

Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 23 January 2015

At 10.30am in the NTA Offices

Present: Mr John Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Ms Anne Graham (Chief Executive), Mr Hugh Creegan (Deputy Chief Executive), Mr Owen Keegan (CEO, Dublin City Council), Dr Berna Grist, Ms Linda Saunders, Ms Valerie O'Reilly.

Apologies: None.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange, Mr David Clements (Item 6), Mr John Keating (Item 7), Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2014 were agreed subject to two amendments as follows.

1. Under Item 1 (Minutes of Previous meeting): Insertion of a new paragraph as follows: "The members of the Board welcomed Ms Graham to her first Board meeting in her new capacity as the Authority's Chief Executive Officer;
2. Under item 7 (AOB): In the third sentence of paragraph 1, the addition of "and the Authority's Finance Unit" after "Audit Committee".

2. CEO Report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on developments since the last meeting and responded to issues raised by members. The matters discussed included

- Recent and planned public consultations including the planned public consultation on a draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.
- Decisions by commercial bus operators to introduce more direct routes on public bus services operated by them.
- Rail issues including the engagement with trade unions
- Latest developments on the restructuring of rural transport.
- 4% growth in public transport patronage in 2014.
- Taxi fare increases.
- Implementation of multi-operator *Leap 90* discounts from next month.
- Luas Cross City developments.
- Proposed legislation and organisational matters.
- The funding of bus shelters.
- Protocols governing the information relayed on real time passenger information displays.
- The promotion of home-working solutions within the Smarter Travel Programme.

3. Budget 2015

Mr L'Estrange made a detailed presentation on the Authority's draft Budget for 2015 and responded to matters raised by Board members. Following discussion the Board approved the draft Budget as presented.

4. Statement of Strategy

The Chief Executive outlined the main elements of the proposed Statement of Strategy 2015-2017. She indicated that the draft Strategy had been developed with staff participation. It had been decided that the priorities set out in the Statement of Strategy 2012-2014 are still relevant for the next three year period.

Following discussion the Board approved the draft Statement of Strategy 2015-2017 subject to a small number of specified changes as well as any minor editing that may be required during the preparation of the document for publication.

5. Bus tendering and LRC

The Chief Executive outlined the latest developments regarding the tendering of some subsidised bus services currently being operated by Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann.

She indicated that a further meeting involving the Authority, Bus Éireann, Dublin Bus and trade unions had taken place at the Labour Relations Commission (LRC) during January. Further meetings are planned.

She also noted that the Authority had yesterday published a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire, which marked the first stage of the bus tendering process. This stage will be completed by next June.

6. Dublin City Retail Survey

Mr Clements explained that the Authority had commissioned Millword Brown to investigate the spend, motivation and travel habits of visitors to Dublin's city centre in order to assess the importance of public transport in bringing shoppers to the city centre retail area. The survey was carried out over a 2-week period in October 2014.

The results of the survey show that in terms of economic value, public transport delivers almost 3 times as much retail spend to the city centre as the private car. The number of people who accessed the city centre shopping streets on foot, and the significance of their economic value at 21% of all retail spend, was also a key finding. The Board noted that the results will be published at an appropriate time.

7. Mayo Transport Services Public Consultation

Mr Keating made a presentation on the Authority's first review of public transport services at a county level. The Mayo review followed a regional review of public transport services in respect of the BMW region. It was carried out during the first half of 2014. Following the review, proposals for improvements were prepared in consultation with Bus Éireann and Irish Rail. These proposals provided the basis for subsequent consultations with a range of stakeholders. The review process has highlighted a range of issues that need to be addressed. They include infrastructure, the organisation and integration of bus and rail services as well as marketing of services and the provision of accurate and accessible information for customers and tourists. The Authority in conjunction with the operators is now preparing an implementation plan for consideration.

The Board welcomed the excellent and comprehensive work that had been undertaken by the Authority with the involvement of operators and stakeholders and it looked forward to the speedy completion and implementation of an effective plan to address the deficiencies identified.

The Chief Executive noted that Mr Keating's secondment to the Authority is due to end shortly and she thanked him for his important contribution to the Authority. The Board wished Mr Keating well on his return to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

8. Any other business

The Board agreed to change the date of its May meeting. The meeting will now be held on Friday 29 May at the usual time.

The Chairperson reminded Board members that the deadline for return of Statement of Interests forms to the Standards in Public Office Commission is 31 January next.

Ms Saunders provided an update on the Audit Committee meeting which preceded the Board meeting including the Committee's audit plan for the year.

Next Meeting: Friday 27 February 2015 @ 10.30am in the NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
John Fitzgerald, Chairperson

Dated: _____