



Transport Delivery Committee

Monday 11 January 2021 at 1.00 pm

Minutes

Present

Councillor Kath Hartley (Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Richard Worrall (Vice-Chair)	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Linda Bigham	Coventry City Council
Councillor Mary Locke	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Diana Holl-Allen	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Les Jones	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Chaman Lal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Roger Lawrence	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Ted Richards	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Alan Taylor	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

67. Chair's Remarks

(i) Coventry All-Electric Bus City Project

The Chair reported that she was very pleased to hear that TfWM had been awarded £50m for Coventry All-Electric Bus City project as part of the Department for Transport's pilot to test the impact on air pollution. The Managing Director TfWM, Laura Shoaf added that she expected to submit the full business case for the project to the WMCA Board in March.

(ii) Managing Director of Midland Metro Limited

The Chair advised the committee that Steve McAleavy, formerly the Customer Experience Director, has recently been appointed the Managing Director of Midland Metro Limited.

(iii) Members Enquiries

The Chair reminded members of the committee to use the dedicated email address for Customer Relations for any enquiries they have regarding public transport and also took the opportunity to thank key transport workers for keeping the network running.

68. Minutes of the meetings held on 9 November and 14 December
The minutes of the meetings held on 9 November and 14 December 2020 were agreed as a true record.

69. Action Tracker
The action tracker was noted.

70. Matters Arising
Minute no. 60 Questions (9 November 2020)

Further to the submission of the railcard question by Councillor Richard Worrall and the subsequent response from the Rail Minister confirming that refunds would not be issued to the holders of senior, disabled and young person's rail cards, Councillor Lal enquired whether TfWM could write to the minister with responsibility for consumer rights on the matter.

The Chair also enquired as to whether the Urban Transport Group (UTG) are taking any action with regards to compensation for railcard holders.

The Managing Director TfWM, Laura Shoaf undertook to take the matter forward on behalf of the committee with the minister responsible for consumer rights and with UTG.

71. Correspondence/ Petitions
None received.

72. Financial Monitoring Report
The committee considered a report of the Finance Director that set out the financial position up to the end of November 2020.

Councillor Pervez Akhtar, Lead Member for Finance and Performance, outlined key areas within the report.

In relation to concerns expressed by Councillor Huxtable regarding sites being considered outside of Walsall for the A34 Sprint Park and Ride site, the Director of Development and Delivery, Sandeep Shingadia reported that discussions were ongoing with Sandwell and Walsall officers on the matter and advised the agreed site location would need to fit with the overall park and ride strategy and also take trips off the M6 (within the vicinity of junction 7). The Director of Development and Delivery added that he could provide a separate briefing on the matter for a future meeting.

Resolved:

1. That the year to date net revenue expenditure to the end of November 2020 shows a favourable variance of £1.165m compared to budget be noted and

2. That the total capital expenditure to the end of November 2020 for the overall transport programme was £91.8m, which was £74.5m below the year to date budget of £166.3m and the capital forecast was reduced in September 2020 to £216.4m, which is £65.1m below the annual budget of £281.5m be noted.

73. Capital Programme Delivery Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report of the Director of Development and Delivery that provided a progress monitoring update on the approved 2020/21 capital programmes and projects.

Councillor Pervez Akhtar, Lead Member for Finance and Performance outlined the key highlights of the report including progress made, achievements and variations to the baseline programme.

In relation to concerns expressed by Councillor Huxtable regarding the tight timescales for delivering capital projects for the Commonwealth Games in 2022, the Director of Development and Delivery reported that a great of monitoring of the projects is undertaken by the Capital Projects Board, by TfWM officers and the rail programme team as well as independent reviews undertaken by the WMCA's assurance team and contingency was also built into projects.

Resolved:

1. That the achievements since the November meeting of the Transport Delivery Committee be noted;
2. That progress of deliverables and the outturn of the 2020/21 Capital Programme be noted and
3. That the variations from the baseline programme as referred to in paragraph 4 of the report be noted.

