

<b>Board</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> December 2012</b>	<b>Location:</b> Vale of Glamorgan Council Chambers, Civic Offices, Barry.

**Part one**

**1. Exemption Certificate**

- 1.1 Councillor A Morgan (Chair) read the recommendation which is: That pursuant to the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**Members agreed the recommendation.**

**2. Regional Collaboration**

- 2.1 JD said that the object of this item is to provide Members with an update on the work programme with the Welsh Government and the WLGA on the Simpsons Compact, and the broader collaboration agenda.

**Councillor Andrew Morgan left the meeting. Councillor Phil White took the Chair.**

**Part Two**

**3. Sewta Metro Plus Programme – Regional Development Transport Review**

- 3.1 CCI said that in March 2012, the Board approved a report on the Sewta Metro Plus proposition, which incorporated key principles. Since that time, officers have engaged consultants to review the regional needs and priorities for Sewta to develop that concept further. Welsh Government has issued a public statement, and Sewta are now in the process with the Welsh Government of establishing the arrangements for the task force board with wide representation. This task force board is due to meet week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012. However, there are very challenging timescales for outputs to be produced, although it is anticipated that a presentation on the outputs, along with an update on the work that the task force board is addressing, will be given at the next Member/Officers Workshop due to be held in January 2013.

- 3.3 **It was agreed that the Board support the setting up of the Task Force and working in partnership with the Welsh Government to develop recommendations for an integrated transport system in South East Wales by early 2013.**

#### **4. Minutes of Board meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> 2012 September and matters arising**

- 4.1 The Minutes for the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012 were agreed.
- 4.2 MB drew attention to para 1.2 referring to the M4 Corridor Enhancement Measures Programme, and the Ebbw Valley railway line, saying that we have now received a letter from the Ministers office saying that until the consultation exercise on the M4 Corridor Enhancement Measures Programme has concluded, it would be inappropriate to meet. After the consultation period has ended, his officials will be in contact with us to set up a meeting.
- 4.3 Councillor G Howard referred to 11.3 and requested that the consultation period be extended on the Severn Tunnel Junction proposals. MB responded that the Local Authority has the lead on this, and therefore it is within their control to extend the deadline.

#### **5. Strategic Programme for Change**

- 5.1 JD referred to 2.9 and the 'High Level Review of Transport and Highway Services' in the report saying, that this document has now been published and is on the Welsh Local Government Authority (WLGA) website. Also there was a proposal that the 'Strategic Programme for Change' report to come to this board at its next meeting. It is anticipated that this document will be issued some time before the end of December 2012.
- 5.2 **The Board noted the report.**

#### **6. Bus Funding Review**

- 6.1 CN said that 2.2 in the report summarises where we were in September. The recommendations within that report were accepted by the Minister, and on 29<sup>th</sup> October '12 he wrote to the leaders of all twenty two Local Authorities in Wales, thanking those officers who had been involved for their contribution, and confirming that the new arrangements with the new budget would commence in April 2013. In addition the Minister also confirmed that he recognises the enormous amount of work to be undertaken between now and the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 and will make funding available to help the consortia take this work forward.
- 6.2 Substantial work needs to be undertaken to ensure that the consortia, Local Authorities and operators are ready to operate the new system by 1 April 2013. A Sewta Bus Funding Project Board, involving Local Authority Officers and representatives of Confederation of Passenger Transport (for bus operators) has been set up, and is developing plans for managing and resourcing these new responsibilities. However, we are still waiting for the Equality Impact Assessment to be issued, because there will no doubt be some cuts in services, and there could be challenges to Local Authorities. It is therefore important to have the Equality Impact Assessment to adapt for our own purposes.
- 6.3 Councillor G John commented that he believes that with all the cuts being made to bus funding, the rural communities in particular will suffer, and the Minister does not appear to have taken this into account. CN responded that in England and Scotland where similar cuts were made, the Governments in those two parts of the United Kingdom provided additional transitional funding to enhance bus services. In Wales no such funding has been provided.

- 6.4 Councillor R Cook drew the Board's attention to a paper that was submitted on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012 to the South East Wales Regional Partnership Board. In the paper called Highways and Transportation Services Collaboration Update, it states in 6.4 that *'during the transition year 2013/14, RTC's together with their partners will prepare regional bus and community transport network strategies, providing an overview of existing bus and community bus and networks for both commercial and supported services, together with the objectives and priorities for the network. This will then inform funding allocations towards services across the region'*. This is a clear statement which suggests how we are going to progress beyond that transitional year of the funding allocation, which is absolutely vital. JD responded that in 2.2 within the report the second bullet point specifically mentions that strategy, adding that the Sewta Board will be the owners of that strategy.. MB said that at the next Member Officers workshop in January, the Bus Funding Review will feature prominently.

**The Board agreed**

- **To note the report;**
- **To support continued engagement with the Welsh Government;**
- **To endorse the key tasks and proposed approach for the Project Board; That a further report be submitted to the next Sewta Board.**

**7. RTP Five Year Programme 2012/13 & 2013/14**

- 7.1 RW referred to the report saying that the status at the end of October is that progress on spend is at 40.4%, though there is no room for complacency because we are behind on our funding profile.

- 7.2 It was noted that Councillor A Morgan had earlier stressed to Members the importance of meeting deadlines. .It was noted that more frequent updates would need to be given to Members in the coming financial year.

