



## **Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

**At 10.30am at NTA Offices**

### **Present:**

Mr. John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Mr. Gerry Murphy (CEO), Mr. John Tierney, Mr. Frank King, Mr. James Deegan, Ms. Valerie O'Reilly, Dr. Berna Grist, Ms. Linda Saunders, Ms. Sinéad Kenny (Assistant to Secretary to Committee)

### **Apologies:**

Mr. Damian Usher, Ms. Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Ms. Anne Graham.

#### **1. Minutes**

The minutes were agreed.

### ***Matters arising***

There was a discussion in relation to the minute item on Swords Express. Inputs in relation to the draft guidelines for the licensing of Public Bus Passenger Services had been requested from Swords Express in January. The impending public consultation was covered in the meeting held between the NTA and Swords Express and a copy of the draft guidelines will be sent to them.

#### **2. CEO Report & Finance Update**

##### ***Dublin Bus and Bus Eireann Investment in New Fleet***

Up to now this has been by way of a capital grant. There is a new procedure being introduced whereby the fleet will be procured by Dublin Bus but ownership rights held by the NTA. This will facilitate, at the end of the 5 year bus services contract, NTA decisions in relation to the fleet. The legal issues with respect to this are currently being examined.

##### ***NDP Funding***

The Department expects the revised capital investment programme to go to Cabinet in the next few weeks.

##### ***Quality Bus Network Office***

The relationship between the NTA and the QBN Office is currently being examined to see if that office could be utilised to deliver a wide range of functions than at present including operating as a

'technical resource' to the NTA. The new arrangement would see NTA funding moving from 80% to 100%.

### ***Corporate Matters***

The OPW have offered the NTA a good property located on Harcourt Road which has been checked and suits the needs of the NTA.

Aidan Horan of the IPA will be invited to attend the September Board meeting, if he is available, to discuss Corporate Governance.

The staff numbers for both temporary and permanent staff have been informally confirmed by the Department of Finance. Any recruitment, including replacing the Department of Transport assignees, must be from within the Public Service pool. This could lead to difficulties for recruiting specialist / technical staff.

### ***Finance***

At present the NTA is under spent on its current budget.

The Audit Committee met this morning. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee is satisfied with the internal financial procedures put in place. The Comptroller & Auditor General will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Audit Committee for programming. The next meeting is due to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> October and the final meeting of the year is planned for 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### ***Rosslare / Waterford***

The Chief Executive of Iarnrod Eireann will be contacted to advise customers that the line will not be closing on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

### ***Marlborough Street Bridge***

It was confirmed that the new LUAS line bridge will also accommodate buses, pedestrians and cyclists.

## **3. Bus Licensing Draft Guidelines**

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on the Draft Guidelines for the Licensing of Public Bus Passenger Services which will be open for public consultation from Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July. The consultation process will carry into September due to the schedule of the Oireachtas Transport Committee.

A discussion took place in relation to the draft guidelines. These will come before the Board in October 15<sup>th</sup>, along with the public submissions, for determination.

## **4. Transport Brand**

Ms. Sara Morris made a presentation on the new brand for public transport services. After a comprehensive process the name 'Transport for Ireland' has been chosen along with a new logo. Mr. Sean Connolly, the brand designer, was also present for the presentation.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Morris and Mr. Connolly for the presentation and they left the meeting.

## **5. Financial Performance of PSO Operators**

Mr. Michael Warnock-Smith gave a presentation in relation to the current financial situations of the public service operators Bus Átha Cliath, Bus Eireann and Iarnrod Eireann.

There was a discussion on the figures presented by Mr. Warnock-Smith. It was agreed that an update would be made to the Board on a quarterly basis, following receipt of the companies' performance reports.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Warnock-Smith for the presentation and Mr. Warnock-Smith left the meeting.

## **6. Update on Transport Strategy**

The update on the current position of the Transport Strategy will be moved to the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The modelling work is not advanced enough at present to update the Board.

## **7. Procurement**

A tender has issued for the provision of advisory support for the NTA on public transport capital projects. Booz & Co. currently provide this for the Department of Transport, but the contract terminates at the end of the month. The expected value of the contract over a 4 year period may be in excess of the threshold that the CEO can approve for services (€1m) and so will be brought to the Board. It may be circulated by written procedure, otherwise it will be taken at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Swords Express are proposing litigation in relation to details which appeared in relation to the 142 bus route on the Dublin Bus Website on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

**Next Meeting Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September @ 10.30am at the NTA's offices**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**John Fitzgerald, Chairperson**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_