



Minutes of Board Meeting

Held in NTA HQ and via video conference on Friday 21st February 2025

Board Members in attendance

Mr Peter Strachan (Chairperson), Mr Hugh Creegan (Interim CEO), Mr Pat Mangan, Mr Brian McCormick, Ms Eleanor O’Neill, Mr Richard Shakespeare (CEO of Dublin City Council), Ms Ann Fitzgerald, Mr Frank O’Connor.

Apologies: Mr Iain Docherty, Ms Joyce Loughnan.

Others in attendance

All Items: Mr Philip L’Estrange, Director of Finance & Corporate Services; Mr Jeremy Ryan, Director of Public Transport Services; Mr Declan Sheehan, Chief Information Officer; Mr Bernard Higgins, Director of Transport Technology; Mr Richard Kelly, HEO (Minutes); Mr Gerard Cuddihy, Head of Governance - Chief Risk Officer.

Items 4 & 9: Mr Stephen Gallagher, Head of Corporate Strategy.

Items 5, 6 & 10: Mr Gerard McBrien, Corporate Risk Manager.

Items 7 & 8: Mr David O’Flynn, Group Head of Finance and Deputy CFO.

Item 7 & 12: Mr Mark Bradwell, Head of Procurement and Contract Management.

Item 11: Mr Marcello Corsi, Head of Rail Investment.

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1. Declarations of Interest

a) Declarations of Interest

Richard Shakespeare declared an interest in respect of the Active Travel Internal Audit Report relating to Dublin City Council. This was noted by the Board.

2. Minutes

a) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 17th January 2025 were approved.

3. Matters Arising & Board Schedule

A number of items were requested to be added to the Board Action List.

4. CEO Report & Statement of Strategy Quarterly Update

a) CEO Report

The Interim Chief Executive outlined key developments since the last meeting and provided an update on various items. The Interim Chief Executive then responded to other matters raised by Board members.

b) 2025 Corporate Business Plan

Mr Gallagher provided an overview of the work related to the development of the 2025 Corporate Business Plan. Following the update provided and questions from Board members, the Board approved the 2025 Corporate Business Plan.

5. ARC (Audit and Risk Committee) Update

a) Report from last ARC meeting

Mr McCormick outlined the main issues discussed at the ARC meeting held on 17th February last and responded to questions from Board members. In particular, Mr McCormick indicated the ARC's recommendation to the Board to approve the draft unaudited 2024 Financial Statements for onward submission to the Department of Transport and the C&AG.

b) ARC Annual Report

Mr McCormick also presented the main points of the ARC Annual Report 2024. Following discussion, the Board noted the ARC Annual Report for 2024.

The Chairperson on behalf of the Board thanked Mr McCormick and the ARC for their work over the last year.

6. Review of the Adequacy and Effectiveness of the System of Internal Control

Mr Cuddihy provided an overview of the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal controls for 2024. The Board concluded that an adequate system of internal control was in place for 2024.

7. 2024 Draft Financial Statements

Mr O'Flynn outlined the main features of the draft unaudited 2024 Financial Statements including the Statement on Internal Control and responded to questions from Board members.

Following discussion, the Board approved the draft unaudited 2024 Financial Statements as presented.

The Board thanked Mr O'Flynn for the work of the Finance team in completing the 2024 draft financial statements.

8. Finance Matters

a) Finance Report

Mr O'Flynn provided an update on the Authority's current financial position and responded to questions from Board members.

b) Bank Mandate Update

The Board approved changes to the NTA bank mandate.

9. Oversight Agreement and Performance Delivery Agreement with the Department of Transport

Mr Gallagher provided an overview of the draft Oversight Agreement and draft Performance Delivery Agreement with the Department of Transport. Following the overview, Mr Gallagher responded to questions from Board members.

The Board noted the updated provided by Mr Gallagher and determined that a further engagement with the Department of Transport was required in respect of the documentation. The Board agreed to revisit the draft documents at its next meeting in March 2025.

10. Risk & Governance Matters

a) Risk Update – For Information

The Board noted the Risk Report provided by Mr Cuddihy.

11. Capital Programme Committee Report

a) Report from Committee Meeting

Ms O'Neill provided an update report from the February meeting of the Capital Programme Committee. The Committee considered a number of items at its meeting, including the National Train Control Centre (NTCC) and the Committee's consideration of the DART 8100 Class Fleet Replacement Project.

b) DART 8100 Class Fleet Replacement Project – Approval Gate 3.

An overview was provided of the DART 8100 Class Fleet Replacement Project and the proposal for Irish Rail to place an order for the intended replacement fleet. Following the overview, the Interim Chief Executive responded to questions from Board members.

The Board decided to defer a decision on this item to a future Board meeting.

12. Procurements

a) Regional Commuter Coach Order

The Interim Chief Executive provided an overview of the proposed placement of an order for the provision of sixty (60) double-deck regional commuter vehicles under the existing framework agreement with VDL Bus & Coach B.V.

Following discussion and queries from Board members, the Board approved the placement of the fleet order with VDL Bus & Coach B.V. for sixty coaches.

b) Kilkenny City Bus Service Contract.

Mr Ryan provided an overview of the procurement competition for the provision of the Kilkenny City Bus Service contract.

Following the overview provided, the Board approved the awarding of the contract to City Direct Bus Limited.

c) Business Intelligence and Data Analytics Service Contract

Mr Sheehan provided an overview of the procurement competition for the provision of Business Intelligence and Data Analytics Services.

Following the overview provided, the Board approved the awarding of the contract to Capgemini Ireland Limited trading as Sogeti Ireland.

13. Go-Ahead Ireland Service Performance

Mr Ryan provided an update on the recent issues regarding the delivery of Go-Ahead Ireland bus services in the Dublin area.

The Board expressed their disappointment with Go-Ahead Ireland's recent service delivery performance. The Board recommended closer monitoring by the Authority of service delivery and operator staff resources required to support it, and requested that an invitation be issued to Go-Ahead Ireland CEO to attend the next Board meeting.

14. Transport Security Force Preliminary Analysis

The Interim Chief Executive provided an overview of the NTA's preliminary analysis regarding a proposed Transport Security Force as envisaged under the Programme for Government.

The Board noted the update provided by the Interim Chief Executive and requested that an engagement be held with An Garda Síochána in relation to this issue.

15. Fares Determination Update

Mr Ryan provided an overview of the Fares Determination Update and responded to questions from Board members.

The Board noted the overview provided by Mr Ryan.

16. BusConnects Judicial Review

The Interim Chief Executive provided an update on a judicial review case being taken in respect of the Blanchardstown to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme and the proposed approach being adopted in relation to the proceedings.

The Board noted the update provided by the Interim Chief Executive.

17. AOB

None

Next Meeting: Friday 21st March 2025 @ 10.30 hrs at NTA HQ.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____