



**West Midlands  
Combined Authority**

## **Transport Delivery Committee**

<b>Date</b>	13 September 2021
<b>Report title</b>	Member Engagement Groups Update
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**Recommendation(s) for decision:**

**Transport Delivery Committee is recommended to:**

- (1) Note the update in relation to recent meetings of the committee's Member Engagement Groups.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To note recent developments and meetings the six Member Engagement Groups.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Since the last meeting of the committee, the following Member Engagement Groups have met and the following paragraphs summaries the discussions held at these meetings.
- 2.4 Further work is currently being undertaken to refresh to scope and terms of reference for each of these MEGs and will be shared in due course.

## 3. Member Engagement Group Updates

- 3.1 An update from each of the Member Engagement Groups is provided below:

### *Air Quality, Congestion & Environmental Impact (Councillor Chaman Lal)*

The Group met on Wednesday 1 September and received two presentations. The first was by Tony Wortley and Neil Roberts of Carseq Algal Technologies. They are developing, with University of Wolverhampton, a product for growing algae to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to help organisations off-set carbon emissions. This creates algal by-products which can be used, for example, for making animal feed and medicines. The Group was keen for the full TDC Committee to receive the presentation at a future meeting.

The second presentation was by Andy Page, TfWM Future Mobility Lead, on the Government's new UK Hydrogen Strategy and the role of hydrogen for transport. The presentation also updated the Group on progress with the West Midlands ULEV strategy.

### *Finance & Performance (Councillor Pervez Akhtar)*

The group met on Tuesday 31 August 2021 and agreed that it would continue to meet virtually to maximise attendance.

The group received an update on the latest financial monitoring report to 31 July 2021 including the quarter 1 forecast. This included an update on capital projects following the disruption experienced throughout the pandemic with particular attention to Commonwealth Games projects.

An update was given on the transport network following the easing and subsequent removal of COVID-19 restrictions since the last meeting. This included a particular focus on the bus network and the arrangements for continued government recovery funding for bus operators now confirmed to be in place to the end of 2021/22 financial year. An update was also provided on the work being undertaken on the Bus Service Improvement Plan due to be signed off by the end of October.

### *Putting Passengers First (Councillor Kath Hartley)*

The Putting Passengers First Members' Engagement Group met on 25 August with a full attendance.

They received a presentation on the WM Bus Service Improvement Plan. The quality of the plan will be the key factor in the allocation from the government's £3billion bus funding and must be published by the end of October. A refreshed Passenger Charter is required.

The group also discussed the Zero Emission Bus Regional Area Scheme and noted that if the WM bid to the £120 million fund was successful, the West Midlands would be world leaders for zero emission buses. The bid includes 24 hydrogen buses for the Sprint routes.

Other updates the group received related to the Partnership Routes, Ring and Ride, Perry Barr and the new bus interchange.

The Lead Member had been working with Lee Eteo on revising the Bus Passenger Champions' Terms of Reference. The group was made aware of these.

*Rail & Metro (Councillor Richard Worrall)*

This MEG is not due to meeting until the 6 September 2021 and will therefore provide an update at the meeting.

*Safe & Sustainable Travel (Councillor Bob Grinsell)*

This MEG is not due to meeting until the 6 September 2021 and will therefore provide an update at the meeting.

*Sprint (Councillor Timothy Huxtable)*

This MEG is not due to meet until the 6 September 2021 and will therefore provide an update at the meeting.

**4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

**5. Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising out of recommendations contained within the report.

**6. Equalities Implications**

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

**7. Inclusive Growth Implications**

7.1 There are no inclusive growth implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

**8. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

8.1 There are no geographical implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

**9. Other Implications**

9.1 There are no further specific implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

## **10. Schedule of Background Papers**

10.1 n/a