dictated by freight channels.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To note the report.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>RTP Lead Officers Meeting with Active Travel Charities</b>	
	<p>Derick Murray provided an update regarding a previous meeting with the active travel charities. Met with the three charities on 13 August. Was a positive discussion.</p> <p>Cllr Wood asked whether there have been discussions with the charities in past. Derick Murray noted we have had extensive relations with some</p>	

	<p>of them as some RTPs have embedded officers part employed by the charities. Lots of relatively close working. However, there was a perception that the potential of moving funding could destabilise their base and be detrimental to their work.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To note the report.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>RTP Chairs Work Programme</b>	
	<p>a) <i>Future Invitees to Chairs meetings</i></p> <p>Derick Murray provided an update on the list of people to invite to the meetings.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To note the report. Agreed order of importance as list top down.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Stakeholder &amp; Modal Updates</b>	
	<p>a) <i>East Coast Mainline Authorities</i></p> <p>Jim Grieve provided an update on ECMA and the need to restructure in order to provide more governance and a secretariat.</p> <p>Frank Roach commented that he cannot understand how group is going to change to reflect the nationalisation of the current franchise. Now that Network Rail are fully engaged he doesn't understand the mechanism for lobbying. Will the East Coast Partnership still be able to be lobbied at when it should be making clear that Network Rail did not pull their own weight for the last 5 years? Will be interesting to see how the group changes.</p> <p>Derick Murray noted that Theresa May did announce £7m for the East Coast Mainline. Fundamental question regarding purpose of line itself. To build a high-speed rail link between Glasgow, Edinburgh and London means that the purpose of the line is high speed. Therefore, do we need to spend money to get to London as fast as possible when the purpose should potentially be to connect intermediate cities as fast as possible? If so, does this fundamentally change the purpose? Until we establish the purpose, how we spend the money is not clear yet.</p> <p>Cllr Bartos noted that we have not been looking at strategic nature of rail and rail connectivity UK wide. Good that ECMA activity and work is ongoing but West Coast Mainline is not necessarily doing that much. May be a good idea to have a regular report on what is happening on the West Coast Mainline, particularly regarding HS2 as this will have wider ramifications.</p> <p>Douglas Kirkpatrick noted that Cllr Wood is vice chair of West Coast Rail 250. Said that it may be good to start having similar updates from this group. To be brought to the next Chairs meeting.</p>	

	<p>Bruce Kiloh agreed to work with SWestrans to bring reports to chairs.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To get a report to the next chairs meeting on WCR250.</p>	AW/DK/BK
	<p><i>b) Low Emissions Zones</i></p> <p>Bruce Kiloh provided an update on the LEZs. Work is progressing in Glasgow. Dialogue continues between council and operators on exact manifestation of TRC as it comes out. Financing is a continuing issue although First Bus promising big investment in their vehicles. RTP role has been to bring modes together and encourage people to take an integrated approach. Doesn't just require buses to be retrofitted but a full range of measures need to be put in place. Will be closely monitoring situation with council and operators as time goes on regarding these other measures.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To note the report.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Local Governance Review</b>	
	<p>Tom Flanagan highlighted to Chairs the opportunity to submit evidence to the Local Governance Review. Report focuses on how LAs can better engage with the process and how public sector agencies can work better together.</p> <p>Few themes to be emphasised. Deadline for submissions is 14 December 2018.</p> <p>Cllr Bartos noted that we are more democratically accountable than health boards and should be singing praises of collective work within areas. Have longevity as bodies.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>Agreed to draft a response. To be brought to next Chairs meeting for consideration.</p>	TF
<b>11</b>	<b>Social Media Presence</b>	
	<p>Derick Murray provided an update for this item. Change in focus given change of Minister. Current Minister no longer uses social media as much.</p> <p>Cllr Wood noted that we had just had item on putting forward community engagement. Should we not use social media as a means of community engagement to raise the profile of the RTPs?</p> <p>Cllr Bartos noted that this is fair but questioned whether this is an issue for individual RTPs and LAs rather than the RTPs collectively. He</p>	

