



## Minutes of Board Meeting

**Held by video conference on Friday 21 May 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 Mick MacAree, Head of Strategic Planning and Mr David Clements, Senior Land Use & Transport Planner (Item 5); Mr David O'Flynn, Financial Controller (Items 7 and 14); Mr John Lynch, Finance System Project Director (Item 7); Mr Eoin Gillard, Head of Public Transport Investment (Items 8, 9, 10 & 12); Ms Freda Quinlan, Senior Capital Finance Manager (Items 7, 8 & 9); Mr Mark Bradwell, Procurement Manager (Item 12); Mr Noel Beecher, Head of Governance and Mr Gerard McBrien, Corporate Risk Manager (Items 14, 15, 16 & 17); Ms Margaret Malone, Head of Corporate Services, Mr Richard Kelly, HEO (all items); 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 held on 16 April 2021 were approved without amendment.

### **3. Matters Arising & Board Schedule**

The Board discussed the position on matters arising from previous Board meetings and the proposed schedule of Board meetings for the rest of 2021.

### **4. CEO Report**

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

Mr Gallagher outlined progress on implementation of the Authority's Business Plan for 2021.

## **5. Revised Draft Limerick & Shannon Transport Strategy 2022 - 2042**

Mr Clements outlined the main changes which had been made to the draft Strategy in response to the feedback received during the initial public consultation in September 2020. During the discussion that followed, the Board noted that while additional analysis had been undertaken on options for upgrading of the local rail network, the analysis indicated that the development of a comprehensive rail network would not represent value for money based on current land use patterns. However, the Board agreed that it was important that rail alignments should be protected for possible future development.

The Board approved the commencement of a public consultation process on the revised draft transport strategy subject to consideration of comments on the draft text from Board members.

Mr Creegan advised that a final draft Strategy would be submitted to the Board for approval in the autumn.

## **6. Draft Small Public Service Vehicle (Emergency Measure Covid-19) Regulations 2021**

Ms Thompson outlined the outcome of the recent public consultation process which showed strong support for the making of the draft Regulations. During the discussion that followed the Board noted that a range of measures have been implemented to assist SPSV operators in response to the serious impact of Covid-19 on the sector and approved the making of the draft Regulations as presented.

## **7. Strategic Assessment Report – NTA Finance System**

Following introductory remarks by Mr O’Flynn and subsequent discussion, the Board gave its approval for the Authority to proceed to complete a Preliminary Business Case for the procurement of a unified Finance system for the Authority. The Board requested that details of the project should be circulated to the Audit & Risk Committee.

## **8. Strategic Assessment Report – Cork Luas**

Following introductory remarks by Mr Gillard and subsequent discussion, the Board gave its approval for Transport Infrastructure Ireland to proceed to prepare a Preliminary Business Case for the Cork Light Rail Transit project.

## **9. Strategic Assessment Report – Finglas Luas**

Following introductory remarks by Mr Gillard and subsequent discussion, the Board gave its approval for Transport Infrastructure Ireland to proceed to prepare a Preliminary Business Case for the Luas Finglas project.

## **10. Coach Park Licence Extension**

Following introductory remarks by Mr Creegan and subsequent discussion, the Board gave its approval for an extension of the Authority’s current licence agreement with Córas Iompair Éireann in respect of land comprising of a Coach Park facility and access road at Sherriff Street Upper for the period from May 2021 to 31 December 2023.

## **11. Perception of Safety on Public Transport**

Following a presentation by Mr Gaston and subsequent discussion, the Board noted the actions being taken by the Authority in conjunction with transport operators and An Garda Síochána to improve the

safety of public transport services for passengers at all times and requested that consideration be given to the expansion of security patrols on commuter rail and Luas services in particular.

The Chairperson noted that this issue is of particular concern to the Board and advised that the Board would review progress in the autumn.

#### **12. Procurement of Single Supplier Framework for the Purchase of Single Deck Long Length Electric Buses**

Following introductory remarks by Mr Creegan and subsequent discussion, the Board, with one exception, approved the award of a single supplier framework agreement for the purchase of single-deck (long length) electric buses to Alexander Dennis Limited and the placing of an initial order under that framework for 45 buses.

#### **13. Strategic Plan Progress Report**

Due to time constraints, the Board agreed to postpone consideration of this item until its next meeting.

#### **14. Finance Update**

Mr O'Flynn summarised the main points of the Management Accounts for April 2021 and the emerging financial position for 2021 as a whole and responded to questions from Board members.

#### **15. ARC Report**

The Board noted the contents of Mr O'Connor report on the outcome of the meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee on 7 May last.

#### **16. Risk Update**

Mr Beecher summarised the up-to-date position on risk management issues and responded to questions from Board members.

#### **17. Risk Management Policy, Risk Appetite Statement and Risk Management Framework**

Following an introduction by Mr Beecher, the Board approved the proposed changes to the above documents as presented.

#### **18. AOB**

Mr L'Estrange confirmed that the Authority is participating in Enterprise Ireland's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Programme in order to allow the Authority to connect with businesses to provide innovative solutions to the provision of information to passengers in real time regarding the availability of space for passengers (including wheelchair passengers) on bus services.

Separately, Mr Higgins noted that the Authority's engineers were also considering the scope for introducing a virtual Leap Card.

The Chairperson confirmed that none of the three vacancies on the Board of the Authority have yet been publicly advertised.

**19. Meeting without Executive**

None.

**Next Meeting: Friday 18 June 2021 @ 10.30am.**

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

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