

Regional Transport Partnerships

Chairs Meeting

**Minute of Meeting held in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William on
Wednesday 7 March 2018 at 0900hrs.**

PRESENT

Cllr Allan Henderson, Hitrans (Chair)
Cllr Martin Bartos, SPT
Cllr Brian Gordon, Tactran
Cllr Peter Argyle, Nestrans
Cllr Gordon Edgar, Sestran
Cllr Andrew Wood, Swestrans
Cllr Robbie McGregor, ZetTrans

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Ranald Robertson, Hitrans
Mr Bruce Kiloh, SPT
Mr Eric Stewart, SPT
Mr Jim Grieve, Sestran
Mr Niall Gardiner, Tactran
Mr Douglas Kirkpatrick, Swestrans
Mr Michael Craigie, ZetTrans
Mr Derick Murray, Nestrans

APOLOGIES

Cllr Stephen Heddle, COSLA
Mr Robert Nicol, COSLA
Ms Joanne Gray, Transport Scotland
Mr Eric Guthrie, Tactran.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Henderson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and to Fort William, and noted the apologies above.

2. Presentation by Host RTP - Hitrans

RR gave a presentation on the development of the Lochaber Smelter.

3. Minute of RTP Chairs Meeting on 6 December 2017 (attached) and Matters Arising

The Chairs approved the minute. Matters arising covered by the agenda.

4. National Transport Strategy

- a. Update from NTS Review Board

Cllr Edgar noted that the NTS Review Board due to take place on 28 February was cancelled due to bad weather.

Once the rearranged meeting has taken place, Cllr Edgar will prepare a briefing note and circulate to the Chairs.

- b. Update from TS

BK, DM, JG and RR gave update on the various NTS Working Groups which the RTPs are involved in.

5. Consultation Responses

- a. Scottish Parliament Local Govt and Communities Committee Cal for Evidence on Planning Bill

Response submitted within deadline.

- b. Scottish Government "A Connected Scotland: Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness and Building Stronger Communities"

Chairs agreed that a joint RTP response be developed by Lead Officers and submitted.

- c. Bus, Free Bus, LEZ, Smart Ticketing, Roadworks Consultations – Update

BK and ECS gave an update on progress since the range of Scottish Government consultations in late 2017. Noted that the DfT were currently undertaking a consultation on Section 19 and 22 permits for operating public service vehicles, closing on 4 May. MC noted that ZetTrans had been provided with funding by Scot Govt to undertake a pilot project for free travel for Modern Apprentices.

6. RTP Chairs Work Programme

- a. Meeting with Transport Minister and Planning Minister

Meeting in process of being arranged. (*Post-meeting note 15 March – choice of dates now set as 3 or 10 May*).

- b. Meeting with COSLA Environment and Economy Spokesperson

Chairs agreed that a separate meeting be arranged with Cllr Stephen Heddle, COSLA Environment and Economy spokesperson. BK noted he is in dialogue with Robert Nicol of COSLA to arrange this.

c. Future Invitees Update

Chairs agreed that the Minister for Transport and the Islands be invited to the next RTP Chairs meeting in June which will be hosted by Swestrans. It was further agreed that Roy Brannen of Transport Scotland be invited to the Chairs meeting in September to be hosted by ZetTrans, and that Alex Hynds of the Scotrail Alliance be invited to the Chairs meeting in December to be hosted by Nestrans. Future invitees beyond then to include:

- **Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland**
- **Traffic Commissioner for Scotland**
- **Urban Transport Group**
- **Scottish Ambulance Service**
- **An air transport representative**
- **Young Scot.**

7. Modal Updates

a. Active Travel

RR update noted.

b. Bus

ECS and BK update noted.

At this stage, in light of Mr Eric Stewart's forthcoming retirement as Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) of SPT, the Chair paid tribute to Eric and thanked him for his significant contribution to the work of the RTPs of Scotland over many years, and wished him well in his future endeavours.

c. Ferries

MC and RR update noted.

Cllr Henderson vacated the Chair at this stage and left the meeting due to urgent prior engagement. Cllr Wood took over Chair.

d. Rail

DM update noted.

Chairs requested that a paper on East Coast Mainline Association / HS2 East be prepared for next Chairs meeting.

e. Air

DM update noted.

8. RTP Secretariat

The Chairs agreed that Nestrans take over role of RTP Secretariat for two years from April 2018.

9. Next meeting – 6 June 2018 hosted by Swestrans.

10. AOB – Code of Conduct for Councillors

- Update from NL: Discussed the difficulty for Members of an RTP where they cannot discuss planning issues as they are then barred from doing so at other committees. Agreed that Kevin Stewart would put something before parliament this Spring to resolve this issue.

Postscript 06/06: Tactran are due to bring matter to their board on 26/06.

Meeting with CPT:

After lunch, the Chairs had a positive meeting with George Mair, Director CPT Scotland, discussing issues of mutual interest regarding bus services in Scotland. The Chairs thanked Mr Mair for the meeting and agreed to meet again in future, continuing the positive relationship between the RTPs and the CPT.