



Community
Transport
Association
Cymdeithas
Cludiant
Cymunedol

**Minutes of the Wales Committee Meeting
Tuesday. 5th July 2011
Library, Gwent Square, Cwmbran, NP44 1PL**

Present:

Sarah Leyland Jones	PAVO
Richard Cope	Monmouthshire County Council
Ceri Rees	Pembrokeshire County Council
Phil Taylor	Aberfan and Merthyr Vale
Debbie Johnson	PACTO
Megan Rosser – Davies	Torfaen Community Transport

In attendance from CTA: Kerry Lane, Alice Tolley, Lindsay Adams-Jones, Ewan Jones (CTA UK)

Apologies: Pat Bowen, Gareth Evans, Dave Brown, Sue Reed, Graham Cartwright and Janine David

1 Welcome and Introductions.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Minutes of 18th May 2011 meeting and matters arising

It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

3 Update

3.1 Staff Changes and Recruitment

The Deputy Chief Executive explained that Malcolm and Jason had both left their positions at CTA Wales. CTA was currently recruiting for a new Director for Wales but in the meantime Kerry Lane is Acting Director. CTA will recruit for the North Wales Post when new Director is in place.

3.2 CTCFI

The stated Welsh Government (WG) position was still that the CTCFI pilot programme would end in March 2012. Whilst the WG had recently requested a written update, they had yet to provide a date for a meeting to discuss the programme. WG officers had stated they were waiting for the new Minister to confirm manifesto commitments before meeting. Criteria implementation was sporadic. Kerry has arranged meetings with the most vulnerable schemes and the LA's to discuss the way forward post March.

3.3 SRA funding Bids

There was no news on the HOV bid submitted in December 2010, the HOV voluntary sector liaison officer had recently informed CTA that the Minister has yet to sign of the budget for the HOV area.

WVSRA staff had confirmed a budget line of 300k for CT was in the 2011/12 programme awaiting Ministerial sign off. In the meantime, a successful match bid has been submitted to SEWTA (via OTED) and a collaborative CT match bid had also recently been submitted to SWWITCH on behalf of SWWITCH area operators. Once the outcome was confirmed, since operators across the region had agreed to supply the remaining match, CTA would work on submission of a full bid to the WVSRA.

3.4 RTP's CTCEP Grants

SEWTA's input would be covered by Agenda Item 4.

SWWITCH had allocated £40K in their 2011/12 programme budget and were meeting later this month to award. TAITH had again agreed 100k for the scheme this year and the grant panel was meeting in mid-August.

Whilst TraCC had originally planned for inclusion of a CTCEP budget for the year, it was unexpectedly removed in March 2011. On behalf of the sector, CTA, CAVO and PAVO had made representations for re-inclusion and had recently inputted on a paper which aimed to provide rationale and details of the programme to TRACC board members.

3.5 Deep Rural Localities work

The four project proposals were submitted to the WG Rural Affairs Dept. in March. WG officers had subsequently requested a rework of the Aberdarron bid to accommodate generic service delivery and scale back of the Clydau bid. These revised bids were thus resubmitted. KL would meet with WG officers in the next week to discuss the bids and if/ how they will be taken forward. .

3.6 NEPT Griffiths Review

In terms of voluntary sector provision, progress within the four pilots was patchy. CTAW had recently attended the project board of the Cardiff and Vale pilot which involved St John and patient discharge. CTA also represented the sector on the Betsi Cadwalader NEPT pilot board, a WAST lead pilot which to date has focussed on uniform criteria applications and systems efficiencies. Opportunities for Third sector input were expected as the pilot progressed.

The Cwm Taff pilot continued to rationalise its booking and scheduling system (pilot project phase 1). Further to initial third sector engagement no progress

had been made with project board establishment or third sector delivery of services.

In the Hywel Dda Pilot mixed provision was well underway and in addition to services delivered by Menter Min Nos, Pembrokeshire Voluntary transport would shortly commence NEPT journeys providing regular transport for mental health day hospital patients.

3.7 2012 Paralympic Training Camps

The New Zealand team will be coming to Swansea and City and County of Swansea Social Services have agreed to provide the necessary transport on a fuel, plus driver, basis. The Australian team, which will be based in Cardiff, had recently supplied a comprehensive matrix of their requirements. It was likely a range of CTA members would be asked to assist with accessible transport requirements (coordinated by CTA), including Monmouthshire County Council who would likely provide the larger accessible vehicles required.

3.8 MiDAS Driver of the Year 2011 Update

A West Wales event, facilitated by PACTO, was held recently and 3 candidates are going forward to the UK event as a result. CTA was hoping to combine the scheduled South and Mid events to better suit all candidates

3.9 Training Programme and Best Practice Visit Update

Since the launch of our new Training Brochure we have run the Strategic Planning course but due to staff changes have needed to re-arrange the Safe and Legal course. This will now take place in September.

