



**West Midlands  
Combined Authority**

## **Transport Delivery Committee**

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| <b>Date</b>                        | 7 February 2022  |
| <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 of 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 summarises 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 Air Quality, Congestion & Environmental Impact Member Engagement Group held a meeting open to all TDC Members, on 26 January. At this meeting University of Birmingham representatives gave two presentations: Prof Bill Bloss on the WM-Air Project and Stuart Hillmansen, on research into hydrogen train development.

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

The last Finance & Performance Member Engagement Group meeting was held on 4 January. The meeting was open to members of the Finance and Performance MEG, TDC Chair and chairs of the other MEG group. 4 members were in attendance.

The group reflected on the 22/23 draft budget in relation to transport, due to be approved for consultation by WMCA Board in January and members had an opportunity to ask further questions of clarity and detail. An update was given on some of the items noted as risks or outstanding funding announcements.

The next MEG will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

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

The Putting Passengers First Member Engagement Group (MEG) met virtually on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Members present were Councillor Kath Hartley, Councillor Rizwan Jalil, Councillor Bob Grinsell, Councillor Chaman Lal, Councillor Mohammed Idrees, Councillor Pervez Akhtar and Councillor David Stanley. Members received an update on the operation of Midland Metro, including details on the re-opening to Library and the introduction of new zonal ticketing. A question was raised around works on Corporation Street and members were advised the Metro Alliance were taking the opportunity to carry out snagging repairs whilst the line was closed. Members were then briefed on the OBC Bus Delivery Options during which they were talked through a presentation to the Combined Authority Board setting out the options. Members raised concerns about the lack of meaningful competition, Councillor Pervez Akhtar was particularly concerned about bus services in Coventry and raised his concerns that the Enhanced Partnership approach would not give TfWM the control that is needed. Members had been sent an advanced copy of the TDC Bus Delivery Monitoring report for discussion. A number of points were clarified and amendments requested prior to final submission of the report that will be presented at TDC. Members were asked if Chris Gibbens (National Express) could be invited to TDC, this was agreed as appropriate on this occasion. Other items that Members were provided

updates on included the Birmingham cross-city bus routes, the transformation of Ring and Ride, the introduction of bus bye-laws and a progress update on the Dudley Interchange project. Members expressed thanks to all involved in getting the bus bye-laws through. Councillor David Stanley raised objections to the works being carried out on Dudley bus station and the Metro at the same time, due to the amount of disruption that both of these projects will cause in the centre of Dudley. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022. Meetings will continue to be held virtually for the time being, with hybrid meetings to be considered when appropriate in the future.

#### *Rail & Metro (Councillor Richard Worrall)*

The next Rail and Metro Member Engagement Group is scheduled to take place on the 28 February 2022. A site visit to Perry Barr is also be organised to take place during February for members.

#### *Safe & Sustainable Travel (Councillor Bob Grinsell)*

The Safe & Sustainable Member Engagement Group met on Monday 24 January 2022, updated were provided to the group on Safer Travel, Diversity and Inclusion and Include Me. On Safer Travel, alarming figures on the rise of crime at stations were presented, along with solutions to address this through awareness campaigns, the enforcement of byelaws and recruitment of 9 additional Transport Safety Officers. Diversity and Inclusion update included the work of Laura Shoaf and Anne Shaw on a national programme to address violence against Women. Finally the Include Me update provided information on the latest work on inclusive cycling opportunities and the potential to extend the West Midlands Cycle Hire offer to include adapted cycles.

#### *Sprint (Councillor Timothy Huxtable)*

The Sprint MEG met on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January. An update was provided by officers regarding the briefing to Cabinet Members along the Phase 1 and 2 routes that had taken place.

An update was provided by officers on Park & Ride. While TfWM had decided not to proceed with a P&R along the A34 North, a P&R was being considered along the A38 North. It was agreed to invite Guy Craddock to the next meeting to discuss.

Officers informed the MEG that from the CRSTS, £56 million had been allocated in principle to Phase 2 Sprint routes (£30.4m for the A34 North and £25.6m for the A45).

It was agreed a briefing note would be provided at the next meeting concerning the A38 Cross City Bus Services which would be a pre-cursor to the Sprint route along the A38.

The issue of how bus priority along the A456 Hagley Road would work in conjunction with the proposed Metro extension was discussed.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 2pm. A site visit will also take place at Perry Barr Bus / Rail Interchange on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm.

## **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