



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 17 November 2017

At 10am in Treacys Hotel Waterford

Present: Ms Anne Graham (CEO), Mr Hugh Creegan (Deputy CEO), Ms Fiona Ross, Mr Pat Mangan, Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Ms Sineád Walsh, Mr Owen Keegan (CEO, Dublin City Council), Mr Frank O'Connor.

Apologies: Ms Linda Saunders, Dr Berna Grist, Mr Frank Gleeson.

Staff in attendance: Mr Tim Gaston, Director, Public Transport Services; Mr Philip L'Estrange, Director, Finance & Corporate Services / Board Secretary; Ms Margaret Malone, Rural Transport Manager (Agenda Item 6); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

Other attendees: Mr Michael Walsh, CEO, Mr Lar Power, Director of Services & Mr Paul Daly, Director of Services - Waterford City and County Council (Agenda Item 5); Ms Mary Butler, T.D., Deputy Chairperson & Mr James O'Donoghue, Manager, Deise Link Limited (Agenda Item 6).

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As the position of NTA Chairperson is vacant, the Board, having regard to section 16(3)(b) of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008, decided that the meeting should be chaired by Ms Fiona Ross.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 20 October 2017 and the special Board meeting held on 7 November 2017 were agreed.

2. CEO Report

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

- Proposed Civic Plaza at College Green;
- Opening of Luas Cross City;
- Changes to entry test for drivers of small public service vehicles;
- Update on wheelchair accessible grant scheme for taxis and hackneys; and
- Service issues affecting Bus Éireann's eastern region and Labour Court decision on pay claim by unions representing workers at Iarnród Éireann.

3. Finance & Corporate Governance Report

- a. Mr L'Estrange outlined the main features of the NTA Management Accounts to the end of October and also provided an update on changes to the NTA's risk status arising from discussions at the Audit and Risk Committee.

- b. Mr L'Estrange outlined the Board's current office accommodation arrangements and likely future requirements in that regard based on the outcome of a review of strategic resourcing needs at the NTA having regard to the organisation's future work programme. He outlined various options for addressing the NTA anticipated requirement for office accommodation and responded to questions from Board members.
- c. Mr L'Estrange explained that the detailed 2018 budget will be presented to the Board at its December meeting. In preparation for that he outlined the context for the preparation of next year's budget including key assumptions and significant issues. He also advised that discussions with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on a number of key issues relevant to the budget are on-going. The Board indicated its agreement with the key assumptions underlying the budget and the proposed approach to key issues.

4. Bus Bye-laws

The Board approved the proposed bus bye-laws subject to changes suggested by a Board member.

5. Presentation by Waterford City & County Council

Mr Walsh, Chief Executive noted that planning constraints within Waterford City's historic centre and the absence of major out-of-town developments in the area surrounding Waterford City presented a unique opportunity to develop and revitalise the city centre area. Accordingly, the City and County Council has entered into an agreement with a major private investment company for the development of a major Strategic Development Zone on the City's North Quays incorporating significant retail, housing and office developments as well as an integrated transport hub.

The new development area will be connected with Waterford's historic city centre via a "green route" incorporating a new river crossing. The new development will require the relocation of Plunkett rail station to incorporate it into the transport hub. Mr Walsh and his colleagues outlined the proposed funding arrangements including the requirements with regard to public funding of the transport infrastructure element and he indicated that the Council would hope to secure funding from the NTA for that element.

During the discussion that followed the Board noted the need to ensure that the new development is well served by public transport and caters for the needs of pedestrians and cyclists.

The Board thanked the City and County Council officials for their presentation and wished them well with the proposed development.

6. Presentation by Local Link Waterford

Ms Malone explained how the Rural Transport Programme (RTP) has developed since the National Transport Authority took over responsibility for RTP in 2013. She noted that a major restructuring of RTP in 2015/6 had resulted in a reduction in the number of RTP groups from 35 to 17. However, RTP had now entered a period of development and expansion of services under the Local Link brand name fully supported by the NTA. This is facilitating the integration of rural transport services with mainstream public transport services and integrated transport systems.

Deputy Butler and Mr O'Donoghue outlined the development and organisation of rural transport services in Waterford since 2002 and the expansion of services over that time. The first service commenced operation in 2003. Currently 27 routes are being operated providing 61 weekly services made up of demand responsive and fixed schedule services. Passenger numbers are growing.

However, the representatives noted that demands on the (voluntary) Board members and (full-time) staff of Deise Link Limited, who manage Local Link Waterford, are increasing, particularly in the area

of corporate governance. In that regard they indicated that they recently appointed consultants to review their corporate governance arrangements.

The representatives also highlighted the need for additional bus stops in many local areas and some additional bus services.

During the discussion that followed, the Board suggested that corporate governance arrangements could be improved by actively recruiting Board representatives who possess skills in relevant areas. Mr Creegan noted that the NTA is actively developing a bus stop programme.

The Board thanked the Local Link Waterford representatives for their presentation.

7. Any other business

None.

Next Meeting: Friday 15 December 2017 @ 10.30am in NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Dated: _____