



# West Midlands Combined Authority

## Transport Delivery Committee

Monday 28 June 2021 at 1.00pm

### Informal Minutes

#### Present

Councillor Kath Hartley (Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Linda Bigham	Coventry City Council
Councillor Alan Taylor	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Robert Grinsell	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor David Stanley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Celia Hibbert	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Chaman Lal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Chris Burden	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Mark Parker	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Mohammed Idrees	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Morriam Jan	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ziaul Islam	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Tim Huxtable	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Richard Worrall	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Samiya Akhter	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Rizwan Jalil	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

#### In Attendance

Pete Bond	Transport for West Midlands
Dan Essex	West Midlands Combined Authority
Graham Jones	Transport for West Midlands
Kate Taylor	West Midlands Combined Authority
Louise Cowen	West Midlands Combined Authority
Sandeep Shingadia	Transport for West Midlands
Angela Hosford	Transport for West Midlands

#### Item Title

##### No.

- Apologies for Absence**  
No apologies for absence were received.

## **2. Chair's Remarks (if any)**

The chair made the following remarks:

- Congratulated Andy Street on his re-appointment of Mayor of the West Midlands
- Following Overview & Scrutiny's review of the effectiveness of Transport Delivery Committee work continued on the implementation of those recommendations.
- The chair noted that the Lead Member Reference Groups had been renamed to Member Engagement Groups and would now formally report back to each committee.
- WMCA would be undertaking a Governance review being led by Satish Mistry, Interim Director Law & Governance and Councillor Bob Sleigh.
- Following Laura Shoaf's appointment as Interim Chief Executive of the WMCA it was noted that Pete Bond, Director of Integrated Transport Services would now be the accountable Director responsible for supporting TDC going forward.
- The committee were shown picture of the completion of Coventry Pool Meadow to support Coventry in their role of City of culture.
- Longbridge the first multi storey park and ride had been completed during the pandemic but was never formally opened, it is hoped that the re-opening of the site will occur on the 16 August subject to the Government road map.
- TfWM had been notified by the Department of Transport that they had been shortlisted for a further zero emission bus scheme for 230 buses including over 200 hydrogen buses through National Express. TfWM would be working closely with partners to develop a full business case.

## **3. Matters Arising**

The Chair confirmed the following appointments to each of the Member Engagement Groups:

Air Quality, Congestion & environmental Impact: Councillor Lal, Councillor Bigham, Councillor Hibbert and Councillor Alden

Finance & Performance: Councillor Akhtar, Councillor Akhter and Councillor Andrew

Putting Passengers First: Councillor Hartley, Councillor Jalil, Councillor Idrees and Councillor Stanley

Rail & Metro: Councillor Worrall, Councillor Burden, Councillor Hibbert, Councillor Taylor and Councillor Huxtable

Safe & Sustainable Travel: Councillor Grinsell, Councillor Jalil, Councillor Islam and Councillor Jan

Sprint: Councillor Huxtable, Councillor Idrees and Councillor Parker.

Councillor Celia Hibbert did express her concern that the committee did not reflect as gender balanced.

**4. Terms of Reference & Role Profiles Refresh**

The committee noted the refreshed terms of reference for the and the refreshed role profiles.

**5. Forward Plan**

The committee noted the items to be reported to future meetings. It was recognised that the forward plan reflects more focus of the capital delivery monitoring ensuring that the committee take a broad respective look at those TfWM activities across the business plan, it also includes Member Engagement Group updates.

The chair also requested that a schedule of policy briefing's continued to be held on the morning of committee and requested that the meeting scheduled in September focused on the Commonwealth Games Transport Plan Consultation.

**6. Financial Monitoring Report 2021 / 22**

The committee received a report outlining the final 2020/21 position against the Transport revenue budget which showed a marginal total saving of £0.189m which was broadly in line with the final forecast for the year, despite the challenges of the previous 12 months. The out-turn was also in line with estimates following close financial manager and action during the year.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable queried as to whether due to pandemic construction of schemes costs would be increased due to inflation or additional costs due to supply and demand. The Director of Development and Delivery reassured the committee that scheme's were still within budget, and to mitigate those risks early contractor engagement is undertaken. He also noted that organisation worked closely with contractors to ensure sites remained COVID secure. Councillor Adrian Andrew suggested that a useful exercise be undertaken to review the potential cost increases against capital projects.

**7. Capital Delivery Monitoring Report**

The committee received a report outlining the progress monitoring against approved TfWM led 2021/2022 programmes and projects. It was highlighted that in regards to Perry Barr Rail Station and Bus Interchange demolition of the old station had completed during May and in regards to university station the piling works had been completed. The Director of Development and Delivery also noted the positive start of the West Midlands Cycle Hire scheme noting around 50,000 recorded journeys since the launch.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable expressed concern on the delivery of work being undertaken on Perry Barr Railway Station and suggested that any slippage to the scheme may affect the readiness for the Commonwealth Games. He also requested further information on delivery would pick up on Park and Ride expansion.

**8. Commonwealth Games Transport Plan**

The committee received a report outlining the draft Games Transport Plan for consultation and engagement commencing June to September 2021. The guiding principles of the plan included: clean and green a public transport games, safe, secure efficient and reliable, long term benefits (creating a legacy for through transport, minimise disruptions to users and access for all.

The plans purpose is to inform the public and businesses of the approach being taken to transport planning and provided guidance and information on the arrangements during the games. The chair requested that the committee be informed on the results of the feedback of the consultation at a future meeting.

**9. Sprint Progress Update**

The committee received a report updating them on the progress of the Sprint programme and the cabinet decision required to support the delivery of the schemes. The report highlighted progress on key deliverables for the first two route (A34 and A45). It was noted that both schemes had been contracted and work to deliver the schemes had commenced. The committee highlighted the need to encourage the facility of bikes of the Sprint vehicle.

**10. Birmingham Outer Circle Bus Service Changes**

The committee received a briefing note information them of the changes to the Birmingham outer circle bus route, service 11 from Sunday 4 July 2021. The changes were to be implemented by National Express West Midlands with the support for TfWM, to mitigate the impact of congestion on the route and thereby improve the service for around 96% of customer. It was noted that this was a temporary change.

**11. COVID-19 Recovery Update**

Pete Bond shared the following points

- Continuing to provide the latest travel advice via the website and work closely with operators to ensure operations continue in a safe and secure way.
- Highways England data shows that traffic levels are 1% lower that equivalent weeks in 2019
- There continues to be an increase in patronage on both rail and metro.
- Work is being undertaken with bus operators on a full return to network however the operator Diamond have informed TfWM that they would be withdrawing from the bus partnerships within the Black Country.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 19 July 2021 at 1.00pm