



Board	Minutes
11th February 2011	Location: Council Chambers, Vale of Glamorgan

1. **Minutes of previous meeting and any matters arising from the Board meeting of 24th September 2010.**
 - 1.1 The minutes of the 24th September 2010 were accepted as a true record with no matters arising.

2. **Sewta Corporate Budget Half Year Report.**

MB introduced the report, saying that it was prepared for the Sewta Board meeting in December 2010, and that some of the information contained within, may be a little out of date, but that a verbal update would be given in those instances. He continued that going back to last summer, when the board agreed the budget for the year it was provisional, because we had not received confirmation of the revenue grant allocation from Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), which has now been confirmed. In the report, the half year spend on the revenue budget was 45%, and on Capital Programme Management spend is 35% of the total allocation. The report indicates that budgets are being managed satisfactorily, with a view to ensuring that there is no risk of over spend.

MB then gave a verbal update, saying that for the third quarter figures, revenue spend is at 67% and the Capital Programme Management spend is at 61% of the total allocation. **The recommendation, that the Board endorses the report, was agreed.**

3. **Sewta Business Plan 2011/12**
 - 3.1 MB introduced this report saying that the Business Plan is a first working draft and that a final draft will be put to the Board in March. He drew attention to the latter part of the report, saying that there is a letter from WAG which captures the review of the transport planning, delivery and monitoring enquiry which has been undertaken by WAG, and which in particular reviews the role of the regional transport consortia. MB then added that at the regional level, Sewta is broadly in line with those conclusions, and therefore does not require major changes to the way in which we work. In 2011/12, Sewta will need to prepare its first RTP annual progress report. It is understood that WAG are looking at changes to the roles of the consortia in 2012/13, with the potential that we would take on a broader coordinating role in terms of funding streams. **The recommendation, that the Board agrees the draft Business Plan, was accepted.**

4. **Ebbw Valley Railway – Future Phases Study Consultation Feedback**
 - 4.1 MY said that the study looked at future phases including additional stations, and also the potential for a spur to Abertillery which could run a service to and from Cardiff. There has been much public interest in this report and it was given a broad level of support. The response back from the three local authorities also gave a broad level of support, but Newport Unlimited added that in the first instance the key

requirement would be to have the service to Newport, which is a scheme that WAG will take forward themselves. Following on from the consultation, it is proposed to further test the feasibility of the proposals in more detail. However, it is important to recognise that Sewta will bring these schemes forward, but ultimately WAG will make the final decision if and when they will include them in the Wales Rail Forward Programme.

4.2 Councillor Parker sought WAG reassurance with regard to the convergence funding identified for major rail projects on the Rhymney, Ebbw Valley and the Maesteg lines? An expression of interest for the Rhymney line was lodged by Sewta with WEFO in December 2008. A detailed submission was subsequently developed by Sewta, which commissioned Jacobs to develop a full Business Plan for the scheme. However, it was agreed that WAG would implement the scheme, and therefore the Business Plan was transferred to WAG in June 2010. To date it appears that the Business Plan has yet to be submitted, and there is concern that the opportunity to claim the substantial convergence funding may be lost. Councillor Parker then asked that a statement is sought from WAG on the status of the convergence funding application for this scheme (passing loop at Tirphil and new station at Energlyn), and those for the Ebbw Vale line (Ebbw Vale new station and services to Newport) and the Maesteg line (frequency enhancements). Councillor Parker added that Sewta had completed these schemes within agreed time frames, but it seems that WAG has not given any feedback to date. Responsibility for the Maesteg and Ebbw Valley lines convergence funding applications was also transferred to WAG in the Summer of 2010. Councillor Parker also expressed concern whether WAG has the capacity to undertake this work. Councillor Morgan added that he understands that the delay is not with WEFO but with WAG itself, and therefore suggested that the Chairman Councillor James be asked to seek a meeting with the Minister to understand where these schemes are, and how to progress them.