	<p>believes that that we should park this for the moment as not sure RTPs as a collective have necessary resources to make this presence felt enough.</p> <p>Group queried as to whether a blog would be preferential.</p> <p>Cllr Argyle noted that cost benefit may not be worth it collectively.</p> <p>Another issue is set up costs for a blog as well as the fact it is rather personal so may not work collectively for the RTPs. Michael Craigie noted that RTPs may not be able to submit to the blog collectively whilst remaining coherent, however did note there could be a benefit in an RTP website that is more formal and includes minutes of meetings and agendas and news that is nationally significant etc.</p> <p>Jim Grieve noted that timing may be best for when RTPs know what the future holds.</p> <p>Cllr Bartos noted the comments and requested an action to identify what resources might be available and what such an endeavour would require. Agreed.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To set aside consideration of social media and consider possibility of setting up a website. To provide an assessment of what resource/cost this would require and take to next meeting.</p>	<b>RGM</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Scottish Islands Passport Update</b>	
	<p>Frank Roach provided an update on behalf of Ranald Robertson.</p> <p>Highlighted that, as of 4<sup>th</sup> September, this is now in the programme for Government. Will keep posted on development.</p> <p>Michael Craigie noted a recent teleconference. ZetTrans are keen to support and believe it has a lot of potential. There is potential for ZetTrans to contribute to a partnership approach and also to provide extra funding if required.</p> <p>Cllr Wood asked whether this could provide more incentive for those places that are difficult to get to. Frank Roach agreed that this could be considered. Not been discussed but could be considered.</p> <p>Cllr Bartos queried whether RTPs would be put out of the loop if Scottish Government takes it on. He hopes we don't lose the opportunity to learn regarding other tourism models if the Scottish Government take the lead.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To note the report.</p>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Future Dates of Chairs Meetings</b>	

	<p>Derick Murray noted the proposed dates for next two years so that invitations can be made for future meetings.</p> <p>It was noted following the meeting that the date for the March meeting is incorrect and should read Wednesday 6 March, not Wednesday 7 March.</p> <p><b><u>The Chairs Resolved: -</u></b></p> <p>To agree the dates subject to the above amendment.</p>	<b>RGM</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>a) Youth Engagement</i></p> <p>Frank Roach noted that Hitrans are interested in learning what other RTPs are doing to ensure they have a good process for engaging with young people.</p> <p>Jim Grieve noted that SEStran previously had a project called Xroute, which worked with young people to codesign a cycle path including innovative lighting around Livingston. Were also working with Young Scot this year for 'Y Travel'. This involves a number of locations throughout the region where young people will assist with the design and building of initiatives. However this is dependent on input from Young Scot.</p> <p>Douglas Kirkpatrick noted that SWestrans have been approached by Youth Parliamentarians to be observers to the board. Their board is keen for this to happen.</p> <p>Michael Craigie noted similar in ZetTrans with observers to their board. MSYP to sit. This is particularly relevant as the individual is also convener for the Transport Environment and Rural Affairs Committee.</p> <p>Tom Flanagan noted they have the smart travel initiative Navigogo in their area, which targeted young people. This has now closed but trying to extend. Also looking to get a young member to fill a board vacancy.</p> <p>Derick Murray noted that Nestrans tried to consult with members of Youth Parliament through the consultative forum. Not easy to achieve but have had good responses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>b) Transport Bill Evidence Gathering</i></p> <p>Derick Murray noted regarding the Transport Bill there is a parliamentary committee evidence gathering session. Jim Grieve has agreed to represent RTPs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>c) Transport Related Buildings Audit</i></p> <p>Cllr Wood asked whether it is possible to get an audit on all transport buildings given the recent issues in Ayr? Cllr Edgar noted that this may be something TS should be doing. Suggested RTPs could write to them to note the importance of doing so.</p>	

