



## Board

## Minutes

18<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Location: Assembly Hall, Civic Centre, Newport

### 1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillors, Malcolm Parker, Tony Rogers and John Spanswick, also John Gould, John Duddridge and Brian Kemp.

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting.

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were accepted as a true record.

### 3. Presentation – Join the Movement. Lee Waters, Sustrans

3.1 LW provided an interesting and informative presentation on the work of Sustrans.

3.2 Councillor Wilcox asked if disability awareness is taken into account when proposing cycle routes. LW answered that the disabled and people with young families (pushchair users) are taken into account, but there is a real problem with barriers used with shared space because most LA's use barriers to stop motorcycles using the access.

### 4. Constitutional Arrangements

4.1 AO'S said that the term of Chair and Vice Chair will be two years with effect from June 2009 and a report to this effect will be brought to the next meeting. The Chair thanked the members for their continued confidence in the Chair and Vice Chair.

### 5. Business Plan

5.1 AO'S said that the purpose of the business plan is to outline Sewta's strategy and goals for 2009/10. The plan emphasises the importance of this transitional year when actions to enable Sewta's new role post RTP must be put in place.

**The recommendations were that the Board approve the final draft business plan. Report was approved.**

### 6. Final Regional Transport Plan (RTP)

6.1 CS introduced the final Regional Transport Plan, which is now ready to send to Welsh Assembly Government for adoption. The five year programme will need further updating once the exact level of capital funding is known.

6.2 Councillor Ernest said that 7.2.6 of the RTP report touches on integrated transport systems and signage. The signage close to the LA's boundaries on lesser roads are not particularly well signed for visitors visiting the area, which should be a key point. Councillor Ernest would like better cross border co-operation to ensure that

there is a common conformities for signage between the LA's.

CS commented that Councillor Ernest's comments would be forwarded to the Highways Working Group. **It was agreed that the text would be revised to take account of Cllr Ernest's point.**

**Recommendations are that the Board approve the Regional Transport Plan. Report was approved.**  
**subject to the amendment referred to in paragraph 6.2 above**

**7. Corporate Budget 2009/10 and Future Funding and Approval of Audited Statement of Accounts 2008/09**

**7.1 Corporate Budget 2009/10 & Future Funding**

Out-turn and Projections - Quarter 1, expenditure of £123,155 against an annual budget of £757,165. Indications are that SEWTA will fully utilise the £672,000 grant provided by WAG during the financial year.

Capital Funding - An application was made to WAG for capital grant to commence preparatory work on RTP projects. It was indicated by WAG an overall sum of £1.6 million was available across Wales. WAG have approved a grant of £400,000 to SEWTA, to be spent on a range of approved projects by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. It will not be possible to carry over unspent money to the following year.

Future Funding – There should be more information available after the WAG/WLGA/Consortia meeting which is due to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009. This will discuss a number of topics including :-

- Level of capital funding for 2010/11
- Level of revenue funding for 2010/11 and forward to 2013
- Any re-phasing of expenditure on Legacy Schemes
- The management of under/over spends & possible 3 year rolling budgets.
- Governance arrangements, including timings/methods of funding.

**Recommendations are that the Board note the contents of the report. Report was noted.**

**7.2 Approval of the Audited Statement of Accounts**

There are no changes to the bottom line figures but some minor changes to the presentation of the accounts have been made. Subsequent to the Board Meeting on 26 June 2009 the Wales Audit Office have been undertaking the statutory audit. The audit is due to be completed in the next 1 to 2 weeks.

