



Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority

Minutes of the 169th (15th Annual) meeting of the PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
27TH MAY 1999
(10.30 a.m. – 11.21 a.m.)

2

PRESENT:

Councillor T.D. Marshall (in the Chair)
Councillors Bate, Bohill, Boyack, Flynn, Galbraith, L. Green, M. Green, Hanson, Holt, Keating, Ord and Spring.

IN ATTENDANCE

K.G. Lavery, P. Fenwick, B. Middleton and S. Wilson.

Representing Nexus

M.J. Parker, T. McCrady, B.G. Garner and L. Robinson.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – That Councillor T.D. Marshall be appointed Chairman of the Authority for the ensuing period to the Annual Meeting in 2000.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

RESOLVED – That the Report of the Clerk listing the membership of the Authority for 1999/2000 as notified by its five constituent district councils be noted, the Chairman having welcomed Councillors Boyack, Galbraith and L. Green to their first meeting of the Authority.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mulgrove and Wood.

4. MODERNISING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: PROPOSALS FOR THE PTA

Submitted: Report of the Clerk setting out proposals for restructuring the way in which the Authority worked in order to take account of the local government modernisation programme and the requirements of Best Value.

In response to queries by the Opposition the Chairman considered that the proposals represented a cost-effective means of enabling the Authority to discharge its functions. The duties that would fall to be carried out by the proposed vice-chairs and deputy vice-chairs as spokespersons for specific topics of business were felt to be sufficient to warrant the continued payment of special responsibility allowances.

MOVED by Councillor Ord and duly **SECONDED** by Councillor Keating that the appointment of deputy vice-chairs be not proceeded with.

On a show of hands the Motion was declared **LOST** by 11 votes to 3 following which it was:

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the following Members be appointed Vice-Chairmen and Deputy Vice-Chairmen of the Authority and Spokespersons for the matters respectively indicated with Councillor Holt being designated the relevant postholder for the purposes of any statutory provision relating to that office:

Vice-Chairman	Spokesperson for	Deputy Vice-Chairman
Councillor Holt	Bus and Rail Services	Councillor L. Green
Councillor Spring	The Metro	Councillor Galbraith
Councillor Wood	Information Provision, New Technology and Smartcards	Councillor Bate
Councillor M.A. Green	The Tyne Tunnel, New Tyne Crossing and the Ferry	Councillor Hanson

(ii) in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the following appointments be made for the ensuing Municipal Year:

(a) **Delegated Committee**

Councillors Boyack, M.A. Green, Holt (Vice-Chairman), Marshall (Chairman), Ord and Spring or their nominees

(b) **Communications Working Group**

Councillors Holt (Vice-Chairman), Marshall (Chairman), Spring and Ord

(c) **Outside Bodies**

(i) **District Transport Spokesmen**

Councillors Spring (Gateshead), Holt (Sunderland), Marshall (Newcastle upon Tyne), Boyack (South Tyneside) and M.A. Green (North Tyneside)

(ii) **District Transport Advisory Committees**

Those Members of the Authority representing the relevant constituent council for each District

(iii) **Local Government Association**

Councillors Holt, Marshall, Ord and Spring

(iv) **LGA Transport Committee**

Councillor Marshall

(v) **LGA PTAs Special Interest Group**

Councillor Marshall

(vi) **Regional Annual Consultative Committee**

Councillors Holt, Marshall and Spring

(vii) **Package Process Joint Chairs Group**

Councillors L. Green, Holt and Marshall

(viii) **Rail Users Consultative Committee (Observership)**

Councillor Holt

(ix) **Tyne and Wear Economic Forum**

Councillor Marshall

(x) **NEA Regional Development Committee (Observership)**

Councillor Spring

(xi) **North Tyneside Health Partnership Board**

Councillor M.A. Green

(substitutes may be nominated by the appointees to (iii)-(xi) above)

(iii) the following calendar be adopted for 1999/2000:

Policy Seminars, Thursdays at 9.30 a.m. in Newcastle Civic Centre	PTA Meetings, Thursdays at 10.30 a.m. in Newcastle Civic Centre
24th June 1999 (pm)	22nd July 1999
28th October 1999	23rd September 1999
24th February 2000	25th November 1999
27th April 2000	27th January 2000
	23rd March 2000
	25th May 2000 (Agm)

- (iv) proposals be brought forward in due course for the potential application of the scrutiny function to the work of the PTA;
- (v) in respect of the Annual Capital Programme as approved by the Authority, Nexus or the relevant Officers of the PTA be empowered to commit the expenditure allocated to each individual scheme up to a limit of 110% in respect of any one project; and
- (vi) the Clerk be authorised to make any consequential amendments to Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, the Members Allowances Scheme and any other relevant documentation.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd April 1999 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6. **PASSENGER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Passenger Services Committee held on 11th May 1999, amended by the inclusion of an apology for absence on behalf of Councillor Ord, be noted and, arising therefrom, that the revised rates for Bus Station Departure Charges as proposed in the accompanying Report of the Director General be approved.

