



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 18 January 2019

At 10.30am in NTA Offices

Present: Mr Fred Barry (Chairperson), Ms Anne Graham (CEO), Mr Hugh Creegan (Deputy CEO), Mr Pat Mangan, Ms Sineád Walsh, Mr Owen Keegan (CEO, Dublin City Council), Dr Berna Grist, Mr Frank O'Connor, Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Mr Kevin Kelly.

Apologies: None.

Staff in attendance: Mr Tim Gaston, Director, Public Transport Services; Mr Philip L'Estrange, Director, Finance & Corporate Services / Board Secretary; Mr Stephen Gallagher, Head of Finance; Mr Noel Beecher, Head of Corporate Governance, Mr Gerard O'Brien, Risk Manager (Item 5a-c); Ms Jackie Mullen, Head of Corporate Services (Agenda Item 6); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

Others in attendance: Ms Michelle Doyle, Partner, McCann Fitzgerald (Item 6).

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1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting on 14 December 2018 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

The Chairperson updated the Board on a number of items including the filling of Board vacancies, arrangements for the Board meeting in Galway and progress on the implementation of a secure portal for Board documentation. He also noted that:-

- a) the planned presentation on rail fleet strategy has been postponed until the Board's next meeting;
- b) an information meeting for Board members on the MetroLink project will take place on 19 February next; and
- c) An Garda Síochána have been notified of a breach of confidential information and they have responded to the notification.

4. CEO Report

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

- Approval for the recruitment of additional staff resources which will get underway immediately;
- Update on the BusConnects Core Bus Corridors project;
- Continued growth in public transport journeys and impact on services;
- Implementation of new cycle design office to facilitate delivery of the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan.

5. Finance & Corporate Governance

- a. Mr Gallagher noted that the preparation of the draft Financial Statements 2018 is underway with a view to the presentation of the draft Statements to the Board at its meeting next month. The Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General has commenced its audit of the NTA. Mr Gallagher also outlined the possible impact of Brexit on the cost of acquiring new buses.
- b. Mr Beecher outlined the status of the NTA's strategic and corporate risk registers. He noted that it is planned to review the operational risk register at various stages during 2019. He indicated that meetings are due to take place shortly with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland concerning risk management issues.
- c. Mr Beecher outlined details of the proposal to increase the threshold above which Board approval is required for the approval of certain contracts from €1 million to €2 million. He advised that the revised threshold would not apply to works contracts and certain other specified contracts. Following discussion the Board approved the proposal as outlined.

6. Marine Passenger Rights

Ms Doyle joined the meeting by telephone link for discussion of this item.

The Chief Executive outlined developments since the last Board meeting and circulated some relevant additional documentation.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Chief Executive should engage with Irish Ferries regarding certain matters and that a special meeting of the Board would be convened to consider the outcome and next steps.

7. BusConnects Tranche 3 Public Consultation

Following a presentation by Mr Creegan and discussion, the Board approved the commencement of a public consultation process on the following six Core Bus Corridors during February 2019.

- Ballymun to City Centre;
- Finglas to City Centre;
- Bray to City Centre;
- UCD Ballsbridge to City Centre;
- Blackrock to Merrion;
- Ringsend to City Centre.

8. Newbridge Transport Plan

Mr Creegan outlined the background to the preparation by the NTA of a multi-modal transport plan for Newbridge, which is the largest town in Kildare and experiences significant traffic congestion. He also outlined the main elements of the proposed plan, which include changes to existing road and

traffic circulation arrangements as well as improvements to bus services, public transport infrastructure and the public realm.

Mr Creegan indicated that the proposed plan has been positively received by local councillors. Kildare County Council will put the proposals on public display during February and will give consideration to incorporating the final plan into the Local Area Plan for Newbridge. Mr Creegan indicated that the NTA is prepared to support implementation of elements of the agreed plan.

The Board indicated its support for the draft Plan which, if implemented, could provide an exemplar for other similar sized towns.

9. Any other business

The Board approved the appointment of the Chairperson to the Audit & Risk Committee on a temporary basis. It was agreed that his appointment would lapse once a new Board member with financial and audit experience has been appointed by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

The Board noted the contents of a note circulated by a Board member. It was agreed that the Executive should provide reply directly to the Board member on the issues raised therein and a copy of the reply circulated to all Board members.

Mr Gaston drew attention to an issue in relation to the Leap Card scheme.

The Chairperson noted that the deadline for the return of completed Statements of Interests forms to Standards in Public Office Commission and the relevant authority (i.e. NTA Chairperson / Chief Executive) is 31 January 2019.

It was agreed to change the date of the Board meeting in April. The new date is 26 April 2019. It was also agreed that Board members should be consulted on a proposal to change the date of the Board's September 2019 meeting.

It was agreed that the Board should review the terms of reference of the Audit & Risk Committee at its next meeting.

Next Meeting: Friday 22 February 2019 @ 10.30am in the Galmont Hotel, Galway.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Dated: _____