**Recommendations are that:**

- 1. The Board are asked to authorise the Chair to approve the South East Wales Transport Alliance Joint Committee, Statement of Accounts 2008/09, provided that:**

- a. the audit doesn't uncover significant errors which effect the**

- bottom line (if it does a special meeting will be needed);**  
**b. that this Board approves this course of action,**  
**c. and that the final Statement of Accounts is taken to the 18 December 2009 meeting.**

**2. That the Chair evidences the Board's approval by signing the document in the appropriate place(s).**

**Recommendations were agreed.**

**8. Programme Management Progress Report**

- 8.1 MB referred to the report saying that in developing the 5 Year Programme, there is a need for flexibility in ensuring that committed schemes, that are receiving a funding contribution from external sources, are able to call upon RTP funding if needed, so that individual LA's are not exposed to risks as a result of relying on external funding.
- 8.2 MB referred to the Rail Park & Ride package for Abercynon, Bargoed, Pengam and Rhymney and in particular to the Bargoed scheme which is under construction, and due to open in early November. MB congratulated Caerphilly County Borough Council for the commitment shown to this scheme which will be the first transport scheme making use of the Convergence Funding to be completed. Also the funding application for the cycle network, submitted by Sustrans with the support of Sewta, SWWITCH and all the LA's within the convergence zone, has now been approved. This project which totals approximately £15m has been funded through the convergence and other sources.
- 8.3 Councillor Gough referred to 4.4 of the report (Rhymney Line frequency enhancements & Energlyn Station) and asked about the match funding as the report states that recent progress in preparing Network Rail's Cardiff Area Signalling Renewal (CASR) Scheme, has required a review of the costs and phasing of this package. He asked, will this have an impact on securing the match funding? MB responded that subject to the report, due back to Sewta in a few weeks, expectations are that the overall funding package that has been identified as necessary, may now be sufficient.
- 8.4 Councillor Teesdale stressed the urgency of progressing the Maesteg Scheme and enquired what the factors are in delaying the submission of the scheme to WEFO for convergence funding.  
MB responded that Network Rail (NR) are undertaking some further work reviewing the location of the passing loop and timetabling issues. He also said he understood that NR are due to report back imminently and it should then be possible to quickly submit a business case to WEFO.

**Recommendations proposed are that section 2 of the report, relating to schemes receiving funding from sources other than the RTP pot, be agreed and that the contents of section 4 of this report be accepted as the basis for the developing programme of Sewta's Structural Funds applications. Report was accepted.**

**9. Updates from Partners**

- 9.1 Arriva Trains Wales – MV referred to his report saying that for rail periods 1001, 1002, 1003 and 1004 (four weeks ending 25 July 2009), Public Performance Measure (PPM) figures were recorded as 95.5% (93.7%), 95.6% (92.9%), 93.9% (92.1%) and 95.0% (92.9%) respectively, the figures shown in brackets are the PPM figures for the corresponding periods of year 08/09.

He said that there were key challenges/risks ahead because it was necessary to drive up 'right-time' departures and ensure customers' connections are improved. There were also other challenges, which include improved management of engineering occupations, eradication of delay minutes caused by Freight Operating Companies (FOC) and Train Operating Companies (TOC) impacts, further improvements to the maintenance and availability of ATW fleets, as well as ensuring business continuity from the potential threats of the swine-flu pandemic.

Also, on 11<sup>th</sup> July the newly built South Wales Control Centre in Cardiff went live for both (ATW) and Network Rail Control Operations Staff. The transfer went smoothly with no impact to train services. In time, the new signalling centre will also be housed in the same building.

Ticket vending machines have been procured for Ebbw Valley Railway Line. Three have been installed and are up and running with another three due to come into service over the next few weeks. He also confirmed the line was close to the 1millionth passenger travelling on the Ebbw Valley Line.

Councillor Wilcox asked what the programme is for helping the disabled with platform zero?

MV responded there are problems with the planning process but that it will happen, in time.

Councillor Ernest said that at Cardiff Central station when passengers are changing trains, there is no signage in the subway telling passengers which platform they need to go to. Could Arriva either put electronic or paper copies of timetables out in the subway.

MV answered that they do plan to put an electronic timetable in the subway, but he would take Councillor Ernest's question back to Arriva.

AO'S remarked that 1 million passengers using the Ebbw Valley Line was an enormous success and should be published as such. He suggested that the Rail working group and WAG should organise something, with a WAG official to attend to publicise and celebrate this achievement.

- 9.2 Bus Users UK – ME said that they have a bus surgery in Newbridge scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009. She also confirmed that a Traws Cambria Network Manager meeting took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009. ME explained that the Smart card is being launched today, which has received some interest from the BBC.