7. **TYNE TUNNEL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Tyne Tunnel Operations Committee held on 13th May 1999 be received.

8. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1998/2000**

RESOLVED – That the circulated joint Report of the Treasurer and the Director General summarising an outturn position of £7.5m on the 1998/1999 Capital Programme and a projected programme of £19.774m for 1999/2000 together with a net increased requirement for funding from Reserves be noted and that the next Review be considered first at a future Policy Seminar.

9. RAILTRACK 1999 NETWORK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT AND OPRAF RAIL PASSENGER PARTNERSHIP FUND

Submitted: Report of the Director General outlining Railtrack's plans for the management of railways in North East England (London North Eastern Zone) as set out in the 1999 Network Management Statement for Great Britain.

Reviewing the various schemes and route improvements for the North East area as identified in the zonal plan and route strategy the Director General noted that any proposals for Sunderland Station appeared to be a significant omission. While the announcement of the Rail Passenger Partnership Fund aimed at encouraging and supporting proposals for the development of passenger rail services at a regional and local level was to be welcomed, funding would be limited and subject to a competitive bidding process. Proposals would be brought forward for consideration in due course.

The redevelopment of Sunderland Station was seen as a particularly appropriate opportunity for a quality partnership in which Railtrack could play a pivotal role. The interface between rail and Metro was important to the City and was closely linked to Phase 3 of the Bridges development. Also, land had been identified at Ryhope and Grangetown that could be used for new stations thus assisting in the revitalising of those areas. Reducing traffic in urban centres by providing for better access to alternatives such as rail was a theme of the Government's Integrated Transport Policy and new stations at Birtley, Dudley and Cramlington were also cited as possibilities.

RESOLVED – That Nexus be authorised to make representations to Railtrack in the strongest possible terms with the view to having major improvements to Sunderland Station added to the Network Management Statement along with the introduction of new and additional stations on the East Coast Main Line and the development of services along the Durham Coast.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF SMARTCARD APPLICATIONS IN THE NORTH EAST

RESOLVED – That the circulated Report of the Director General outlining progress to date on the development and application of smartcard technology in Tyne and Wear and the wider region be noted.

11. BUSES DAUGHTER DOCUMENT: PROPOSED RESPONSE

Submitted: Report of the Director General enclosing a draft Response to the Government's proposals as set out in the Buses Daughter Document 'From Workhorse to Thoroughbred' which it was proposed should be used as a basis for discussions on bus policy at the next Policy Seminar.

On timetabling and service stability as set out in Para 6.1 it was queried whether an increase in the notice for service changes from 42 days to 56 days would make a material difference and whether it might not be more appropriate to limit changes to, say, two occasions a year in order to reduce the costs of information provision. In reply it was explained that the latest thinking on changes favoured a longer period of notice for withdrawals with a minimum of six months and a shorter one for new services. The 56-day period would assist in dealing with the contract process for secured services and limiting service changes to six nominated dates per year outside quality partnerships would facilitate contract management. It would be difficult to cope with changes only twice a year. It was therefore suggested that changes could perhaps be more easily managed on a biannual basis if this was done at different times in different areas.

The proposals for passenger information were strongly supported although it was noted that agreements with operators in this respect would have to be on a formal basis as voluntary arrangements had in the past proved unsatisfactory. It was also suggested that the Government could have taken the opportunity to place more emphasis on improving child travel to school through increased safety and security so as to reduce the problems of parking in the vicinity of school entrances. Free travel should be provided for children going to and from primary schools and it was felt that the operators could assist with this.

RESOLVED – That the Response, amended where appropriate to reflect the above comments in respect of timetabling and service changes, be approved and submitted to the Joint Chairs Group for endorsement.

12. SUNDERLAND METRO: PROGRESS

RESOLVED – That the circulated Report of the Director General advising of the advanced state of negotiations between Nexus and Railtrack and confirming that, subject to full approval by Government and to the availability of grant monies now being sought, the project was on course for the commencement of construction later in the year and completion at the end of 2001 be noted.

13. DON'T CHOKE BRITAIN CAMPAIGN

At the conclusion of the meeting the Authority viewed a video of a number of television advertisements on the theme of 'Cleaner Air: Are you doing your bit' that had been produced as part of a Government campaign supporting greater sustainability. The Director General advised that the annual Don't Choke Britain campaign was to be formally launched the following day by Transport Minister Glenda Jackson MP. It was agreed that the video be made available for viewing by the five district transport advisory committees.