



Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority

Minutes of the 157th meeting of the PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
23RD APRIL 1998
(10.30 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.)

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PRESENT:

Councillor T.D. Marshall in the Chair
Councillors Bate, Conaty, Hanson, Holt, Keating, Moore, Murray, Nugent, Russell, Spring, Wood and Young.

IN ATTENDANCE

K.G. Lavery, D. Johnson, J.F. Miller, B. Middleton, N. Greig, S. Daley, E. Pearson, J. Hope and S. Wilson.

Representing Nexus

M.J. Parker, T. McCrady, I. Clayton, B. Garner and J.W.R. Graham.

134. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apoloiges for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lennox and Ord.

135. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th March 1998 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

136. PASSENGER SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Passenger Services Committee held on 7th April 1998 be received, the Director General having advised that details of proposals for Metro services on 16th and 17th May 1998 and also in respect of the Concessionary Travel Scheme's morning restriction on travel to hospital appointments were to be brought to a future meeting.

137. TELEMATICS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Telematics Committee held on 14th April 1998 be received.

138. INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SURVEY

RESOLVED – That the circulated Report of the Clerk summarising the results of an opinion poll recently conducted by MORI be noted.

139. WEST MONKSEATON STATION REFURBISHMENT

It having been confirmed that the works involved would be reflective of the architectural importance of the building, it was:

RESOLVED - That, as recommended in the circulated Report of the Director General, the Capital Programme be amended to provide for the estimated cost of the refurbishment of West Monkseaton Station to be increased from £192,000 to £226,000 and that such expenditure be financed through Loan or from Reserves as appropriate.

140. PERMANENT WAY FORMATION AND TRACK RENEWAL WORKS

RESOLVED – That, as recommended in the circulated Report of the Director General, approval be given to the commitment of £210,000 for permanent way formation work and associated track renewals as provided in the 1998/99 Capital Programme and that such expenditure be financed through Loan or from Reserves as appropriate.

141. PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITIES AND EXECUTIVES

With the consent of the Chairman as a matter of urgency given the nature of the item, attention was drawn to a Press Release from the Adam Smith Institute regarding the publication of a Report entitled 'Trouble with the Authorities'. This appeared to advocate the abolition of PTAs and PTEs on the grounds that they were undemocratic and overstaffed and that transferring their functions to the district councils would potentially reduce public expenditure.

RESOLVED – That the views of the Adam Smith Institute be rejected categorically and that the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions be advised accordingly.

142. NEW TYNE CROSSING

Having noted that the Tyne Tunnels Act had received the Royal Assent on 8th April 1998, it was agreed that matters arising from the outline timetable for the above project as recently circulated to Members by the Engineer be considered at a future meeting.

143. COUNCILLORS CONATY AND MOORE

The Authority noted that Councillors Conaty and Moore were not standing at the forthcoming Local Government elections and placed on record its appreciation of their contributions to its work during their respective periods of office.

Councillors Conaty and Moore suitably responded.

144. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining business on the agenda.

145. REVIEW OF POLICY ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO THE AUTHORITY

RESOLVED – That the proposals set out in the circulated joint Report of the Clerk and the Treasurer be approved and that consultation be commenced with the relevant trades unions.