4.3 **The recommendation, that resolutions 1-3 of the Board on 24th September 2010 be re-confirmed, was agreed, namely that:**

- **The report prepared by Capita Symonds be accepted as meeting the requirements specified in the brief for the study,**
- **Further work be commissioned to develop the detail of the proposals contained within the recommended option,**
- **Further sensitivity testing be undertaken around the analysis for the Cwm station option,**

It was also agreed that a meeting be sought with the Deputy First Minister to ascertain what the position is with regard to the Convergence Funding applications for the Rhymney, Ebbw Valley and the Maesteg lines.

5. **Planning/Policy Update**

5.1 JD introduced the report, giving an update on each of the Working Groups.
Integration – The Group has commissioned a study of standards of best practice for interchanges to ensure consistency across the region. It is also looking at opportunities to enhance walking & cycling access to interchanges.
Rail – Sewta has been active in promoting electrification to South Wales. The government decision was deferred, though it has been indicated that an announcement will be made in the near future. Sewta is carrying out a Rail Strategy Review to update and roll forward the document. Stakeholder workshops have been undertaken on enhancements to the Abergavenny and Chepstow lines and work is ongoing also to progress our plans relating to station enhancements.

Bus – The Group had a number of meetings with the Competition Commission Enquiry. Its report is awaited. Travelline Cymru has made a presentation referring to their journey planning and other current services. This may have an impact on how Sewta operates with regard to public service information and the group are assessing this.

Walking & Cycling – A number of benchmarking exercises are being undertaken, organised by Sustrans, to ensure we are using good specifications, standards and best practice.

Highways – A study is being undertaken to identify solutions to major highways issues. Workshops have then been held to analyse alternatives, and these have been rigorously evaluated, to establish clear priorities within the region. Councillor Morgan referred to a letter that was tabled with a view to sending it to the Minister concerning the Roads Maintenance Grant because there is a need for stability in Roads Maintenance Grant funding.

Monitoring – The group met with WAG, to indicate our aspirations and concerns related to the monitoring that is needed. A spreadsheet of needs is being developed. WAG will need to decide what monitoring they will undertake themselves, and what will be progressed by the consortia.

The Board agreed to note the report, and that a letter is sent from the Chair to the Deputy First Minister on the subject of roads maintenance funding.

6. Regional Transport Plan – Capital Programme 2010/11

- 6.1 MB introduced to the report, which provides a full overview on the status of the RTP capital programme. Appendix A to the report provides an update on the delivery schedule. Current projections show that Sewta authorities should achieve a full spend. Changes to the previous report are the inclusion of two schemes which had not previously been agreed by WAG for funding this year. These are the Barry Waterfront Park & Ride Scheme and the Tredegar Bus Station upgrade. Appendix B to the report provides an update on scheme progress. There has been a need to re-profile the funding for the A470 Bus Corridor Improvement scheme in Cardiff, and the expectation is that although this scheme will be largely undertaken this financial year, it will not be completed until next financial year. Councillor Morgan expressed concerns at reports of delays to progress on our capital spend programme, and asked that Members have a report on this issue. **The Board agreed to the recommendation that the progress made on the capital programme be endorsed.**

7. WLGA Transport Cabinet Members Event - Feedback

- 7.1 BK introduced the report saying that the Local Transport Services Grant has now been announced with a 2.8% reduction. This will allow for the continuation of many of our locally supported services, but what we don't know is the level of grant going direct as Bus Service Operator Grant. Also, he emphasised the implications of late announcements of grant funding, which leads to late preparation, late spend and then concerns that funding draw down is delayed. **The report was noted**

8. The Policing of Parades & Events

- 8.1 JD introduced the report, saying that this issue has been raised as a concern about changing attitudes of the police related to events on the highway. In the past, police have been very relaxed in policing events without a highway order being in place. That has started to change and the indication from the Police is that that they would not carry out these functions unless an official order is in place. That has raised

concerns because there is a cost implication with the introduction of orders. Councillor Morgan commented that there does seem to be a lack of consistency, and depending on who you speak to within the Police will depend on if they are willing to Police events. **The Board agreed to refer the matter to CSS Wales and the WLGA.**

