

EAST LoTHIAN BUS FORUM

30 April 2013

Adam Room
John Muir House
Haddington

Note of Meeting

In Attendance:

Cllr Michael Veitch	ELC (Chair)	Bill Campbell	Lothian Buses
Iain Gray MSP	Scottish Parliament	Neil McNaught	First Scotland East
Cllr Shamin Akhtar	ELC	Roddy Perryman	Perryman's Buses
Cllr Dave Berry	ELC	Ross Prentice	Prentice Coaches
Cllr Jim Gillies	ELC	Gary Scougall	Eve Coaches
Cllr Donald Grant	ELC	Trond Haugen	SESTRAN
Cllr Fraser McAllister	ELC	Alex McAuley	SESTRAN
Ralph Averbuch	Pencaitland CC	Peter Forsyth	ELC
Jacque Bell	Dunbar CC & RELBUS	Paul Ince	ELC
Allison Cosgrove	Dunpender CC	David Kerr	ELC
Gavin Booth	Bus Users Scotland Haddington		
Martin Hayman	Community Development Trust		
Philip Immirzi	RELBUS		
Barry Turner	RELBUS		
Ross Wyllie	VOSA		

Apologies: Cllr W Innes (ELC), Cllr N Hampshire (ELC), Robert Sinclair (Pencaitland CC), J Dunlop (VOSA), M Haddow (Sustaining Dunbar), I Craig (Lothian Buses), I Dagleish (ELC)

After welcoming everyone, Cllr Veitch brought to the Forum's attention a recently received letter from Transport Scotland announcing the launch of a Bus Investment Fund (letter attached for information).

Mr Martin Hayman outlined the Haddington Community Development Trust's proposal to create a fast bus link between Haddington and Longniddry Station using the line of the old railway. Mr Hayman will prepare the summary information required by 31 May 2013 for any expression of interest relating to the fund. **ACTION Mr Martin Hayman**

Previous Forum matters Arising/Action Points

Connectivity/Supported Services:

Cllr Veitch briefly outlined the discussions that had taken place to date regarding changes to supported bus services to improve connectivity, particularly with rail, and to respond to local need. Work continues on this process and more detailed information would be available for the next Forum. **ACTION Cllr Michael Veitch & Mr David Kerr**

Real Time Information Application:

Mr Ross Prentice (Prentice Coaches) outlined the Android OS based Real Time App available for smartphones for use with his services. Mr Alex McAuley asked if this "app" could be integrated with the SESTRAN RTI system. Mr Gary Scougall (Eve Coaches) brought to the Forum's attention that tracking is possible through the electronic ticketing equipment and this may offer an alternative method for integration. SESTRAN will investigate with the two operators. **ACTION Mr Ian Mathie**

Service Changes/Updates:

Mr Campbell indicated the Lothian Buses network is currently in a period of stability. Mr Mcnaught notified the Forum of the intention to extend service 108 to Fort Kinnaird.

Local Transport Strategy:

Mr Ince is awaiting internal feedback before progressing the LTS – anticipated timeframe is one month. Cllr Berry and Mr Turner both stressed the need for the Strategy to be up to date and practical. Mr McAulay advised that the Regional Transport Strategy is currently being updated. **ACTION Mr Paul Ince**

Timetable Information:

Mr Kerr presented an example of wayside information.

Common Charter:

Brief draft has been prepared, feedback is required. Mr Turner suggested the creation of a small working group to progress this item. Mr Campbell indicated Lothian Buses interest in being involved. **ACTION Mr Philip Immirzu**

Promotion of Traveline:

Mr McAulay advised of joint funding by SESTRAN and Traveline to develop a new timetable information application for visually impaired people.

Bus Stops:

Mr Forsyth explained current procedures. Mr Prentice advised of the need for bus stops in Drem. Cllr Berry raised the need for better information at Drem Station.

ACTION Mr Peter Forsyth

Private Members Bill on Bus Regulation:

(Iain Gray MSP)

Mr Iain Gray MSP outlined the background, aims and required processes relating to his Private Members Bill on Bus Deregulation.

Transport Policy

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CÒMHDHAL
ALBA



Your ref:

Our ref:
BIF/2013

Date:
22 April 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Bus Investment Fund Announcement

The Scottish Government wishes to announce the launch of the Bus Investment Fund (BIF), which is expected to provide funding initially of up to £3m/year to enable the development of projects which have the potential to deliver improvements in bus services and infrastructure through partnership working between local transport authorities, bus operators and others.

Public transport has an important part to play in supporting economic development and bus services in particular provide an important sustainable and flexible means of moving large numbers of people for a wide range of personal needs at a reasonable cost.

We are keen to consider a wide range of interventions, so the conditions for eligibility are broad. Decisions on funding will be determined by assessment against key criteria, summarised below.

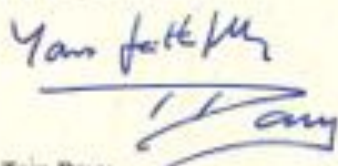
To enable early assessment of projects we are asking at this stage for expressions of interest giving high level summary information on proposed projects by the end of May 2013. We will provide comments during June on these initial proposals and indicate what further analysis will be required in order to make decisions.

Expression of interest templates, key criteria and a process timetable can be found on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/public-transport/Buses/Bus-Investment-Fund>

Projects will be expected to contribute towards one or more of the following key criteria: modal shift, patronage growth, innovation, partnership working (including statutory Quality Partnerships), attracting matching funding, and helping to tackle deprivation.

I hope you will consider taking this opportunity to submit an expression of interest to take forward the development of bus services in your area.

Thank you for your time.

Yours faithfully


Tom Davy
Head of Bus & Local Transport Policy
Transport Scotland