



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on Friday 12 July 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 Frank O'Connor, Mr Kevin Kelly.

Apologies: None.

Staff in attendance: Mr Philip L'Estrange, Director, Finance & Corporate Services / Board Secretary; Mr Tim Gaston, Director, Public Transport Services; Dr Declan Sheehan, Chief Information Officer; Mr Stephen Gallagher, Head of Finance, David O'Flynn, Senior Finance Manager, Mr Noel Beecher, Head of Corporate Governance, Mr Gerard McBrien, Risk Manager (Item 5); Mr Ger Regan, Transport Contracts Manager (Item 6); Mr Michael Warnock Smith, Head of Public Transport Regulation (Item 7); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

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1. Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson advised that he has a potential conflict of interest in relation to a matter for consideration under Agenda Item 6 (Procurements) and that he would withdraw from the meeting at that point.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting on 21 June 2019 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

The Chairperson noted that the process of appointing new members to the Board is at an advanced stage.

It was agreed to update the Board schedule to include a presentation on the operation and results of mystery shopping surveys which are undertaken as part of the monitoring of the performance of contracted bus and rail operators.

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: -

- The progress of a legal action being taken by Irish Ferries against the NTA;

- Developments arising from the decision by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly to insert amendments into the Regional and Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019 – 2031;
- Update on the BusConnects Core Bus Corridor project;
- Update on Local Link developments;
- Update on tender process for bus stops at Dublin Airport.

5. Finance & Corporate Governance

- a. Mr Gallagher outlined the main points of the Management Accounts for June and responded to questions from Board members.
- b. Mr Beecher outlined the main developments in relation to risk management since the last Board meeting. He noted that the internal audit programme is progressing well. Mr Beecher advised that a review of the Authority's suite of 16 corporate governance policies is underway. To date 2 of the policy documents had been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and changes submitted to the Board for approval (see paragraphs d and e below). The remaining 14 policy documents will be submitted to the Board. Finally, he noted that a representative of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General will attend the next ARC meeting.
- c. The Board noted the contents of a report on the use of the Authority's corporate seal.
- d. The Board approved the revised Protected Disclosures Policy as presented.
- e. The Board approved the revised Fraud and Corruption Policy as presented.

The Chairperson withdrew from the meeting at this point.

6. Procurement

Following an introduction by Mr Creegan and subsequent discussion, the Board approved the award a contract for consultancy services for the preparation of environmental impact assessments and transport impact assessments for the BusConnects Core Bus Corridor Programme to Jacobs Engineering Ireland Limited, with an estimated contract duration of 19 months.

The Chairperson returned to the meeting at this point.

Following an introduction by Mr Regan and subsequent discussion, the Board approved the award of a contract for the operation of certain public bus services in Kilkenny City to City Direct for a fixed period of three years and with the option to extend the contract, at the discretion of the Authority, up to a maximum of two years.

7. Wheelchair accessibility licence conditions consultation

Mr Warnock Smith noted that further detailed work had been undertaken on the Authority's proposals for licence conditions to be applied to commercial public bus transport services to increase accessibility of those services. That work included the preparation of a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA).

Following discussion, the Board approved the holding of a public consultation process along the lines proposed, subject to revision to the RIA to take account of points raised by Board members.

8. BusConnects Dublin network consultation

Mr Creegan recalled that initial proposals for a redesigned network of bus services were published by the Authority in July 2018. Following an intensive 3-month public engagement phase, close to 30,000 submissions were received. Since then the Authority had reviewed the submissions and identified the key issues of concern. The network proposals have been re-examined in the light of these issues and various amendments have now been made to the proposals. Mr Creegan indicated that the revised network resolves many of the issues identified in the consultation process. Accordingly, it is proposed to commence a second round of public consultation on the amended proposals during September.

Following discussion, the Board approved the holding of a further public consultation on the bus network redesign commencing in September 2019.

9. National Train Control Centre (NTCC)

Mr Creegan explained that the existing train control centre, which is located at Dublin Connolly Station and currently controls approximately 75% of the rail network, is reaching end of life. Accordingly, it is planned to develop a new NTCC, which will provide a modern, safe, efficient train control system that can effectively meet the current network needs and the significant growth in services which are planned over the next two decades.

Following a comprehensive site selection process, it is proposed to develop the new NTCC on a site located on the grounds of Heuston Station. In addition to housing the new control centre for train operations, it is also intended that other control centres will be co-located in the NTCC including An Garda Síochána's Dublin Traffic Control Centre and a regional traffic control centre.

The project, which will be funded by the Authority and implemented by Iarnród Éireann, has an estimated cost of €135.26 million, a cost to benefit ratio of 1.44 and a Net Present Value of €23.5 million. A review of the business case by Indecon Economic Consultants confirmed its compliance with the requirements of the Public Spending Code.

Mr Creegan explained that as the NTCC project exceeds the amended €100 million threshold set out in the Public Spending Code, the Government is the project sanctioning authority. Accordingly, a formal Government decision is required in order to proceed with the project.

The Board noted the position in the matter.

10. MetroLink Procurement Strategy

Mr Creegan advised that a strategic procurement options report has been prepared to identify viable strategic options for procuring MetroLink and the associated delivery timescales. The strategic procurement options have been guided by three key aims relating to value for money, affordability and deliverability. The report will inform the subsequent development of the MetroLink Procurement Strategy, which will include a full market engagement exercise and a detailed review of lessons learnt from recent similar projects.

Mr Creegan then outlined the main elements of the strategic procurement options report and next steps and responded to questions from Board members. The Board requested that the governance roles and responsibilities for the MetroLink project would be reviewed, updated and fully documented in advance of subsequent major decision points on the project.

11. Fares Strategy (2020)

The Chief Executive and Mr Gaston recalled that the Authority had inherited a very complex fare structure and that it has been taking steps to gradually simplify and streamline the fare structure.

They then outlined the principles that will be applied by the Authority in its determination of fares in 2020. They also advised that the implementation date for fare changes will be changed with changes to Tax saver fares taking effect on 1 December 2019 and changes to all other fares taking effect on 30 March 2020.

Following discussion, the Board approved the fares strategy as presented and agreed that the Board should be briefed on the outcome of the fares determination process in advance of its publication.

12. Any other business

None.

Next Meeting: Friday 13 September 2019 @ 10.30am in the NTA Offices.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Dated: _____