



WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

Transport Delivery Committee

Monday 6 November 2017 at 1.00 pm

Minutes

Present

Councillor Richard Worrall (Chair)	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Phil Davis (Majority Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Opposition Vice Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Mohammed Fazal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Mohammed Hanif	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Kath Hartley	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Diana Holl-Allen	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Roger Horton	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Chaman Lal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Keith Linnecor	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ted Richards	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Judith Rowley	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor David Stanley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Daniel Warren	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor David Welsh	Coventry City Council

In Attendance

Sophie Allison	Transport for the West Midlands
Mark Babington	Transport for the West Midlands
Andre Bromfield	West Midlands Combined Authority
Malcolm Holmes	Transport for the West Midlands
Linda Horne	West Midlands Combined Authority
Matt Lewis	Transport for the West Midlands
Steve McAleavy	Transport for the West Midlands
Sandeep Shingadia	Transport for the West Midlands
Anna Sirmoglou	West Midlands Combined Authority
Babs Spooner	Transport for the West Midlands

Item No. Title

48. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akhtar, Andrew and Sidhu.

49. Chair's Remarks

- (a) The Chair informed members that Abellio (part of West Midlands Trains Ltd) would be attending the pre-TDC session next month to provide a briefing on the new West Midlands Rail franchise.
- (b) The Chair reported that a celebration event would also be held with London Midland on 4 December following the committee meeting.

50. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to an amendment to minute no.41, that the word 'expanding' be deleted with reference to parking provision at Erdington.

51. Matters Arising

(a) Customer Engagement Update Report (*minute no. 43 refers*)

Councillor Horton reported that he had been notified of Metro events by officers but had only received notification of the 'Meet the Manager' at New Street Station on the day the event was scheduled to take place and asked that he be given sufficient notice of rail events in the future.

52. Correspondence/ Petitions

None submitted.

53. Lead Member Reference Group – Update

The Chair tabled a report that advised members of the current position in relation to the Lead Member Reference Groups (LMRGs) with regards to membership, schedule of meetings, terms of reference and forward plans.

Councillor Horton reported that he was unhappy that he had been asked for future dates of his Lead Member Reference Group meeting when the dates had been agreed in the summer and also that he had not been informed that the terms of reference for the Lead Member Reference Groups would be reviewed.

In relation to the Air Quality LMRG that has recently been established, Councillor Alden considered that the group might want to consider looking at the environmental impacts of an initiative or policy over the course of its life. Councillor Davis reported that he would be interested to find out more on this issue and asked that Councillor Alden email him with further details.

The Chair reported that he proposed that two of the six Lead Member Reference Groups would submit a report to Transport Delivery Committee each month from January 2018 to March 2018 and would include further details in his next report to the committee.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted ;
- (2) That the proposed revised terms of reference for the Lead Member Reference Groups be submitted to the December meeting of this committee and this include the timetable for LMRG reports to be submitted to future meetings and
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Chair, Vice-Chairs and respective Lead Members to make any revisions to the memberships of Lead Member Reference Groups to enable all interested TDC members to sit on at least one LMRG.

54. Response to Accessibility Action Plan Consultation

The committee considered a draft response to the Department for Transport's Draft Accessibility Action Plan that had been prepared by Helen Davies, Senior Policy Officer, Transport for the West Midlands and Anna Sirmoglou, Equalities Manager for WMCA.

Anna Sirmoglou was in attendance to present the response and to respond to comments and questions from members.

In relation to private hire vehicles and Hackney Carriages, Councillor Rowley reported of the need to for the DfT to undertake research with regards to babies and young children in transit as this mode of transport is not suited to their needs.

The committee also discussed the need for the response to the DfT to include details of the system operated by the City of Wolverhampton Council with regards to private hire/Hackney Carriages and assistance dogs which shows best practice and also the good practice with regards to disabled parking provided by Transport for the West Midlands

Resolved:

That the draft response to the Department of Transport on the Draft Transport Accessibility Action Plan be agreed subject to the inclusion of the additional comments from members.

55. Safer Travel Update

The committee considered a report of the Safety and Security Manager that provided an update on the performance and operations of the Safer Travel Partnership, an overview of the development of the TfWM Control Centre and an overview of some of the new powers available to the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The committee discussed the increase in crime on public transport, at park and ride sites and noted the work being undertaken by the Safer Travel Partnership to deal with problem and the role of CCTV.

The Chair reported that he was pleased that Walsall MBC was now part of the TfWM Control Centre which would provide better CCTV coverage and significant savings and he would encourage other local authorities to move their CCTV to the Control Centre so they too could benefit.

Resolved:

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) That the overall current crime trends referred to in the report be noted.

56. Midland Metro Penalty Fare

The committee considered a report of the Metro Operations Manager that informed the committee of the proposal to submit a Transport and Works Act Order to amend the Midland Metro (Penalty Fares) Act 1991 so as to (i) establish a two tier system of penalty fares and (ii) confer powers on the West Midlands Combined Authority to make changes to the penalty fares on Midland Metro in the future without the requirement of an Order of the Secretary of State for Transport subject to negative resolution in Parliament.