9. Partner Updates

9.1 Sustrans

LW said that he would like to acknowledge the good Sewta work going on with Walking & Cycling, and that the RTP programme shows that Sewta are progressive on these issues. Also, WAG has announced a new project which is a significant innovation transport policy, which is Personalised Travel Planning and will be started in Cardiff. Where it has been trialled in England it has proved effective, simply by giving targeting information to change people's perceptions. Councillor Bowen added that he strongly supported this project, which is particularly beneficial for those with restricted mobility.

9.2 Passenger Focus

SP referred to his report and said that the overall satisfaction with ATW rail services is generally high with 87% and FGW 82% in the Sewta region. He continued that the cross country service will be stopping at Chepstow which is very good news. SP also informed the Board that it would be his last meeting in his current role, and that he would be leaving to take up a role within WAG. Councillor Morgan thanked SP for the role he has played in the work of the Board.

9.3 Arriva Trains Wales (ATW)

Members were asked to note the report.

9.4 First Great Western (FGW)

JP said that the bad weather has affected performance figures, but FGW did manage to keep an hourly service on during the worst of the weather. FGW continued to play a full roll in the preparation for major events. JP then said that with regard to rolling stock, because lots of decisions hang on electrification, he could not give an update until the decision has been announced. Councillor Jones remarked that Councillor Bob Hayward had asked about the rolling stock and the overcrowding between Newport and Bristol six months ago and to a degree JP had given a partial answer, but he said that he does have a list of trains that were coming into Severn Tunnel short, with two cars instead of four cars over several days in succession which were causing overcrowding, and which is still a serious problem on this route. JP suggested that a colleague from FGW should meet with Councillor Hayward and others from Monmouthshire CC to discuss the issue. Councillor Spanswick added that overcrowding has been an ongoing problem for a long period, particularly with the passenger numbers going up year on year. JP said that they have acquired all the rolling stock available, but the stock is not owned by FGW, and it is the decision of the Department for Transport where rolling stock goes. Councillor Spanswick added that the problem is that the system of rolling stock allocation appears chaotic.

9.5 Network Rail (NR)

No update was given for this meeting.

9.6 Bus Users UK

ME introduced the report, and added that interviews have taken place for the Public Transport Users Committee and a first meeting will take place in March. Councillor Ernest said that he found the All Wales Bus & Rail Map extremely useful but wondered how available the new maps will be to members of the public. ME responded that forty thousand were produced last year, and the same amount was planned to be produced this year. They would be issued to the Tourist Information Centres (TICs). Councillor Ernest remarked that the future of TICs are uncertain as an outlet as it is not a mandatory service, and asked if the group would be looking for other outlets. .

9.7 Confederation of Passenger Transport Wales

Passenger numbers have been affected because of the bad weather, and talks are at an advanced stage for concessionary fares to agree the budget which will bring certainty over a number of years. JP added that he is hopeful that conclusions will be made within the next week. Councillor Ernest asked about the availability of the IFF card, and also the mechanism for topping the card up, especially outside Cardiff. JP answered that he will make enquiries and report back.

10. **Consultation Responses**

10.1 For information purposes only.

10.2 Councillor Ernest said that Cardiff suffered particularly badly during December 2010 with the bad weather. A meeting was undertaken at Cardiff about the bad weather, and a discussion will now be undertaken with Sewta, LA's and neighbouring Authorities to explore the feasibility of existing, mutual aid arrangements being expanded to include plant and labour.

