



West Midlands Combined Authority

Transport Delivery Committee

Monday 19 July 2021 at 2.00 pm

Minutes

Present

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

In Attendance

Pete Bond	Transport for West Midlands
Hannah Dayan	Transport for West Midlands
Dan Essex	West Midlands Combined Authority
Jon Hayes	Transport for West Midlands
Tom Painter	West Midlands Rail
Kate Taylor	West Midlands Combined Authority
Sandeep Shingadia	Transport for West Midlands

Item Title No.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Council Samiya Akhter (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council), Councillor Adrian Andrew (Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council) and Councillor Mark Parker (Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council).

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair brought the WMCA Governance Review to the attention on the committee, The Governance Services Manager informed the committee that the review was currently underway, to which the findings would be reported to the WMCA Board at its September 2021 meeting.

The Chair also raised the briefing note circulated to members prior to the meeting relating to Transport for West Midlands position on the use of face coverings on public transportation.

The Chair congratulated Anne Shaw on her appointment as Interim Managing Director Transport for West Midlands.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 were approved and the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2021 were approved subject to an amendment to minute no. 7 as Councillor Timothy Huxtable requested that his comments and concerns relating to University Station be reflected within the minutes.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 be approved. The minutes of the informal meeting held on 28 June 2021 were approved subject to an amendment to minute no 7.

4. Appointment of Vice Chair (s)

Resolved:

That Councillor Timothy Huxtable and Councillor Richard Worrall be appointed as vice-chairs of the committee.

5. Forward Plan

The committee noted the items to be reported to future meetings. Councillor Robert Grinsell requested that the committee received a briefing on Park & Ride and also that the West Midlands Cycle Scheme was reflected within the forward plan for future meetings.

Resolved:

(1) That the items to be reported to future meetings be noted.

(2) That the committee receive a briefing on the Commonwealth Games Transport Plan Consultation at its September meeting and a briefing on Park & Ride at its November meeting.

6. Financial Monitoring Report

The committee received a report which set out the financial position as at 31 May 2021.

The Chair queried appendix 4 of the report relating to Autonomous Vehicles and suggested that the budget for this was small and requested further detail on this programme. The Director of Integrated Transport Services suggested that an update either be provided at a future committee or a briefing outside of committee.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable also reference appendix 4 of the report and drew attention to the figures for Cross City Bus – Dudley – Druids Heath Package and requested an update from officers on whether an agreed package of the highways capital works had been agreed. The Director of Integrated Transport Services indicated that a separate briefing would be provided on this.

Resolved:

(1) The year to date position as at the end of May 2021 against the TfWM Revenue Budget, showing an overall favourable variance of £0.280m, be noted.

(2) The TfWM Capital Programme expenditure as at the end of May 2021, totalling £26.6m which is £10.0m below budget, be noted.

7. Cycling Charter Progress Update

The committee received a report from the Cycling and Walking Development Officer outlining the performance, operation and delivery of TfWM led initiatives within the West Midlands Cycling Charter action plan, the progress of the West Midlands Cycling and Walking Programme currently being delivered to increase cycling and walking in the region, whether for transport or exercise.

Councillor Richard Worrall noted that following a fatality in Walsall he felt that more should be done to issue a policy around cycle routes on road and the opportunities to make them fit for purpose and become more accessible. He also felt that disabled access was poor and asked what more could be done within the new cycle hire scheme to support those with disabilities. The Cycling and Walking Development Officer commented that the charter had a balanced approach to delivering the local cycling and walking infrastructure plan, but developing the network took investment and further work on developing routes would be undertaken as the charter progressed.

Following Councillor Ziaul Islam's question relating to the consultation undertaken the Cycling and Walking Development Officer informed the committee that the scheme had received some negative comments from Local Authorities but continued to work with communities to determine any changes that could be made to the scheme before removing scheme completely.

Resolved:

The progress to date of the TfWM led initiatives of the West Midlands Cycling Charter action plan be noted.

8. Rail Business Report

The committee received a report from the Head of Rail Franchising and Partnerships informing them on the performance, operation and delivery of rail services in the West Midlands including on rail operator partnership agreements and West Midlands Rail Executive activity.

Councillor David Stanley noted that he was pleased on the progress being made on the Wolverhampton to Walsall line and requested further details on the Tettenhall line. The Head of Rail Franchising and Partnerships informed the committee on the developments of establishing a customer panel within the new West Midlands Trains and National Rail contract to provide a stronger representative view across the region from a passenger perspective.

Councillor Ziaul Islam requested reassurance as to when Perry Barr station would be opened to which the Head of Rail Franchising and Partnerships confirmed this would be opened before the Commonwealth Games and played a big part in transportation links to Alexander Stadium.

Following Councillor Timothy Huxtable's comments relating to Camp Hill / Bordesley Island the Head of Rail Franchising and Partnerships commented that there were no definitive and defined plans for the delivery of that yet.

Resolved:

The content of the report be noted.

9. COVID - 19 Recovery Update

The Director of Integrated Transport Services shared the following points:

- Transport for West Midlands position on face coverings following the change in regulations whereby they were no longer legally enforceable. TfWM have a clear expectation of all passengers to continue to wear a face covering on all modes of transportation.
- The network continues to be monitored in terms of car journeys and increase of road usage.
- It was noted that there had been an increase in patronage around rail, with bus data showing stability and Metro now returning to pre-Covid patronage levels.
- The impact of isolation and sickness relating to bus drivers was being closely monitored to ensure that services on the networks were not impacted.
- Department for Transport had given notice on the national funding provided to support bus services during COVID with a new approach to funding being looked at.

Resolved:

The update be noted.

10. WMCA Board Transport Reports (for information only)

It was noted that there were no transport related reports submitted to the WMCA Board, the Director of Integrated Transport Services informed the committee of the reasons as to why original reports outlined on the WMCA Board forward plan would be brought forward.

11. Member Engagement Groups Update

The committee received a report on the recent developments and meetings of the six Member Engagement Groups.

Resolved:

The update in relation to recent meetings of the committee's Member Engagement Groups be noted.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 13 September 2021 at 1.00pm.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm.