



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 17 May 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, Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Mr Owen Keegan (CEO, Dublin City Council); Mr Kevin Kelly.

Apologies: Mr Frank O'Connor.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange, Director, Finance & Corporate Services / Board Secretary; Mr Tim Gaston, Director, Public Transport Services; 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 (Items 5a, 5b); Mr Barry Dorgan, Head of Ticketing (Item 6), Mr Mark Bradwell, Procurement Manager (Items 6, 9), Mr Jeremy Ryan, Head of Public Transport Contracts (Items 8, 10); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

Others in attendance: Mr Niall Farrell, Head of Luas Business and Mr Nigel O'Neill, Director Commercial Operations, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (Item 9).

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1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting on 26 April 2019 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

The Chief Executive confirmed that plans are being made for the Board to meet with the Planning Regulator at a mutually convenient date.

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: -

- Legal proceedings by Irish Ferries arising from the Authority's determination concerning the cancellation of sailings;
- Launch of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy;

- Decision by An Bord Pleanála to approve the making of the planning scheme for Clonburris Strategic Development Zone;
- Commencement of public consultation on the Liffey Cycle Route in Dublin;
- Rural transport developments;
- Comfort breaks for bus drivers;
- Procurement of low emission rail and bus fleets;
- Status of the draft Integrated Implementation Plan.

5. Finance & Corporate Governance

- a. Mr Gallagher outlined the main points of the Management Accounts for April and responded to questions from Board members. He advised that the Financial Statements for 2018 will be submitted to the Board for approval in June. Mr L'Estrange noted that discussions are taking place between Transport Infrastructure Ireland / NTA and the Revenue Commissioners regarding the VAT treatment of light rail infrastructure costs.
- b. Mr Beecher outlined the main developments in relation to risk management since the last Board meeting. The Audit & Risk Committee is planning to review the Authority's policies in respect of fraud and protected disclosures. In addition, a review of risk systems and processes by the Authority's internal auditors is planned. The outcome of the six-monthly review of the Strategic Risk Register will be reported to the Audit & Risk Committee.
- c. The Board discussed the contents of a progress report on implementation of the Authority's Statement of Strategy. The Board welcomed the good progress which has been made to date.

6. Contract Award for On-site Operational resources

Mr Dorgan outlined the background to the proposed award of a contract for on-site operational resources and responded to questions in the matter. After discussion the Board approved the award of the relevant contract to Abtran for a period of two years with options to extend the contract, at the Authority's discretion, for up to a further two years.

7. MetroLink & Eastern Regional & Midland Strategy

Mr Creegan explained that in the process of finalising the Regional and Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019 – 2031 (RSES) a number of amendments had recently been inserted by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly which are not consistent with the Authority's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 – 2035 (Transport Strategy).

Mr Creegan outlined the legislative provisions that apply where the RSES and Transport Strategy are not consistent with one another. He advised that the Authority is considering its position in the matter. During the discussion that followed the Board noted the importance of this issue for the implementation of the Transport Strategy. Mr Creegan agreed to keep the Board informed of developments.

8. 2019 Direct Award Contracts key contract terms

Mr Ryan noted that the Authority's current direct award contracts with Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann and Iarnród Éireann will expire later this year and he outlined the intended scope and key contractual terms of proposed new direct award contracts with the operators, which will commence on 1 December 2019.

Following discussion, the Board approved the main contract terms, including the performance KPIs, of the proposed direct award contracts with Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann and Iarnród Éireann and for the CEO to complete the contracts on the approved terms.

This approval is subject to (a) the provision of more detail on a cross-section of the principal performance standards and penalty / bonus payments to be applied in the new contracts and (b) consideration by the Executive of suggestions made by Board members relating to the content of the contracts.

9. Contract award for Luas Operations & Maintenance

Mr Farrell and Mr O'Neill recalled that the NTA has assigned certain functions in relation to securing the provision of Luas services to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). In early 2017, NTA and TII had agreed that, from December 2019, there should be a single integrated operations and maintenance (O&M) contract for Luas, with NTA and TII as joint client. The TII representatives outlined the procurement process undertaken in furtherance of that decision and responded to questions from Board members.

After discussion the Board decided to identify Transdev Dublin Light Rail Limited as the preferred tenderer in respect of the competition for the Luas Operations & Maintenance Contract and to enter into the Luas Operations & Maintenance Contract with Transdev Dublin Light Rail Limited.

10. PSO Contract Performance

Mr Ryan noted that the Authority has entered into contracts with a number of State-owned and private operators for the provision of subsidised bus and services. He explained that the Authority monitors the performance of those operators against set metrics including punctuality, reliability and service quality. Regular meetings are held with operators to monitor performance and identify and manage any issues of concern.

Mr Ryan also outlined planned changes to the performance metrics of the Authority's main direct award contracts, which will be implemented later in 2019. He then responded to questions from Board members.

The Board noted the importance of timely publication of operator performance data by the Authority.

11. Any other business

A proposal to amend the agreed minutes of the Board meeting on 15 March 2019 was not approved.

Next Meeting: Friday 21 June 2019 @ 10.30am in the NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Dated: _____