



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held by video conference on Friday 18 December 2020

Present: Mr Fred Barry (Chairperson), Ms Anne Graham (CEO), Mr Hugh Creegan (Deputy CEO), Mr Owen Keegan (CEO, Dublin City Council); Mr David Gray; Mr Pat Mangan, Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Mr Frank O'Connor, Mr Brian McCormick, 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; Ms Wendy Thompson, Director, Transport Regulation; Mr Bernard Higgins, Director, Transport Technology; Mr Stephen Gallagher, Head of Strategic and Business Planning (Item 7); Mr Eoin Gillard, Head of Public Transport Investment (Item 8); Mr Rob Reid, IT Security Manager (Item 9); Mr Jeremy Ryan, Head of Public Transport Contracts (Items 11 & 12); Mr David O'Flynn, Financial Controller (Items 12 & 13); Mr Noel Beecher, Head of Governance (Items 14 & 15); Mr Karl Seeber (Minutes).

Others in attendance: None.

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1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting on 20 November 2020 were approved without amendment.

3. Matters Arising & Board Schedule

The Chairperson noted that a special meeting of the Board had been convened on 3 December last in order to review / agree the content of a list of possible projects for inclusion in the next National Development Plan, which had been requested by the Department of Transport at short notice.

The Chairperson informed the Board of the outcome of his and Ms Graham's recent meeting with the Minister for Transport. He noted that the Minister had confirmed his willingness to meet with the Board in due course.

The Chairperson noted that Mr Kelly's resignation will shortly give rise to a third vacancy on the Board. He indicated that although the Department of Transport had previously been advised of skills and attributes which the Board considers appropriate to the filling of those positions, a further discussion in the matter would take place at the next Board meeting.

The Board decided against instituting a new committee for now, but agreed that briefing sessions should continue to be arranged, where necessary, in order to provide detailed background information on important matters in advance of their formal consideration by the Board.

4. CEO Report

The Board noted the position regarding implementation of the 2020 Business Plan.

The Chief Executive outlined developments since the last meeting and responded to issues raised by Board members.

5. Proposed SPSV Maximum Vehicle Age Regulation

The Board noted the outcome of the recent public consultation on this matter and approved the making of the draft Small Public Service Vehicle (Emergency Measure Covid-19) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 as presented.

6. Proposed SPSV Fees Regulation

The Board noted the outcome of the recent public consultation on this matter and approved the making of the draft Small Public Service Vehicle (Emergency Measure Covid-19) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 as presented.

7. NTA Business Plan 2021

Following a presentation by Mr Gallagher, the Board approved the Business Plan 2021 as presented subject to the incorporation of some changes identified at the meeting.

8. Business Cases for BusConnects Programme and DART+ Programme

The Chairperson thanked the Executive for arranging for a detailed briefing on the business cases on the preceding day, which the Board members had found very useful. A number of items requiring further elaboration or clarification within the business cases had been identified in reviews by the Executive and Board members. The Board agreed that consideration of the submission of the two business cases to the Department of Transport would be addressed at a subsequent Board meeting following further development of the documents.

9. Cybersecurity Update

Mr Reid presented an update on cybersecurity issues including an update on the outcome of the 2020 cyber strategy outcome and approach to the 2021 cyber strategy.

The Board noted the position in the matter.

10. Fares Strategy

Mr Gaston updated the Board on the impact of the Covid-19 public health emergency on contracted public transport services and the proposals for fare adjustments in 2021.

11. Bus Services Tendering

Mr Gaston outlined the issues being considered by the Authority when examining the extent to which new and existing bus services would be secured by public tender.

12. Finance Update

Mr O’Flynn outlined the outlined the main points of the Management Accounts for November. Following discussion, the Board noted the position in the matter.

The Board noted the actions already taken or planned in order to mitigate the financial impact of potential bus fleet tariffs in the event of a “no-deal” Brexit.

13. Treasury Policy

Following a presentation by Mr O’Flynn, the Board approved the proposed amendments to the Treasury Policy as presented.

14. Risk Update

Mr Beecher outlined the main developments relating to risk management since the last Board meeting. Following discussion, the Board noted the position in the matter.

15. Audit and Risk Committee Update

Mr O’Connor outlined the issues discussed by the Audit and Risk Committee at their most recent meeting.

16. Any other business

On behalf of the Board, the Chairperson thanked Mr Kevin Kelly for his important contribution to the Authority during his term of office and wished him well in his new role. Mr Kelly thanked his Board colleagues and the Executive for their support and assistance and wished the Authority well in the delivery of its mandate.

Next Meeting: Friday 22 January 2021 @ 10.30am.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Dated: _____