CTA recently arranged a best practice study visit to the Grass Routes Scheme in Monmouth which was well attended. All feedback was positive and CTA extended a big thank you to Richard Cope and his team for hosting the visit.

3.10 Wales Annual Conference 2011 – Discussion on content

Invitations have been sent out to a range of potential speakers, including the Minister responsible for Local Government and Communities (inc. transport). Unfortunately, the Minister was unable to attend and it seems whilst officers were being sent to the conference in his place, they will not be addressing conference. Whilst KL had queried this position, unfortunately there had been no change in the position to date.

Committee members expressed dissatisfaction that WG transport representatives would not be addressing conference and requested further written representation be made, requesting officers be permitted to speak.

ACTION: KL to write to WG requesting a review on the position of WG transport officers not addressing conference.

3.11 Shop mobility Update (tabled paper)

Unfortunately, Cliff was unable to attend the meeting but had made a commitment to attend a future meeting and update members on the work of Shopmobility Wales. No questions were asked.

4 SEWTA CT Capital Enhancement Package –Richard Cope

Richard Cope updated the group on the current SEWTA position. SEWTA had originally allocated £100k to their CTCEP budget. The fund was oversubscribed with 186k worth of SEWTA funding being requested against total project costs of £246k. Whilst a few bids were declined (due to suitability issues), SEWTA agreed to allocate funds beyond their original budget to the full amount (156k) requested by the remaining successful applicants i.e.:OTED, Connect 2, GAVO (Monmouthshire and Blaenau Gwent), Newlink, Torfaen CT , East Vale, ACT and Village and Valleys CT.

5 Information Exchange

5.1 CTA Wales Staff Reports

The committee were happy with all the staff reports and no questions were raised. The Committee thanked Kerry for her work as Acting Director.

5.2 Committee

Debbie Johnson

RDP funding had been allocated to assess transport needs in rural Pembrokeshire to develop transport needs. PACTO had submitted two bids to SWWITCH for CTCEP funding. One bid was for match funding for a minibus, whilst the other was for satellite vehicle seat storage facilities.

PACTO were looking to provide a D1 driver training bursary with some existing project underspend and were working with the council to take this forward

Ceri Rees

The closing date for the SWWITCH Capital Enhancement grant was the 1st July and 4 bids had been received. The grant panel were meeting on 12th July and recommendations will go to the Management board 22nd July with allocations being announced in August. Potentially slippage funding could also be allocated against CT projects. The consortia need to produce a report on RTP progress by the end of March. .

Phil Taylor

Aberfan and Merthyr Vale YCP are currently undertaking an extensive business review which will examine how the organisation can sustain vital projects in light

of reduced funding levels. The CT project have considerable security issues of late and with several breakins etc.

Megan Rosser- Davies

Nothing to report

Sarah Leyland Jones

PAVO is undertaking a review of CT in Powys including an analysis of how funding is allocated across the 19 CT schemes. Every CT scheme has signed up to a SLA that commits them to a holistic review of services in Powys, the first meeting will take place on 26th July. There were some sustainability issues with the Training Agency which was funded by Lottery Funding, reserves and income generation. A new training course has been devised for ECO training with 50 people already signed up and PAVO were promoting SAFED training to Wales based providers delivering transport out of Wales.

Richard Cope

Grass Routes is expanding and due to capacity issues the transport unit was looking at new premises and to bring some maintenance in house. MCC was looking to develop CPC driver training for PCV drivers and offering this to outside operators too. Richard was working closely with Social Services on replacement vehicles. MCC is working with Newport on the future provision of Social Services transport.

Richard attend a meeting in Cardiff Bay “Making Sustainable Transport Easier in Rural Communities”, there was a round table discussion regarding the report, and numerous issues were raised including the need for sustainable funding for CT.

6 Any Other Business

Ewan Jones Points of information from CTAUK:

CTAUK are engaging with the DFT and VOSA to try and simplify the section 19 regime, proposals have been submitted via the Red Tape Challenge. In Northern Ireland the permit issue system was also under review and CTA was trying to ensure section 10B permits were maintained in a robust fashion which suited CT organisations.

The Rural Social Enterprise project was going well and recently DfT had provided an extra £10 million investment into the delivery of rural CT services and ancillary CTA consultancy support services for the sector.

CTAUK was working with DEFRA to undertake a detailed rural version of a State of the Sector report for England. CTAUK had also recently been involved in organising the First National Travel Training Forum in Sheffield.

7 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held after the AGM.

Meeting closed