



---

# Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority

## **197<sup>TH</sup> Meeting of the Passenger Transport Authority**

28 November 2002  
(10.30am – 11.35am)

---

### **Present:**

Councillor: T D Marshall (In the Chair)

Councillors: Anderson, Boyack, Galbraith, J S Green, M A Green, Hanson, Hodson, Keating, Lawson, Ord, Spring, D Wood and P Wood

**In Attendance:** P Woods, P Fenwick, P Hedley, M Bird, J Curran

**Representing Nexus:** B Garner, S Atkinson, K MacKay, A Lee, A Bairstow

### 105 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Flynn and M Parker.

### 106 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 September 2002 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **Matters Arising:-**

##### **(a) Overview of the Bus Industry in Tyne and Wear**

(Minute 88(b) refers)

In response to a query, B Garner explained that consultation with local authorities and taxi companies had started. A meeting with representatives of the taxi trade had been organised for next week and this would be followed up by a meeting with licensing officers to discuss issues raised.

##### **(b) Review Of Bus Subsidies**

(Minute No.92 refers)

At the previous meeting, it was agreed to arrange a meeting with bus operators and district council engineers to discuss issues of joint concern and how best to promote partnership working. The Chair suggested putting aside a morning in January for this meeting and asked Nexus to liaise with operators/local authorities to draw up an agenda.

**(c) Reducing Fraud: Presentation**

(Minute No. 96 refers)

Councillor Keating queried the role of staff who were normally on duty at the Monument Metro Station and asked whether they could be required to check tickets in a regular basis. He felt they were not currently being deployed as effectively as they could and asked that this be looked at again. K MacKay explained that two staff had operated at the Haymarket Metro Station for the past two weeks checking tickets and it was hoped to produce an analysis of the impact of this on revenue. Staff were currently operating under the added burden of the current firefighters strike, and were doing extra work. Staff were undertaking more rigorous checking of tickets in advance of bringing in a longer term strategy for revenue protection.

**(d) Concessionary Travel Scheme**

(Minute No. 94 refers)

A member asked that it should be made clear that half fare was up to a maximum of 50 pence. B Garner agreed to emphasise this in publicity.

**(e) Petition – Bus Service 550 South Leam (Scotch Estate, Jarrow)**

(Minute No. 101 refers)

B Garner reported that the petition had been presented to Go Ahead who were currently reviewing services in South Tyneside. It was understood that proposed changes would be brought in in Spring 2003 and the petition would be considered as part of the consultation process leading up to this.

**(f) Penalty Fares**

(Minute 100 refers)

The situation had not changed since the last LGA Special Interest Group meeting. The issue had been taken up with the minister, but he did not think an increase was a possibility. A change in legislation was required.

**107 CAPITAL PROGRAMME: 2002/03 SECOND QUARTERLY REVIEW**

Submitted: A Joint Report of the Deputy Clerk and Treasurer and the Director General of Nexus (copies attached to Official Minutes).

S. Atkinson introduced the report which gave members an update on the progress of the Capital Programme for the first half of the year ending 30 September 2002.

Councillor Green welcomed some new and amended schemes, especially those relating to Cullercoats Station and the car park at Monkseaton Metro Station. She went on to comment on the situation at the Tyne Tunnel where the modifications recommended by the Best Value Review had now been successfully put into place. She also welcomed the commencement of the Four Lane Ends Development.

In response to a query on accessibility at metro stations, B Garner referred specifically to the work being carried out at Percy Main Station to improve access. The outcome of this work would be closely monitored and analysed to identify the way forward across the whole system.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- i) the position regarding the 2002/03 programme be noted;
- ii) approval be given to the amendments to the 2002/03 capital programme to reflect changes outlined in paragraph 4.1 and appendix 8 of the report.

108 **RAIL ISSUES UPDATE**

Submitted: A Report of the Director General (copies attached to Official Minutes).

Members endorsed the concerns raised by Nexus and highlighted in the report and particular reference was made to the process for the letting of the Transpennine Franchise which had already taken over two years to resolve.

