



## **Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Held on Friday 15 March 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, Dr Berna Grist, Mr Frank O'Connor, Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Mr Kevin Kelly.

**Apologies:** Mr Owen Keegan (CEO, Dublin City Council).

**Staff in attendance:** Mr Philip L'Estrange, Director, Finance & Corporate Services / Board Secretary; Mr Stephen Gallagher, Head of Finance, Mr David O'Flynn, Senior Finance Manager, Mr Noel Beecher, Head of Corporate Governance, Mr Gerard O'Brien, Risk Manager (Item 5a-d); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

**Others in attendance:** None.

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### **1. Declarations of Interest**

The Chairperson indicated his intention to excuse himself from the discussions in respect of Agenda Item 10. It was agreed that Ms Walsh would chair that part of the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the Board meeting on 22 February 2019 were approved subject to

- replacement of text under Item 5d (Finance & Corporate Governance) with "The Board approved the Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Committee"; and
- addition of the following sentence under Item 10 (Presentation by Galway City Council): "The Chairperson thanked the representatives of Galway City Council for their detailed presentation to the Board."

### **3. Matters Arising**

The Chairperson indicated that he did not have any update on the status of arrangements for the filling of the vacancies on the Board.

### **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:-

- Staff resourcing and on-going recruitment processes;

- NTA attendance at meeting of Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport on 27 March to discuss BusConnects and MetroLink proposals;
- Marine Passenger Rights;
- Extension of closing dates of public consultations on Core Bus Corridors;
- Planned presentation by NTA of Liffey Cycling Scheme to Dublin City Council's Transportation Strategic Policy Committee;
- Bus developments including new bus service between Ballymun and IKEA (Route 155).

## **5. Finance & Corporate Governance**

- a. Mr Gallagher outlined the main points of the Management Accounts for January and February and responded to questions from Board members. He indicated that the 2018 audit is continuing. It is anticipated that the Comptroller and Auditor General could sign-off on the 2018 financial statements during May.
- b. Mr Beecher noted that risk management is well embedded in the Authority and that the focus is now on identifying how the risk management area can add value to internal audit including the audit selection process. He noted that the strategic risk register is due to be updated by next June. Following discussion it was agreed that the current classification of some strategic risks should be reviewed.
- c. Mr O'Connor summarised the main points of his report on the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee during 2018. The Chairperson thanked Mr O'Connor and the other members of the Audit and Risk Committee for their detailed work during the year under review.

## **6. Procurements**

The Chief Executive outlined the outcome of a recent procurement process for the award of a contract for the provision of a new bus service between Swords and Ashbourne (Route 197) and responded to questions in the matter. Following discussion the Board approved the award of the contract for the operation of Route 197 to Go-Ahead Ireland. One Board member did not support the award of the contract.

## **7. Approval of draft Integrated Implementation Plan 2019 - 2024**

Mr Creegan noted that the NTA is required to make an Integrated Implementation Plan (IIP) covering a six year period of the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area. While this is required to be done within nine months of the adoption of a Transport Strategy, he explained that this was not feasible due to a review of capital spending and Project 2040.

Mr Creegan noted that the draft IIP is a high-level document and looks in very broad terms at how the strategy will be delivered. The document takes a macro approach, and does not go into any detail when it comes to the implementation of individual aspects of the strategy.

He explained that a draft IIP was placed on public display between last December and February and notices were placed in three national newspapers inviting submissions from interested parties. In all 16 submissions were received. Arising from the submissions it was proposed to make a number of changes to the draft IIP.

During the discussion that followed it was agreed to make a number of editorial changes to the draft IIP and that the revised document should be submitted to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport for approval in accordance with the provisions of section 12(7) of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008. One Board member did not support the submission of the document to the Minister.

## **8. Rail Fleet Strategy**

At the outset, the Chairperson noted that the purpose of today's discussion was to agree the strategic approach to future rail fleet replacement and that the detailed implementation arrangements would fall to be considered by the Board at a later stage.

Mr Creegan then outlined the composition of the existing rail fleet and the proposed future rail fleet strategy having regard to future capacity and fleet needs and developments in fleet technology as well as the proposed procurement arrangements. Following discussion the Board approved the proposed strategic approach in the matter.

## **9. MetroLink Preferred Route Consultation**

Mr Creegan recalled that an informal briefing for Board members on the revised details of the MetroLink project took place in the offices of Transport Infrastructure Ireland on 19 February last.

He indicated that in the interim there had been a change to one aspect of the scheme at St. Stephen's Green and he outlined details of the change.

He indicated that it is proposed to publish the revised scheme details on 26 March next and to commence a public consultation process lasting 6 to 8 week. While NTA and TII will launch the revised proposals, TII will undertake the public consultation.

The Chairperson left the meeting at this point.

## **10. Presentation on appointment of consultants for design of bus corridors in Dublin**

Mr Creegan explained the need to appoint engineering design teams for the 16 Core Bus Corridors being developed under the BusConnects Programme in order to assist with the development of the detailed proposals. He noted that the necessary pre-qualification process commenced some months ago and that tenders have now been received and assessed.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive would issue a formal Board paper on the finalised tender assessment process during next week and seek a Board decision by email or conference call in advance of the next Board meeting.

## **11. Any other business**

Mr Barry returned to the meeting at this point.

The Chief Executive outlined a proposal for the Authority to acquire additional office space adjacent to the NTA's offices in order to meet the organisation's growing accommodation needs. Following discussion the Board approved the proposal.

The Board Secretary outlined plans for the roll-out of more secure arrangements for the distribution and management of Board documentation.

**Next Meeting: Friday 26 April 2019 @ 10.30am in the NTA Offices.**

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

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