- 9.3 Confederation of Passenger Transport – JPo referred to the funding review and wished to thank the LA's and Sewta for the support shown on this topic. He also commented on the lack of prominence given to the bus industry in the National Transport Plan and particularly the coach industry which was a welcome contributor to the Welsh economy. JPo suggested that as an employer and contributor to the

Welsh economy it may be useful to have a future presentation from the coach industry.

Councillor Bowen said he would like to support JPo's suggestion for a presentation from the coach industry. Members also agreed.

- 9.4 First Great Western (FGW) - JPo presented the report. The figures for recent periods are as follow:

PPM		MAA	
11/04	92.65 (91.92)	91.70	(91.13)
11/05	92.29 (91.99)	91.83	(91.26)

Performance figures show a sustained improvement in performance across the network.

- 9.5 Network Rail Restructuring. There were no questions asked about this report.

- 9.6 Passenger Focus (PF) – SP referred to his report saying that the latest National Passenger Survey (NPS), was released. In the survey, Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) recorded an overall satisfaction of 87%, up 4% on a year ago, while First Great Western (FGW) improved 9% to 81%.

In the SEWTA region, overall satisfaction with rail journeys (all train companies) was 86%, which was 1% lower than the score for Wales as a whole. The highest scores in the SEWTA region were for journey time (89%); how requests to station staff were handled (87%), train frequency (84%) and train punctuality/reliability (84%). The lowest scores were for station facilities/services (39%), how delays were dealt with (43%) and car parking (48%).

Areas where scores in the SEWTA region were above the Wales average included how requests to station staff were handled (87%, +2%), train frequency (84%, +12), and journey length (89%, +2), while areas where they were significantly below the average included car parking (48%, -6) and train toilets (49%, -4).

SP explained that Passenger Focus (PF) has opposed new restrictions that First Great Western (FGW) is placing on its Off-Peak tickets for travel into London. On Sunday 6 September, (FGW) will replace its Off-Peak ticket with a new Super Off-Peak fare at the same price but with much tighter time restrictions.

He also stated that (PF) are currently undertaking a research project to better understand anti-social behaviour of the rail network. Surveys will be distributed across Britain, including approximately 2000 in Wales. Another two surveys will shortly be taking place, one on staffed v unstaffed stations and the other survey is in relation to disruption management. This second survey focuses on how train companies manage situations when passengers are disruptive on trains.

- 9.7 Sustrans - LW said that all aspects were covered in his presentation.

## 10. Consultation Responses

- 10.1 For information purposes only.

## 11. Ministerial Advisory Group Report (Notes)

- 11.1 AO'S said that there had been a Ministerial Advisory Group meeting with WAG which RM will update on behalf of John Duddridge (Policy Chair). RM said that the

group made 53 recommendations to WAG of which 43 were accepted, 7 are to be considered and 3 were rejected.

He explained that the key issues identified by the advisory group which affects Sewta are highway capacity and congestion with a need to address pinch points on strategic networks in urban areas, particularly during peak volumes in Cardiff and Newport. He also said that they wanted to reduce the vulnerability of the M4 and reduce rail times for south Wales to London/Heathrow by electrification. They also concluded that the need for carbon reduction with improvement in technology by utilising modal shifts was a for gone conclusion and also wished to see more effective use of existing spending. He also reported that they have a belief that support of public transport for social reasons is becoming unaffordable. [This was rejected]. The group also considered there was an over complex organisational structure, in particular the Regional Transport Consortia represents an unnecessary tier in the structure with neither the skills nor resources to deliver. They also believed there is a lack of skills in transport planning at central, regional and local level. However WAG have appointed consultants to review the new transport planning and delivery arrangements to ensure they are efficient and effective. As part of this review WAG are undertaking skills mapping exercises for those involved in delivering transport agenda, for analysis of rolls and structures for the regional consortia.

