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**Glasgow City Region Bus Partnership (GBP)**

**Steering Group Meeting**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – 2pm to 4pm**

**[In-person]**

**Attendees:**

<b>Independent Chair:</b>	Joan Aitken	(JA)
<b>Glasgow City Council:</b>	Christine Francis	(CF)
	Chris Paterson	(CP)
	Deborah Paton	(DP)
	Harjinder Gharyal	(HG)
	Lindsay Richardson	(LR)
	Stephen Macleod	(SML)
	Steve Gray	(SG)
<b>East Dunbartonshire Council:</b>	Thomas McMenamin	(TM)
<b>Renfrewshire Council:</b>	Alastair Scott	(AS)
<b>West Dunbartonshire Council:</b>	Gail MacFarlane	(GMF)
<b>SPT:</b>	Bruce Kiloh	(BK)
<b>First Bus:</b>	Graeme Macfarlan	(GM)
<b>McGill's Buses:</b>	Alex Hornby	(AH)
	Ralph Roberts	(RR)
<b>Stagecoach:</b>	Fraser Smith	(FS)
<b>Sustrans:</b>	Matthew Davis	(MD)
<b>West Coast Motors:</b>	Murray Rogers	(MR)
<b>Transport Scotland:</b>	Amy Phillips	(AP)
	Craig Cameron	(CC)

**Apologies:**

Donald Booth, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport  
Duncan Cameron, First Bus  
Fiona Doherty, Stagecoach  
Gerard Hannah, Renfrewshire Council  
Gordon Dickson, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport  
Greig Mackay, Bus Users  
John Shelton, East Renfrewshire Council  
John Wallace, Renfrewshire Council  
Linda Shields, First Bus  
Stuart Laird, South Lanarkshire Council

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Item	Discussion/Decision	Actions
1.	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JA welcomed attendees to the first GBP Steering Group meeting of 2024</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the previous Meeting dated Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and are to be uploaded onto the Glasgow City Council (GCC) webpage</li> <li>RR and JA to convene the bus operation finances seminar with City Region Elected Members scheduled for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. Individual LA's to invite their elected members.</li> <li>Transport Scotland advised that they have recently published a <a href="#">high-level overview of bus powers available to local transport authorities</a></li> <li>Working group between GCC and bus operators to look at impact of roadworks and major events on the bus network has been set-up - item 8 below also refers. JA highlighted National Transport Award for Stagecoach in the north-east of England for their involvement in organising public transport for the Great North Run. JA requested that FS contact his Stagecoach colleague Steve Walker for a briefing. GlasGo Bus Alliance (GBA) to hold discussions with DF Concerts on getting more people to large events via public transport. CP noted that he has provided DF Concerts details to the Glasgow Bus Alliance</li> </ul>	<p><b>SML</b></p> <p><b>RR</b></p> <p><b>FS</b></p> <p><b>GBA</b></p>
3.	<p><b>Scottish Government/Transport Scotland Budget December 2023 budget decisions in relation to the Bus Partnership Fund and other Transport Scotland updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus Partnership Fund has been paused. Through ongoing discussions JA advised that there is a consensus that the GBP should continue. JA notes the GBP has delivered benefits in terms of improved collaboration and coordinated efforts on key measures which will improve bus services and that the TORs for the GBP remain relevant.</li> <li>Transport Scotland (TS) have issued a letter to the GBP detailing what this update means for the next financial year and other planned works such as the Fair Fares Review. JA emphasised the necessity of tackling congestion to improve bus services and passenger experience.</li> <li>CC informed attendees that the Bus Services Improvement Partnerships (Objections) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 passed the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on 16 January with the regulations scheduled to come into force on 1 April 2024</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Taking the Steering Group forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress on workstreams to be reviewed at the GBP Steering Group meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024</li> <li>JA emphasised the need for active travel projects to complement proposed bus infrastructure enhancements; MD concurred with this coordinated approach and referred to the Streetspace Allocation Framework as guidance to future roadspace reallocation</li> </ul>	<p><b>All</b></p>

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<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) Work as at January 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCC awaiting feedback on previously submitted Outline Business Cases; TS aim to respond to these in the near future, but note the pausing of the BPF fund.</li> <li>• Change request accepted to install virtual loops along a section of Paisley Road West – works expected to be undertaken in February 2024 and be in operation by March 2024. Junction improvements along Paisley Road West also accepted through a change request with works underway.</li> <li>• Renfrewshire Council has paused junction improvement works in Paisley Town Centre due to pause of BPF. Bus priority traffic signal works at Glasgow Road junctions are ongoing and on schedule to be completed by the end of this financial year.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AP</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>BPF Strategic Bus Network Plan and Workstream C</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Bus Network Plan (SBNP) – Findings of the SBNP to be presented to remaining bus operators who are part of the Steering Group on 20<sup>th</sup> February.</li> <li>• CP to issue the SBNP documentation to LAs.</li> <li>• The work undertaken to date sets a useful baseline for discussions moving forward between all partners in developing the bus network.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CP</b></p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>SPT Update including Regional Bus Strategy and Community Fund work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BK thanked everyone for their support with SPT's Regional Bus Strategy (RBS) work – feedback during engagement stage has been useful</li> <li>• Options appraisal stage – engagement sessions with Elected Members underway</li> <li>• BK noted that SPT are submitting a report to their Partnership Board in March 2024 with a view to holding a consultation exercise with the general public in April/May 2024</li> <li>• Note that SPT's ScotZEB funding application was unsuccessful</li> <li>• BK noted that progress is being made on the Zonecard – did not advise on a completion/launch date</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>GCC Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signing and lining for Pollokshaws Road corridor – procurement underway. 6-8 weeks to complete works.</li> <li>• Bus Co-ordination Group – CF reported the first quarterly meeting held in January between GCC officers and bus operators which was well attended. Healthy discussion on what is and what isn't working on the bus network. Concern raised by operators over short notice of roadworks and short time to re-route. GCC action to consider ways of limiting the impact on the bus network. Operators to receive link to the Scottish Road Works Register to monitor utilities companies and planned roadworks. Operators will be able to give GCC colleagues a briefing on the bus service registration processes.</li> <li>• Public facing bus enforcement campaign – GCC now developing artwork to be circulated to bus operators prior to publication. The campaign is to be held throughout March 2024.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CF</b></p>

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<b>9.</b>	<b>Updates from other Councils</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West Dunbartonshire Council – discussing implications of SPT funding and plans for the next financial year</li><li>• East Dunbartonshire Council – signalisation project at Canniesburn Toll ongoing. Road closures due to cease at the end of February with the project continuing under temporary traffic lights until completion in spring 2024.</li><li>• A803 Corridor Improvements Project part of City Deal – the project team are currently assessing three shortlisted improvement options. The working group is planning on a public consultation in March 2024.</li><li>• Renfrewshire Council provided an update on their projects under Item 5</li></ul>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>GlasGo Bus Alliance (GBA) Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Next GBA session is on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The GBA is preparing a report on the Tripper app and will note the successes of this in due course</li><li>• GBA is currently looking to refresh its constitution</li></ul>	<b>GBA GBA</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>The Clyde Metro</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Given the time needed for Item 3, this item on the Clyde Metro will be deferred to the next GBP Steering Group meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024</li></ul>	<b>BK/HG</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Proposed dates for 2024 GBP Steering Group meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (in-person) 2pm – 4pm</li><li>• Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024</li><li>• Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024</li><li>• Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024</li><li>• Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024</li></ul>	