



Transport Delivery Committee

Monday 15 March 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 Linda Bigham	Coventry City Council
Councillor Mary Locke	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Celia Hibbert	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Diana Holl-Allen	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Mohammed Idrees	Birmingham City 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

Item Title

No.

100. Chair's Remarks

(i) Welcome to Councillor Mohammed Idrees

The Chair welcomed Mohammed Idrees to his first meeting of the committee.

(ii) Farewell to Councillors Roger Lawrence and Ted Richards

The Chair reported that this would be last meeting for valued members Councillors Lawrence and Richards who would be standing down as councillors at the forthcoming local elections. The committee paid tribute to both councillors for their work in supporting transport in the region and serving residents for many years. This sentiment was echoed by TfWM Officers and the Managing for TfWM Laura Shoaf who reported that both members would be hugely missed and in particular Councillor Lawrence, who had served as the WMCA Board's Portfolio Holder for Transport whilst Leader of the City of Wolverhampton Council.

(iii) Bus Transformation Report

The Chair advised that the Bus Transformation report that had been sent to members recently would be continually updated and circulated to members to keep them updated on bus matters.

(iv) National Bus Strategy

Further to the Government's announcement on a national bus strategy today, the Director of Integrated Network Services, Pete Bond, reported that a briefing note on the key components of the strategy would be circulated to the committee in due course.

(v) Safer Travel and Network Resilience Update

The Chair reported that she had requested a briefing note from Mark Babington, (Head of Safety, Security and Emergency Planning) to provide an update on safer travel and network resilience early next month.

101. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2021 were agreed as true record.

102. Action Tracker

The action tracker was noted.

103. Matters Arising

Minute no. 84, Chair's Remarks (iii) Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The Chair reported that further to the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 22 February, she had provided feedback on the meeting to TDC members. It was noted that the recommendations from the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 19 March for approval.

Minute no.88, Bus Alliance Update

The Chair reported that further to an enquiry from Councillor Lal regarding the need to accelerate Swift Go, a report would be considered further on the agenda.

104. Correspondence/ Petitions

None submitted.

105. Financial Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report of the Finance Director that set out the financial position up to the end of January 2021.

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

In relation to enquiry from Councillor Richards as to whether delays to projects as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic would lead to cost increase in the future, the Financial Controller, Louise Cowen reported that this issue was currently be examined although the financial impacts were not yet clear.

Resolved:

1. That the year to date net revenue expenditure to the end of January 2021 shows a favourable variance of £3.437m compared to budget be noted and
2. That the total capital expenditure to the end of January 2021 for the overall transport programme was £116.9m, which was £99.8m below the year to date budget of £216.7m and the capital forecast was reduced in January 2021 to £169.7m, which is £107.5m below the annual budget of £277.2m be noted.

106. 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.

Resolved:

1. That the achievements since the January meeting of the Transport Delivery Committee be noted;
2. That the progress of deliverables and 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.

107. Swift Go - the future of transport payment in the West Midlands

The committee considered a briefing note from the Head of Swift on 'Swift Go'.

The Head of Swift, Matt Lewis reported on the development and progression of Swift ticketing from 2012 when Swift pay-as-you go was launched to the new and improved version called Swift Go.

It was noted the new, more flexible version of Swift would deliver best value for customers by 'capping' fares; the customer would be charged the

cheapest fare as the system (account based ticketing) recognises all fares such as peak/off peak.

The Head of Swift reported on plans to expand Swift from bus and tram to rail which would enable multi-modal 'capping' across all operators and services.

Resolved : That the report be noted.

108. Presentation : Latest Travel Survey Summary

The committee received a presentation from the Human Intelligence Manager on the latest Covid-19 travel survey that was undertaken by telephone during February 2021. The committee had also received details of the key findings of the travel survey undertaken in January 2021.

The Human Intelligence Manager, Sarah Bayliss, outlined the main results of the Travel Trends and Behaviours Tracking Survey that monitored travel habits, measured satisfaction with journeys made and examined the effects Covid-19 on travel patterns including the reasons for not travelling and awareness of Transport for the West Midlands. The survey indicated that the pandemic has changed the way people travel, especially the elderly and revealed changes to travel patterns (the full report was circulated to the committee following the meeting).

The Chair thanked Sarah Bayliss for her informative presentation.

Resolved: That the contents of the presentation be noted.

109. WMCA Board Transport Reports (for information only)

The committee received a report on Coventry Electric Bus City - full business case, that would be considered by the WMCA Board at its meeting on 19 March.

Resolved : That the report be noted.

110. Notices of Motion

None submitted.

111. Questions

None submitted.

112. Forward Plan

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

Resolved: That the report be noted.

113. Date of Next Meeting -14 June

The meeting ended at 2.30 pm.