The Metro Operations Manager, Sophie Allison outlined the background to the report and reminded the committee of the proposal they previously approved which included a two tier penalty system, with the opportunity for the penalty to be reduced by 50% if paid within 21 days.

Resolved:

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) That the proposed application of a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) to seek the necessary powers for West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to make changes to the penalty fares on Midland Metro (including increases and a two tier system), removing the requirement for Secretary of State approval be supported; and
- (3) That the Transport Delivery recommend to the WMCA on 8 December 2017 the application of a TWAO referred to in (2) above be approved.

57. Rail Business Report

The committee considered a report of the Rail Partnerships Delivery Manager that provided an update on the performance, operation and delivery of rail services in the West Midlands including rail partnership agreements and West Midlands Rail activity.

The Rail Partnership Delivery Manager, Babs Spooner, was attendance to present the report along with the Director of Rail TfWM, Malcolm Holmes.

The Director of Rail reported on the recent rail re-organisation that brought together the two organisations of TfWM and West Midlands Rail (WMR) and undertook to circulate the new organisation chart for rail following the meeting.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Warren regarding the reasons for West Midlands Trains' decision to take new rolling stock that comprised of 12 two-car diesel trains and 14 four-car diesel trains, the Director of Rail explained that the two-car trains would provide flexibility so that West Midlands Trains could be provide an uplift where needed to make 6 car trains.

In relation the Leaf Fall Timetable, Councillor Alden reported that when trains have been taken out of service, the trains that have been removed are those that stop at all stations which creates long delays and overcrowding for passengers. He considered if trains need to be removed, it should be those trains that have limited stops.

The Rail Partnerships Delivery Manager undertook to feedback on this issue to London Midland.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Davis regarding the Rail Investment Strategy and the Stations Alliance, the Director of Rail reported that he would submit a report to a future meeting regarding rail investment and he would be presenting details of the Stations Alliance to the next meeting.

In relation to rolling stock, Councillor Huxtable noted there was no mention of hybrid trains in the report and considered that West Midlands Trains would need to take account of the Clean Air Zone for Birmingham City Centre in the future and asked if this could be fed back to West Midlands Trains.

The Director of Rail advised that the choice of rolling stock was a matter for bidders of the franchise to determine but he could see the potential for hybrid trains which might be specified in franchises in the future.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

58. Presentation :Swift Delivery Update

The committee received a presentation from the Head of Swift, Matt Lewis that provided an update on recent developments with regards to Swift.

In relation to a comment from Councillor Huxtable regarding the slow read times of Swift cards and what is being done to speed this up, the Head of Swift reported that the new ticket machines procured by National Express will speed up to read times and reported that this can now be seen on the number 7 bus service where the new ticket machines have been introduced.

Councillor Horton reported that he had difficulty seeing the new ticket machines on bus but had no issues with the old machines as these were red in colour and enquired whether a sticker could be placed on the new machines so these could be easily identified. The Head of Swift undertook to look into the matter.

The Chair thanked Matt Lewis for his presentation.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

59. Financial Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report of the Head of Finance and Business Planning that set out the financial position as at 30 September 2017 with regards to the Combined Authority's Transport Delivery Revenue and Capital Budget.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Huxtable as to whether taking Midland Metro operations in-house would enable the Authority to invest the surplus into future Metro routes or return funding to West Midlands local authorities, the Head of Finance and Business Planning, Linda Horne, reported that the commercial model was currently in the process of being refined but there were no indications that dividends would be returned to the Met authorities at this stage.

Resolved:

- (1) That the year to date net revenue expenditure for 2017/18 shows a favourable variance of £627,000 compared to budget and a full year favourable variance of £ 944,000;
- (2) That the total capital expenditure to the end of September 2017 within the overall transport programme was over budget by £0.775m (3 %) be noted; and
- (3) That the treasury indicators are within expected range and there are no issues to highlight be noted.

60. Capital Programme Delivery Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report of the Head of Programme Development that provided an update on progress with regards to the approved 2017/18 programmes and projects.

The Head of Programme Development, Sandeep Shingadia responded to questions from members on the contents of the report.

Resolved:

- (1) That the achievements since the September 2017 meeting of the Transport Delivery Committee be noted; and
- (2) That the progress of deliverables under 2017/18 Capital Programme be noted.

61. Question

The committee considered a question submitted by Councillor Worrall.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Worrall on 2 November.

"(a) In light of the letter of 31st July 2017 from Stephen Fidler at the Department for Transport to the issuers of Section 19 and Section 22 permits (see attachment), could TfWM give the TDC its assessment of any possible serious adverse consequences should the DfT uphold the position stated in Mr. Fidler's letter:

i. for the community transport sector generally?

ii. for the viability of Ring & Ride and of Community Transport services in the West Midlands?

(b) Further, would TfWM advise members whether it sees any merit to making representations to Government on any aspect of Mr. Fidler's letter?"

The Transport Services Director provided the following response.

Further to the question submitted by Councillor Worrall, Transport for the West Midlands has written to all community transport operators to seek their views on the matter and a response will be provided to Councillor Worrall in due course.

Councillor Worrall asked that he be provided with a written response.

Resolved:

That the question and response be noted.

62. Forward Plan

The committee considered a report of agenda items to be submitted to future meetings.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

63. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 4 December 2017 at 1:00pm