74. Freight & Logistics in the West Midlands -Information Briefing

The committee considered a briefing note from the Transport Strategy and Place Manager that provided an update on freight and logistic matters in the West Midlands.

The Transport Strategy and Place Manager, David Harris highlighted key areas within the report. This included the context for road, rail, air and urban freight and the strategic challenges for freight and logistics in the West Midlands notably Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and also addressing road safety, tackling air quality and the climate emergency.

The committee considered the potential for increasing rail freight and enquired as to the possibility of utilising disused rail lines especially for big manufacturers like Cadbury and also noted the environmental benefits of moving freight from road to rail.

The Transport Strategy and Place Manager reported that HS2 should free up some capacity for rail freight and he would liaise with West Rail Executive (WMRE) on the matter although 'buy-in' would be needed from Network Rail and rail operators as rail lines were prioritised for passengers. He added that he would explore the matter in more detail and report back to the committee in due course.

The Chair thanked David Harris for an informative report.

Resolved: That the update on freight and logistic matters in the West Midlands be noted.

75. Safer Travel and Emergency Planning Update

The committee considered a report of the Head of Safety, Security and Emergency Planning that provided an update on the operations and performance of the Safer Travel Partnership, their recent work and crime data for the 3 public transport modes.

The Lead Member for Safe and Sustainable Travel, Councillor Holl-Allen introduced the report.

The Head of Safety, Security and Emergency Planning, Mark Babington outlined key areas within the report and provided an update on the Bus Byelaws, emergency planning work and on the recruitment and training of Transport Safety Officers.

Resolved:

1. That the details in the report be noted;
2. That the overall current crime trends in paragraphs 3.1- 3.3 of the report be noted;
3. That the crime analysis within section 4 of the report be noted and
4. That the latest work by the emergency planning team be noted.

76. Putting Passengers First Lead Member Reference Group Annual Report

The committee considered the annual report of the Putting Passengers First Lead Member Reference Group that reported on the work of the group over the twelve months from January to December 2020.

The Chair and Lead Member for Putting Passengers First introduced the report and conveyed her thanks to TfWM Officers for their support and input into meetings that have covered an extensive range of subjects ranging from bus matters to Sprint shelter design and Metro operations.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

77. Presentation: Travel Survey Update

The committee received a presentation from the Human Intelligence Manager on the latest Covid-19 travel survey. The committee had also received details of the key findings of a travel survey undertaken during the second lockdown along with information relating to travel intentions and the return to public transport.

The Human Intelligence Manager, Sarah Bayliss reported on the findings from the most recent Covid-19 travel survey, the 'Travel Trends and Behaviour Study (TTABS) that was mainly undertaken by telephone during December which focused on travel trends, behaviour and satisfaction with journeys undertaken.

The survey indicated that public transport had been significantly impacted with travel suppressed, changes to working patterns and shopping habits (more local trips) and an increase in car journeys.

Sarah Bayliss reported that the new TTABS survey was flexible and cost effective and further surveys would be undertaken during January to March with the findings reported to the committee in due course.

The Chair thanked Sarah Bayliss for her insightful presentation.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

78. Notices of Motion

None submitted.

79. Questions

None submitted.

80. Forward Plan

The committee a report on the agenda items to be submitted to a future meeting.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

81. Date of Next Meeting - 8 February 2021

82. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved: That in accordance with Section 100A4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

83. WMCA Board Transport Reports (For Information Only)

The transport reports that would be considered by the WMCA Board at its meeting on 15 January were submitted for information.

In relation to the New Stations - Package 2 report and request from Councillor Huxtable for further information on running the Camp Hill line to Longbridge and the turnback facility as proposed by the MP for Northfield, the Managing Director TfWM undertook for a briefing to be given to the Rail Lead Members Group on the matter.

Resolved: That the reports be noted.

The meeting ended at 3.00 pm.