



Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority

207th Meeting of the Passenger Transport Authority

25 March 2004 (10.30 am – 11.20 am)

Present:

Councillor: T D Marshall (In the Chair)

Councillors: Boyack, Flynn, Galbraith, J S Green, M A Green, Hanson, Hodson, Keating, Lawson, Marshall, Ord and D Wood

In Attendance: P Fenwick, C Crowe, J Curran and P Hedley

Representing Nexus: M Parker, B Garner, K McKay, S Atkinson and A Lee

16. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anderson, Spring and P Wood and I Stratford.

17. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising:-

a) **7th UK Chairs of Transport Conference**

(Minute No 12 refers)

RESOLVED – That approval be given for the attendance of the Vice Chair as well as the Chair of the Authority at the 7th UK Chairs of Transport Conference on 9 July.

b) **Scrutiny of the Passenger Transport Authority**

(Minute No 2 (a) refers).

The PTA Scrutiny Committee had held its first meeting on 2 March and had agreed to meet on a bi-monthly cycle prior to the authority's meetings to enable

their views on key agenda items to be referred to the PTA, although they were not receive PTA papers in advance of PTA members receiving them.

A number of topics had been identified as possibilities for the work programme and officers were to prepare briefing notes on the feasibility of each with a view to the Scrutiny Committee undertaking an in-depth review of around one topic per year. Reports produced as a result of these reviews would be presented to the full Authority.

c) **LTP Settlement 2004/5**

(Minute No 5 refers)

The Joint Lead Transport members away day on 6 February had received a report on Demand Management and a way forward had been agreed.

d) **Financial Strategy 2004/5 – 2006/7**

(Minute No 7 refers)

Reference was made to the cleaning of metro stations and members were advised that the specification had been upgraded and the increased budget allocation would allow for the doubling of graffiti squads. The Director General agreed to consider a member' suggestion for a publicity campaign focussing on the removal of litter at metro stations.

18. **CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME FOR 2004/5**

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

The Director General said that the deal negotiated with the bus operators, enabled the promotion of concessionary fare facilities. The concessionary rover ticket priced at £1.80 allowed unlimited travel after 9.00 am on the day of purchase on all public transport services.

Members welcomed the report. In response to a query, members were advised that the proposed new fixed payment to operators would mean a saving for Nexus and enhanced budgetary control. Part of the payment had been linked to bus mileage so that there was an incentive for operators to keep mileage up. B Garner explained that a figure of 5% had been included in to give operators some scope to modify services.

A member welcomed the fact that school passes would now be processed by post. She hoped that the new scheme would also benefit public transport in outlying areas. It was expected that there would be a significant increase in the use of concessionary travel scheme. The progress of the scheme would be monitored and would assist the authority to meet its targets, particularly in terms of social inclusion.

The Chairman suggested a review of the scheme in 6 months time.

RESOLVED – That

- i) approval be given to the changes to the Concessionary Travel Scheme as outlined in the report, which aimed to improve the quality of service to pass holders.
- ii) the introduction of a Central Bureau for Concessionary Travel Administration be noted.

19. **SOCIAL INCLUSION PILOT PROJECT**

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

The Chairman welcomed the report and made particular reference to the individual options being explored with the five district authorities. He suggested that members of the authority could get involved in the activities in their own district. B Garner was to arrange individual briefings with the district councils. It was important in this context to take on board the role of the Transport Advisory Committees and to ask officers from District Councils to consult with PTA members so they both were aware of what was happening.

RESOLVED – That progress being made in developing the proposed pilot projects, be noted.

20. **STATUTORY GUIDANCE AND BEST VALUE FOR PTA**

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

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

21. **PTA SCRUTINY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 2004/5 BUDGET**

Submitted: Joint Report of the Treasurer and the Deputy Clerk to the PTA (copies attached to Official Minutes).

The Chair suggested that there be some training for members of the new Scrutiny Advisory Committee.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the establishment of a revenue budget of £6,380 for the financial year 2004/05 to meet the expenses of the Scrutiny Advisory Committee.

22. **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY 2004**

Submitted: Report of the Clerk to the Authority (copies attached to Official Minutes).

RESOLVED – That:

- i) the annual meeting of the Authority be moved to 15 July 2004;
- ii) the May meeting of the Authority be held on Thursday 6 May 2004.

23. **RATE OF INCREASE OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2004/5**

Submitted: Report of the Clerk to Passenger Transport Authority (copies attached to Official Minutes).

The Head of Democratic Services introduced the report which set out recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as to the rate of increase of the authority's members allowances for 2004/5. The recommended allowance increase was in line with budget provision. Should there be any significant changes to members responsibilities during the year for example new Committees then the allowances could be looked at again. The Chairman reiterated his intention only to take 1% increase.

RESOLVED – That the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations concerning the level of increase in members allowances be approved and a new scheme be made accordingly and the existing scheme be revoked.

24. **PTA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/4 – THIRD QUARTERLY REVIEW**

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

A member queried where in the Capital Programme the improvements to Felling metro station were. K McKay explained that this was a review of the 2003/4 programme. The work on Felling metro station was in the approved programme for 2004/5.

In response to a members query S Atkinson explained that some funds were time limited and other schemes for example some of the LTP schemes money could be spent over 2 years. However the programme would be managed so that there was no loss of resources at the end of March although there may be some money slipping into next year.

RESOLVED – That

- i) the revised Capital Programme of £24.118m as identified in Appendix A to the report be approved and
- ii) changes to the Capital Programme as identified in Appendix 'B' to the report be endorsed.

25. **NEW TYNE CROSSING UPDATE**

Submitted: A report of the Project Director (copies attached to Official Minutes).

P Fenwick introduced the report which gave details on progress with the New Tyne Crossing. He made particular reference to the proposed Open Day to be held on 1 April in the Civic Centre. It was expected that a shortlist would be submitted to the July meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED – That

- i) the contract notice published in the Official Journal of the European Union as detailed in paragraph 5 be noted; and
- ii) the prospective bidders Open Day to be held in the Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne on 1 April 2005 as detailed in paragraph 5 the report be noted.

26. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds indicated.

Business

**Paragraph of
Schedule 12A to the
Local Government Act 1972**

Membership of the Nexus Board

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