

# Forth Estuary Transport Authority

AGENDA ITEM

4.1

South Queensferry, 20th February, 2009

**Present:**

**The City of Edinburgh Council** – Councillor Wheeler

**Fife Council** – Councillors Chisholm, Martin, Rumney and Walker.

**West Lothian Council** – Councillor Day

## 1. **Membership**

### Decision

It was noted that Councillor Walker, Fife Council had been appointed to the Authority to replace Councillor Chapman. Councillor Chapman was thanked for his contribution to the work of the Authority.

## 2. **Minutes**

### Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Forth Estuary Transport Authority of 14th November, 2008 as correct minutes.

## 3. **Auditor's Report on the 2007/08 Final Accounts**

The Treasurer presented members with the auditor's report on the 2007/08 final accounts following completion of the consultation process. Members were asked to note two risks identified in the Action Plan shown in Appendix A to the auditor's report, namely, Impairment Review and Internal Audit Reports.

### Decision

It was agreed that the Authority note the auditor's report for 2007/08.

## 4. **Main Expansion Joints Update**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster providing members with an update on the replacement of the main expansion joints. The report gave a brief summary update on the tender submitted by Balfour Beatty and, following the commitment of the Scottish Government to a definite programme for the construction of the Forth Replacement Crossing by/

by 2016, reported on the review of the Authority's main expansion joint project to determine whether it could be deferred after 2016. The findings of the review were detailed together with a number of residual risks which had been identified in relation to the temporary failsafe devices.

### **Decision**

Members agreed:-

- that the replacement of the main expansion joints be delayed until the opening of the Forth Replacement Crossing in 2016;
- that the additional inspection and monitoring regime to the joints, including the removal of all the plate trains, be on a rolling programme up until 2016;
- that temporary failsafe devices be installed to ensure that the current operational safety levels were maintained;
- that key components such as pins and springs be replaced or modified;
- that the improved permanent access system included in the joint replacement contract be installed as soon as practicable to facilitate both inspection and monitoring of the joints. The access system would also be used to assist in the future replacement of the joints;
- that the decision to defer the joint replacement annually or following any significant component failure or adverse inspection finding be reviewed; and
- that the decision to defer the joints replacement be reviewed in the event of a significant delay to the Forth Replacement Crossing project.

## **5. Forth Replacement Crossing**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Engineer and Bridgmaster providing members with information following the Scottish Government's announcement on the timetable for construction of the Forth Replacement Crossing and the future operational use of Forth Road Bridge as a public transport corridor.

The report outlined the Government's proposal and advised that the operation and maintenance requirements for the new bridge were still under consideration and the Authority had indicated that it had the expertise to maintain and operate both bridges.

Following the announcement, the maintenance and capital works programmes of the Authority would continue to be reviewed.

### **Decision/**

**Decision**

To note the current position outlined in the report.

**6. Management Arrangements with the Scottish Government**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster advising members on the proposal being considered by the Scottish Government (Transport Directorate) to transfer responsibilities and budget in relation to existing Forth Road Bridge policy duties to Transport Scotland and the meetings and discussions which had taken place. Assurances had been given regarding budget and the roles of the Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster and the Authority itself.

**Decision**

That given the Minister's assurance and those given by civil servants, the Authority accept the proposal being put forward by the Scottish Government (Transport Directorate) to transfer responsibilities and budget in relation to the Forth Road Bridge to Transport Scotland.

**7. Budget Monitoring 2008/09**

There was submitted report by the Treasurer advising the Authority of the revenue and capital budget projected expenditure position to 31st March, 2009. Various issues were reported including the revenue and capital budget forecasts for 2008/09; toll abolition costs; funding; key risks and reserves.

**Decision**

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Authority note the contents of the report; and
- (ii) that the Treasurer report on treasury management to a future meeting of the Authority.

**8. Revenue and Capital Budget 2009-2012 and Indicative Capital Plan to 2023/24**

There was submitted report by the Treasurer with proposals for the revenue and capital budget for 2009/10 and indicative budgets for 2010/11 and 2011/12 together with an indicative capital plan to the year 2023/24.

The report outlined the Scottish Government's Grant in Aid Funding 2008-11 and highlighted key risks.

**Decision/**

### **Decision**

The Authority agreed to:-

- (i) note the report and approve the 2009/10 revenue budget and indicative revenue budgets for 2010/11 and 2011/12 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) note and approve the capital budget for 2009-2012 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (iii) provisionally approve the long-term capital plan to 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (iv) note the financial movements in the capital plan to that previously approved by the Authority as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report;
- (v) note the risks identified in the report; and
- (vi) approve the arrangements for reserves as set out in the report.

### **9. Capital Plan to 2023/2024**

There was submitted report by the Chief Engineer and Bridgmaster providing members with a brief update of bridge schemes included in the long-term capital plan to 20023/2024.

#### **Decision**

It was agreed that members note the summary of schemes included within the indicative capital plan.

### **10 Traffic Figures**

There was submitted report by the Chief Engineer and Bridgmaster providing members with an update on traffic figures from the Forth Road Bridge since the abolition of tolls.

#### **Decision**

It was agreed that members note the contents of the report.

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11. **Corporate Risk Management**

There was submitted report by the Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster updating members on progress in developing and enhancing the Authority's corporate risk management arrangements, as required by the FETA Risk Management Policy Statement.

The report detailed ongoing work and the impact on insurance costs.

**Decision**

It was agreed that members note the ongoing work which was being undertaken to improve overall risk management systems.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

**Decision**

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 24th April, 2009.

13. **Scottish Transport Awards**

**Decision**

The Authority noted with pleasure that the Main Cable Dehumidification Project had received the Excellence in Technology and Innovation Award at the Scottish Transport Awards 2008.