Members queried whether the quarterly monitoring report on services operated by Arriva Trains Northern (paragraph 5.1 of the report) could be made available to members. B Garner agreed to provide on request.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- i) the progress in respect of refranchising and monitoring on the rail network be noted;
- ii) the areas of concern as highlighted by Nexus be endorsed;
- iii) support Nexus in submitting a substantive report to the Strategic Rail Authority expressing these concerns.
- iv) the Director General be requested to forward a copy of this report to the North East Assembly for information.
- v) the sections of the report relating to franchises and monitoring be noted and Nexus be instructed to submit a substantive report in response to the Strategic Rail Authority regarding the Capacity Utilisation Report and also to lobby through the Passenger Transport Executive Group and the Local Government Association for assurances that the capacity criteria used would reflect local priorities for rail.

109 **REVISION TO FARES 2003**

Submitted: Report of the Director General (copies attached to Official Minutes).

A member expressed his concern that increased fares could lead to increased fraud and the report contained no proposals for fraud reduction. A Bairstow explained that there was a lot of work ongoing to combat fraud on the system and he felt that the introduction of the peak return ticket would reduce this as travellers would not have to go to the machine twice. The majority of fare evasion

was opportunist. The 11% figure quoted, wo  
people. The rise overall was 3%. A member  
been stressed in information given to the pr  
adverse reporting.

A Bairstow commented that comparisons showed that the metro was still one of the cheapest systems in the UK. A member suggested looking at the possibility of charging the same fare for every trip and looking at machines which also took notes. K MacKay explained that Nexus were aware of the need to improve performance and the need to address the question of fraud.

A member raised concerns about problems some users had in reading the instructions on ticket machines. She referred to the beneficial changes recently made at Whitley Bay Station. Officers agreed that this could be looked at.

Members asked that the government be lobbied to extend the half fare scheme to light rail and buses. The Local Government Association Special Interest Group had already made this case to government.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- i) approval be given to the fare changes as outlined in Appendix 8 to be applied from the 5 January 2003;
- ii) approval be given to the introduction of new tickets as outlined in Sections 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of the report.
- iii) the return fare on the Shields Ferry be increased by 10p from the 5 January 2003.

110 **BEST VALUE UPDATE**

Submitted: Report of the Clerk and Director General (copies attached to Official Minutes).

S Atkinson outlined the report which gave information about the achievement against high level of targets and objectives as identified in the PTA Best Value Performance Plan.

**RESOLVED** – That the progress be made against the PTA's BVPP level targets and objectives be noted.

111 **THE BEST VALUE COST CUTTING REVIEW – ACCESSIBILITY**

B Garner drew members attention particularly to the improvement plan. A member referred particularly to the forthcoming Best Value inspection, looking particularly at accessibility. This was likely to be one of the most rigorous inspections so far.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be received and noted.

112 **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS**

Submitted: A Report of the Director General (copies attached to Official Minutes).

In response to members concerns, B Garner explained that there would be a skeleton secured bus service on Boxing Day which was important in terms of access to hospitals. K MacKay reported in detail on the discussions with regard to access to Sunderland Station on Boxing Day. Councillor P Wood expressed concern that Arriva trains were operating on New Years Day from Sunderland, but the metro was not. He referred to the numbers of people travelling into Newcastle on New Years Eve, and stressed that the lack of public transport was a matter of concern. Officers were aware of the problems and were still in negotiation about this.

**RESOLVED** – That the Christmas and New Year transport arrangements be noted.

**113 TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEES: UPDATE**

Submitted: A Report of the Director General of Nexus(copies attached to official minutes)

**RESOLVED** – That the progress as detailed in the report be noted.

**114 URBAN BUS CHALLENGE COMPETITION 2002 – TYNE AND WEAR BIDS**

Submitted: Report of the Director General (copies attached to Official Minutes).

**RESOLVED** – That the fact that the four schemes submitted for the Urban Bus Challenge Competition had gain Department of Transport funding be noted.

**115 NEW TYNE CROSSING – DECISION MAKING (REVIEW)**

Submitted: Report of the Engineer to the Tyne Tunnels and the Legal Adviser (copies attached to Official Minutes).

**RESOLVED** – That

- (i) approval be given to the decision making process as set out in Table 1 of the report
- (ii) financial regulation 33.2 be amended to allow the following officers to sign contracts in addition to the Clerk – The Deputy Clerk, Treasurer, Legal Advisor or a solicitor nominated by the Legal Advisor.