



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held by video conference on Friday 19 February 2021

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.

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 4); Mr Eoin Gillard, Head of Public Transport Investment (Item 6); Mr David O'Flynn, Financial Controller (Items 7, 8 & 9); Mr Noel Beecher, Head of Governance, Mr Gerard McBrien, Risk Manager (Items 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11); Ms Margaret Malone, Head of Corporate Services (Observer); 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 22 January 2021 were approved without amendment. It was noted that figures included under Item 7 (Commercial Bus Services Support Scheme Extension) will be redacted when the minutes are being published.

3. Matters Arising & Board Schedule

The Chairperson outlined his intention to engage on a one-to-one basis with each Board member on their performance, any training needs and to seek 'upward' feedback as Chairperson.

4. CEO Report

The Chief Executive outlined developments since the last meeting.

The Board noted the position regarding progress on implementation of the Authority's Business Plan for 2021.

5. BusConnects Preferred Options Approval

Following an introduction by Mr Creegan and subsequent discussion, the Board approved the adoption of the Preferred Option for each of the sixteen Core Bus Corridors as being the options previously approved at the October 2020 Board meeting in advance of third round of public consultation in November / December of last year, amended by a number of changes as presented at the meeting.

6. BusConnects & MetroLink Preliminary Business Cases

The Chairperson thanked the Executive for arranging an information meeting earlier in the week to provide a detailed background briefing for Board members on the preliminary business cases for these major projects.

Following an introduction by Mr Gillard and subsequent discussion, the Board granted approval:-

- a. for the onward submission of the Preliminary Business Case for the BusConnects Dublin Programme to the Department of Transport for the purposes of obtaining Government authorisation to issue Decision Gate 1 approval. The Board noted that a second decision will be sought from the NTA Board, subject to receipt of Government authorisation, to grant Decision Gate 1 approval.
- b. for the onward submission of the Preliminary Business Case for the MetroLink Project to the Department of Transport for the purposes of obtaining Government authorisation to issue Decision Gate 1 approval to allow the project to be submitted for planning consent. The Board noted that a second decision will be sought from the Board, subject to receipt of Government authorisation, to grant Decision Gate 1 approval for such submission

The Board requested that the Executive discuss the issue of prioritisation of the BusConnects Programme, DART+ Programme and MetroLink with the Department of Transport.

7. Draft Financial Statements

Following an introduction by Mr O'Flynn and subsequent discussion, the Board approved the draft unaudited Financial Statements and the draft Statement of Internal Control for the year ended 31 December 2020 as presented at the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked Mr O'Flynn and his colleagues for their detailed work in the preparation of the documentation.

8. Review of the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Control

The Board reviewed, and was satisfied with the effectiveness of the Authority's system of internal control, which was presented by Mr Beecher.

9. Finance Update

Mr O'Flynn summarised the main points of the Management Accounts for January 2021 and the emerging financial position for 2021 as a whole. The Board noted the position.

10. Risk Update

The Board noted the position on risk management issues as presented by Mr Beecher.

11. Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) Report

Mr O'Connor outlined the main points of the ARC annual report for 2020 and the outcome of the most recent ARC meeting. In particular Mr O'Connor noted that the Authority's internal auditors had managed to successfully complete all planned audit programme activities during the year notwithstanding the challenges posed by Covid-19.

The Chairperson thanked Mr O'Connor, Mr Mangan and Mr Gray and the other ARC members for their detailed and thorough work on behalf of the Authority during 2020.

12. Regional Bike Share Schemes Update

Mr Creegan updated the Board on recent correspondence relating the relating to the bike share schemes operated on behalf of the NTA in the cities of Cork, Galway and Limerick.

The Board noted the position in the matter.

13. Any other business

Mr Creegan updated Board members on the position regarding tariffs on buses purchased from UK based manufacturers.

14. Meeting without Executive

None.

Next Meeting: Friday 19 March 2021 @ 10.30am.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Dated: _____