MB said that we received an email on 5<sup>th</sup> December from Welsh Government indicating that the Minister has identified an additional £300k this financial year to be spent solely on the introduction or extension of the 20mph zones in communities first areas. The guidance for bidding was that there were no more than three per consortia and no more than one bid per Local Authority with a deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012. Sewta's Road Safety Working Group had put in three bids within the region.

- 7.3 **The Board agreed the following recommendations:  
That the progress in this year's funding programmes, and the approach to those for the coming year, as set out in this report, be noted and endorsed.**

**8. South East Wales Sustainable Transport and Tourism Study**

- 8.1 CCI referred to this report saying that it reviews the existing policies and strategies and looks at best practice and recommendations. There is an action plan within the report which involves a number of organisations. At this stage we need to consider in more detail where Sewta can take these good practices and recommendations forward.

**8.2 The Board**

- **notes the report;**

- **supports continued engagement with Capital Region Tourism.**

## **9. Business Plan 2013/14**

9.1 MB said that attached to the report are extracts from the Business Plan, which thoroughly review the issues for the year ahead, though the section on Finance is missing because we have not yet received formal notice of budgets for the year ahead.

9.2 One of the issues that we do address each year is how we will resource and procure our Central Support Unit. This Year there is an opportunity to review how the process is undertaken and we have been looking at the options. We are given to understand that Local Authority accommodation will become available and as a result, a case for continuing to procure the provision of our central support staff through a consultancy will diminish. There is now a need to give our current host Capita Symonds formal notice.

9.3 **The Board agreed:**

**To endorse the extracts from the draft business plan attached with the report, for further development and consultation.**

**That officers, in consultation with the Sewta lead administrative authority, be authorised to serve notice on the current Central Support Unit host, and to take such actions as required arising from doing so.**

## **10. Sewta Corporate Budget 2012-13 Half Year Report**

10.1 SJ said that this report is to inform the Board of the current position of the Sewta corporate budget 2012-13. Current expectations are that we will achieve a full spend at the end of this financial year.

10.2 **The Board endorsed the report.**

## **11. Partner Updates**

11.1 Sustrans  
**No report given.**

11.2 Passenger Focus  
**Members noted the report.**

11.3 Arriva Trains Wales (ATW)  
MV referred to the report, saying that they seem to be getting signalling problems which can cause delays, which are out of their control. Also, ATW have been given an award for people development.

**Members noted the report.**

11.4 First Great Western (FGW)  
JP said that he would like to highlight an advance warning of disruption over the Easter period at Reading station.

**Members noted the report.**

- 11.5 Bus Users UK  
ME said that the three new bus compliance officers, have now settled in and are doing very well. There is concern that the smaller bus operators are not going to be incentivised to get newer vehicles with the future cuts, so Bus Users UK will watch this with interest.

**Members noted the report.**

- 11.6 Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) Wales  
**Members noted the report.**

## 12. Consultation Reports

- 12.1 National Assembly for Wales – Enterprise and Business Committee Inquiry into Integrated Public Transport  
MB said that we have been invited to submit our evidence toward the end of January.

- 12.2 M4 Corridor Enhancement Measures Programme – Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Study and Assessment  
A response is included in the papers.

- 12.3 Network Rail – Network RUS: Alternative Solutions Draft for Consultation  
A response is included in the papers.

- 12.4 Welsh Government Draft Road Safety Delivery Plan  
MB said that there is a draft response included in the papers, however we did receive some late comments, which we were able to encompass within the document prior to the submission deadline.

- 12.5 **The consultation responses were endorsed by the Board.**

## 13. Date of next Board Meetings

- 13.1
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – Hosted by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
  - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013 – Hosted by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

<b>Meeting attended by:</b>	
Councillor H Trollope	Blaenau Gwent
Councillor D White	Blaenau Gwent
Councillor P White	Bridgend (Vice Chair)
Councillor M Gregory	Bridgend
Councillor D Carter	Caerphilly
Councillor T Williams	Caerphilly
Councillor Ralph Cook	Cardiff
Councillor Gretta Marshall	Cardiff
Councillor David Jones	Merthyr Tydfil

Councillor Tom Lewis		Merthyr Tydfil
Councillor Giles Howard		Monmouthshire
Councillor K Critchley		Newport
Councillor John Richards		Newport
Councillor Andrew Morgan		Rhondda Cynon Taf (Chair)
Councillor J Cunningham		Torfaen
Councillor Richard Clark		Torfaen
Councillor G John		Vale of Glamorgan
Councillor L Burnett		Vale of Glamorgan
Alun Evans	AE	Blaenau Gwent
John Duddridge	JD	Bridgend
Chris Howell	CH	Bridgend
Clive Campbell	CCI	Caerphilly
Paul Carter	PCa	Cardiff
Tara King	TK	Cardiff
Jeremy Morgan	JM	Merthyr Tydfil
Richard Cope	RC	Monmouthshire
Mark Youngman	MY	Monmouthshire
Andrew Morris	AM	Newport
Roger Waters	RW	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Nigel Brinn	NB	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Charlie Nelson	CN	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Stephen Jarrett	SJ	Torfaen
Emma Reed	ER	Vale of Glamorgan
Robert Thomas	RT	Vale of Glamorgan
Michael Vaughan	MV	Arriva Trains Wales
Margaret Everson	ME	Bus Users UK
John Pockett	JP	Confederation of Passenger Transport and First Great Western
Peter Curtis	PCu	Giraffe Communications
Martin Buckle	MB	Sewta
Sian Isgrove (minutes)	SI	Sewta
Christian Schmidt	CS	Sewta
<b>Apologies received from:</b>		
Councillor B Jones		Monmouthshire
Councillor B Wellington		Torfaen