11. **Notes and Matters Arising from the Inquorate 17th December 2010 Meeting**

11.1 Members agreed the notes.

12. **Regional Transport Plan – Delivery Plan 2010/11**

12.1 EH said that the report seeks approval of the Draft 2011/12 Capital Programme, and also seeks delegated authority to officers, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to finalise Sewta's 2011/12 delivery plan. It is only recently that Sewta has received the draft delivery plan guidance from WAG, who have indicated that Sewta is likely to receive £8.14 million capital funding which is a reduction of 11%, and £150,000 for revenue funding. Sewta has submitted a draft Capital Programme to WAG, as a "no status" draft. This year the report notes that the consortia are also required to include proposals for additional areas which were previously with authorities. The main area is Road Safety, and this year Sewta has to put a programme together for delivery of that grant, with a value of £3.166million. Also the delivery programme needs to include the Cardiff Sustainable Travel City grant, and also the Travel Planning grant which remains at £80,000 for this coming financial year. The final delivery plan is to be submitted to WAG by 28th February. Sewta has provided basic information to WAG, but they are asking for additional detail and delivery information for many of the projects. MB said that the 11% reduction to the Capital Programme will have implications for allocating funding to new schemes, because the Capital Programme includes to a large extent the continuation and completion of schemes which commenced in 2010/11. It was noted that the £3.166 million represents a 28% reduction on Road Safety funding.

12.2 Councillor Spanswick asked why, when we are a working partnership with WAG, do they not attend these meetings. MB responded that WAG have a standing invitation

to these meetings and do receive all of the papers. **It was agreed that this issue would be taken up with WAG.**

Councillor David added concerns at the 28% cut to Road Safety Grants, because members receive regular complaints about road safety issues in their wards, and if we are to try to encourage a modal shift to walking and cycling, then we need to feel safe about our transport networks. MB responded that the requirement for Sewta to co-ordinate the regional programme is a very new one, and it is important that we have a strategic framework in which to do that. Councillor Morgan added concerns that authorities will have a limited amount of say on where the funding will go, which takes away the local flexibility, and it needs to be closely monitored.

Meeting attended by:		
Councillor Huw David	HD	Bridgend
Councillor John Spanswick	JS	Bridgend
Councillor Malcolm Parker	MP	Caerphilly
Councillor Delme Bowen	DB	Cardiff
Councillor Richard Thomas	RT	Merthyr Tydfil
Councillor Bryan Jones	BJ	Monmouthshire
Councillor R Hayward	RH	Monmouthshire
Councillor Andrew Morgan	AM	Rhondda Cynon Taf (Vice Chair)
Councillor Richard Clarke	RC	Torfaen
Councillor John Cunningham	JC	Torfaen
Councillor Anthony Ernest	AE	Vale of Glamorgan
Margaret Everson	ME	Bus Users UK
John Pockett	JP	Confederation of Passenger Transport and First Great Western
Simon Pickering	SP	Passenger Focus
Lee Waters	LW	Sustrans
John Duddridge	JD	Bridgend
Richard Metford	RM	Bridgend
Terry Shaw	TS	Caerphilly
Alison Thomas	AT	Cardiff
Mark Youngman	MY	Monmouthshire
Nigel Burgess	NB	Monmouthshire
Brian Kemp	BK	Newport
Roger Waters	RW	Rhondda Cynon Taf
Emma Harvey	EH	Vale of Glamorgan
Peter Curtis	PC	Giraffe Communications
Christian Schmidt	CS	Sewta Planning Manager
Martin Buckle	MB	Sewta Secretary / Programme Manager
Sian Isgrove (minutes)	SI	Sewta Administrative Co-ordinator
Apologies received from:		
Councillor J Mason		Blaenau Gwent
Councillor R Gough		Caerphilly
Councillor D Fouwether		Newport
Councillor E Townsend		Newport
Councillor R Wellington		Torfaen
Councillor J James (Chair)		Vale of Glamorgan
David House		Merthyr Tydfil

Michael Vaughan
Chris Howell
Mike Tedstone
Alun Evans

Arriva Trains Wales
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