- 11.2 RM went onto say that Sewta Directors met with WAG consultants in a very constructive meeting, high lighting the good work already achieved in the recent structural changes and promoting efficiency with the ability to deliver. It was stressed that even closer working arrangements with WAG would be welcomed.
- 11.3 Councillor Atwell raised his concerns about Item 2 Appendix 3 of the report and in particular the pinch point areas around Newport. He said that we have an ideal opportunity to upgrade the road that runs through the steel works, which would reduce congestion at peak periods. Councillor Atwell explained that there is significant work currently being undertaken to the area of the M4 around Newport, which will continue over the next 12 months. He believes that the cost of upgrading the steel works road would be minor. Councillor Atwell would like to see this issue addressed in the future.

## **12. RTP & National Transport Plan Consultation**

- 12.1 TS explained that an eight page National Transport Plan (NTP) was published by WAG on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009, with a deadline for response by 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009. He said that the NTP sets out WAG's proposal for the transport system, which sits alongside Sewta's RTP, with both plans adopting a balanced approach to the development of the transport network as well as aspects for economic growth, social inclusion and crime issues. The NTP contains 65 actions and interventions of which 9 do not relate to the RTP, of those that do there is good correlation, although there are a number of actions and proposals in the RTP that are not covered in the NTP.
- 12.2 Sewta has to respond to the NTP consultation report by 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009. It is proposed to respond to the report using the 10 bullet points contained within the report. These include sustainable towns, rail proposals, buses and ticketing and

highway schemes. Sewta members were asked if there are any other items for consideration.

- 12.3 The report is going to the Sewta Policy Group, who recommend that the response to the NTP consultation would be along the basis of the report, and that it is also recommended the Sewta Chair and Vice Chair sign this off.

Chair asked if members recommended the report, in particular where Sewta are seeking inclusion and commitment in line with what has been discussed and agreed.

**The report was agreed.**

**13. Date of next meeting.**

- 13.1 The proposed date for the next meeting of the Board would be at 10.30 am on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009 hosted by Rhonda Cynon Taf at The Pavillion, Clydach Vale.

<b>Meeting attended by:</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Councillor J. James		Vale of Glamorgan (Chair)
Councillor D. Wilcox		Blaenau Gwent
Councillor C. Teesdale		Bridgend
Councillor R Gough		Caerphilly
Councillor D. Bowen		Cardiff
Councillor R. Hayward		Monmouthshire
Councillor A. Morgan		Rhondda-Cynon-Taf (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D. Atwell		Newport
Councillor R. Clarke		Torfaen
Councillor J. Cunningham		Torfaen
Councillor A. Ernest		Vale of Glamorgan
Michael Vaughan	MV	Arriva Trains Wales
Margaret Everson	PH	Bus Users UK
John Pockett	JPo	Confederation of Passenger Transport and First Great Western
Simon Pickering	SP	Passenger Focus
Lee Waters	LW	Sustrans
Ryland Jones	RJ	Sustrans
Alun Evans	AE	Blaenau Gwent
Richard Metford	RM	Bridgend
Anthony O'Sullivan	AO'S	Caerphilly
Terry Shaw	TS	Caerphilly
Paul Carter	PC	Cardiff
Dave House	DH	Merthyr Tydfil
Paul Keeble	PK	Monmouthshire
Brian Jones	BJ	Monmouthshire
Alan Slade	AS	Newport
Roger Waters	RW	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Ian Colbourne	IC	Torfaen

Clare Cameron	CC	Vale of Glamorgan
Colin Eades	CE	Sewta Secretariat
Martin Buckle	MB	Programme Manager
Christian Schmidt	CS	Planning Manager
Peter Curtis	PC	Giraffe Communications
Sian Isgrove	SI	Sewta Administrative Co-ordinator

**Apologies received from:**

Councillor J. Spanswick	Bridgend
John Duddridge	Bridgend
Councillor M. Parker	Caerphilly
Councillor M Stevens	Caerphilly
Councillor D. Bowen	Cardiff
Councillor T Rogers	Merthyr Tydfil
Councillor J. Amos	Merthyr Tydfil
Brian Kemp	Newport
Councillor E. Townsend	Newport
John Gould	Confederation of Passenger Transport
Chris Aldridge	Network Rail
SI 21 Sept 2009	