

## Note of Meeting

### Regeneration and Transport Board

19 November 2008, Local Government House, Smith Square, London

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#### Present:-

<b>Chairman:</b>	<i>Cllr David Sparks (Labour) (Dudley MDC)</i>
<b>Deputy Chair(s):</b>	<i>Cllr Richard Knowles (Lib Dem) (Oldham MDC)</i>
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	<i>Jim Harker (Cons) (Northamptonshire CC)</i>
<b>Conservative:</b>	<i>Cllr Shona Johnstone (Cambridgeshire CC)</i> <i>Ricky Bower (Arun DC)</i>
<b>Labour:</b>	<i>Cllr Tony Page (Reading Council)</i> <i>Cllr Mark Dowd (Merseyside PTA)</i> <i>Cllr Roy Davis (Luton)</i>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	<i>Cllr Heather Kidd (South Shropshire DC)</i> <i>Cllr Sylvia Dunkley (Sheffield City)</i>
<b>Substitutes:</b>	<i>Srajul Islam (Tower Hamlets LB)</i>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<i>Prof John Whitelegg (Ind) (Lancaster City), Cllr Andrew Carter (Cons) (Leeds City Council), Cllr Peter Jackson (Cons) (Castle Morpeth DC)</i>

*The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced Mr Kelvin Reynolds (Director of Technical Services & Head of Safer Parking Scheme at the British Parking Association).*

#### **Item 1 - Presentation from BPA**

*Kelvin Reynolds gave a presentation to members introducing the work of the British Parking Association. He introduced several schemes and informed the Board that it would be useful for the BPA and local authorities to engage with each other to ensure best practice and benefits to the public. Members raised several concerns including issues surrounding hospital parking, clamping and traffic signage.*

#### **Decisions**

- *Members noted the presentation*
- *Members responded positively to the suggestion that the LGA and BPA should work more closely together in order to lobby central Government*

#### **Actions**

- *BPA and Officers to work together in order to provide a draft directive regarding SPARKS*
- *Officers to collaborate with BPA and provide information on research into the cost to retail of parking restrictions.*

#### **Item 2 - Concessionary Fares**

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*Caroline Green updated members on concessionary fares. She explained the complexities involved in addressing Special Grants issues, such as unfair distribution and problems in serving rural areas. Members discussed ways of addressing these, including looking at impact on local authority budgets. Further issues included introducing the benefits of evidence-based funding, payment of interim support and basing the scheme on return journeys.*

## **Decisions**

- *Members noted the report*

## **Actions**

- *The Chair to meet and raise issues with Paul Clark MP at the earliest opportunity*
- *The Chair to write to key people at all councils requesting figures for 2006 – 2008, as well as information on the financial impact of concessionary fares on local authority budgets.*
- *The LGA to collect data and convene a meeting open to all councils in order to agree a lobbying strategy.*

## **Item 3 - Oral Feedback Reports from Members**

*Members noted the Outside Bodies information (Item 7) and discussed the issues and progress. Concerns were raised regarding lack of information on the 2012 Games, with particular concerns surrounding the local transport infrastructure. The Chair updated the Board on European structural funding and notified members that it was due to end soon. The remit of the Channel Tunnel Initiative (CTI) was discussed. Many felt that the title should be changed to reflect the importance of the wider high speed rail agenda. It was suggested the group be known as 'High-speed Links'. Cllr David Sparks agreed to raise this with the Chair of the CTI, and to request a report for the next meeting.*

*Tony Page informed members that the LGA were no longer invited to membership of Network Rail.*

## **Decisions**

- *Members suggested another conference on changes to European structural funding would be useful.*

## **Actions**

- *Officers to provide members with updates on the 2012 Games and local transport*
- *Officers to request a presentation and report from the Chair of the Channel Tunnel Initiative for the next meeting*
- *Officers to remove Network Rail from Outside Bodies list, but invite them to give a presentation at the January meeting*

## **Item 4 - Board Update Paper**

*Ian Keating updated members on the government's response to the SNR consultation informing them that the outcome would be available after Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November.*

*Members were given two recently published booklets and Ian informed them of their content;*

1. *'From Recession to Recovery: the local dimension'* and
2. *'Global Slowdown: local solutions'*

*Members were asked to consider how their own local authority was dealing with the downturn and invited to submit case studies for inclusion in further publication. Concerns raised included*

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*discomfort at some of the references used, and members stated that it was vital for messages to be correctly conveyed, particularly where local examples were used as illustrations. The Chair advised members to convey any dissatisfaction via a detailed email to the LGA. It was agreed that RDA's funding allocation and the accessibility of available money needed to be addressed. The risks to the supply of affordable housing were discussed and it was agreed that the Government should be encouraged to intervene.*

*Caroline Green gave an update on progress with public transport issues. Points raised by the LGA on clauses within the Local Transport Bill had led to a request for clarification on amendments, and a response should be available soon. Discussion progressed to the lack of funding available to support local transport infrastructure projects, and Caroline notified members of a forthcoming conference on 1<sup>st</sup> December to look at this with the aim of providing a practical guide for councils to develop new funding mechanisms.*

## **Decisions**

- *Members noted the reports*

## **Actions**

- *Officers to relay concerns regarding written messages and use of named cities*
- *Officers to circulate a summary of the Local Transport Bill's processes to members*
- *Update members of the likely date of publication of the report on TAS partnerships*

## **Item 5 - European Commissions Green Paper**

*This paper, submitted by John Dodd, (LGA in Brussels) updated members on issues surrounding the EU Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion. Consultation seminars with stakeholder organisations were being held in Brussels in order to help inform the LGA's opinion. A draft response will be available at the next meeting.*

## **Decisions**

- *Members noted the paper.*

## **Action**

- *Secretariat to confirm the presence of an alerts facility on the LGA homepage for the work of the European and International Unit*

## **Item 6 – Note of previous meeting**

*The note of the previous meeting was **agreed**. There remains a clash with the date of the May 2009 meeting.*

## **Action**

- *Secretariat to look into moving the May meeting to the end of April/beginning of May and confirm the date with Board members before Christmas.*

## **Item 7 – Outside Bodies nominations**

*David Robertson is no longer a Board member, and Cllr Bower will therefore attend the Motorists Forum for the Board.*

## **Actions**

- *Secretariat to confirm new nominations, finalise and circulate the list to members.*