



West Midlands Combined Authority

Transport Delivery Committee

Monday 10 January 2022 at 1.00 pm

Minutes

Present

Councillor Kath Hartley (Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Richard Worrall (Vice-Chair)	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Walsall Metropolitan Borough 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 Ziaul Islam MBE	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Chaman Lal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor David Stanley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance

Pete Bond	Transport for West Midlands
Guy Craddock	Transport for West Midlands
Jon Hayes	Transport for West Midlands
Graham Jones	Transport for West Midlands
Anne Shaw	Transport for West Midlands
Sandeep Shingadia	Transport for West Midlands
Kate Taylor	Transport for West Midlands

Item Title No.

38. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mark Parker (Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council).

39. Chair's Remarks (if any)

The Chair and members of the committee paid tribute to Councillor Roger Horton, a former member of this committee and a long-standing member of the former West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, following the announcement of his sad passing in December 2021.

The committee also received updates on the progress being made in delivering Coventry Electric City, whereby in December grant terms and condition with National Express were agreed and an order for the first 130 buses was placed.

No further update could be provided in relation to the regions bid to Government on ZEBRA for hydrogen buses.

40. Minutes - 15 November 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15 November 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

Resolved:

The minutes dated the 15 November 2021 be approved.

41. Forward Plan

The committee noted the items to be reported to future meetings.

Resolved:

That the items to be reported to future meetings be noted.

42. Financial Monitoring Report 2021/22

The committee received a report setting out the financial position as at 30 November 2021. The content related to the financial position of the Combined Authority's Transport Delivery Revenue and Capital Budgets.

Resolved:

(1) The year to date position as at the end of November 2021 against the TfWM Revenue Budget shows an overall favourable variance of £2.877m as detailed in Section A be noted.

(2) The TfWM Capital Programme Expenditure as at the end of November 2021 totals £182.2m, which is £72.7m below budget, as detailed in Section B be noted.

43. Capital Programme Delivery Monitoring Report

The committee received a report updating them on the progress monitoring on the approved TfWM led 2021/2022 programme and projects and the financial aspects of the TfWM Capital Programme.

Councillor David Stanley queried the progress being made at Dudley Interchange as he was concerned that the project was at risk of being delayed and that traders within that area were suffering. The Director of Development & Delivery expressed that lots of work was being done to coordinate and achieve timescales for the overall delivery plan, TfWM continued to work closely with all partners to ensure the delivery of the scheme.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable queried the update provided in relation to Minworth Park & Ride site and University Station. The Director of Development & Delivery shared that feasibility work being undertaken around the potential Park & Ride facility at Minworth and explained how that would tie into any future expansion of the Sprint Network serving the A38 corridor, he also noted that discussions and updates were being provided to relevant Birmingham Ward Councillors. The Director of Development & Delivery also shared information on the enhancing of the University Station facility and the overall funding solution in place.

Resolved:

- (1) The achievements since the September meeting of the Transport Delivery Committee be noted.
- (2) The progress of deliverables and outturn of the 2021/22 Capital Programme be noted.
- (3) Where indicated, any variations from the baseline programme be noted.

44. Rail Business Report

The committee received a report updating them on the performance, operation and delivery of rail services in the West Midlands including West Midlands Rail Executive (WRME) activity.

Councillor Chris Burden noted the report contents relating to failure of securing funding through the restoring Railway Fund but however have received information that another fund would support the scheme and queries as to whether this was best use of that fund and the reasons for not securing the funds through restoring Railway Fund. He also queries as when the new rolling stock would be seen back into service. The Head of Rail Delivery was unable to comment on the reasons as to why the schemes bids were unsuccessful but noted the competitive process the applications went through and were received from all across the country. He also highlighted that although the scheme may have been rejected did not mean it was not a worthy scheme. In regard to the new rolling stock he was hopeful that would be seen in service by late spring early summer.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable requested further information on the following stations: King Norton and Snow Hill Station and the enhancements as part of the Midlands Rail Hub. A separate briefing note on this would be provided to members.

Councillor Robert Alden stressed the importance of improving public transport in the North of Birmingham which in turn would help to improve the access to employment opportunities in that area and welcomed the voice of the committee and regional partners to support this.

Resolved:

The contents of the report be noted.

45. Park & Ride Update Report

The committee received a report updating them on Park & Ride matters within the West Midlands Combined Authority Area and the impacts of Covid-19 on car park operations and developments.

Councillor Robert Grinsell requested information on as to whether further funding had been sought for Whitlocks End and Olton in Solihull. The Park & Ride Development Manager shared that work continued to be progressed with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Officers to seek funding, and in relation to Olton funding may be sought within Solihull Council's maintenance funds. In regard to Whitlocks End Park & Ride site it was recognised that this could not be progressed until further funding had been sought but would continue to work towards seeking further funding.

Councillor Chris Burden sought clarification on when the delivery programme for Park & Rides sites would commence as the report noted the scheme was on hold, he also queried as to why the Longbridge site had a decrease in usage. The Park & Ride Development Manager noted that the site was underperforming and recognised that this site charged customers with a nearby free car park site. A marketing campaign had been prepared however due to restrictions during the pandemic this did not take place, but once appropriate leaflets would be communicated to market the car park.

Further to the committee request for details of facilities for a Park & Ride site to support Sprint The Director of Development & Delivery shared that work was being undertaken to locate and identify a site in the vicinity of Junction 7 of the M6. It was also noted that a Park and Ride site was not an integral part of the Sprint Scheme in terms of its standalone business case and a separate business case would be required for an identified Park & Ride site. Councillor Timothy Huxtable stressed that originally members of the ITA stressed the importance that a Park & Ride site for Sprint was an integral part of the scheme being put forward.

Resolved:

The contents of the report be noted.

46. Commonwealth Games Transport Plan

The committee received a report updating them on the responses from the Games Transport Plan consultation. The draft Games Transport Plan was consulted upon with statutory stakeholders and underwent an engagement exercise with the public in June 2021 till September. The committee received the updated Games Transport Plan to reflect the result of the consultation.

Councillor Mohammed Idress queried as to what plans had been made to ensure the residents around Perry Barr Stadium would not be affected following the increase of traffic volumes made by the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games Technical Director highlighted that work was being undertaken with Local Authorities to develop local area traffic management and parking plans to address this increase.

Councillor Linda Bigham sought further information on how the Commonwealth Games would support the green and clean agenda and how the air quality would be measures, monitored and managed during the increase in traffic usage. The Commonwealth Games Technical Director highlighted that the premise of the Games Transport Plan was to ensure there isn't an increase in local traffic and to encourage people to use park and ride sites and public transport.

Councillor Celia Hibbert felt that further communication and engagement should be explored to express the use of public transport element of attending the games, she suggested that this opportunity could be displayed on the tickets. The Commonwealth Games Technical Director highlighted that when the tickets for attending the Games / Events are issued transport information will also be provided specific to the venue they are travelling to.

Resolved:

The responses to the Games Transport Plan consultation and the updated Games Transport Plan be noted.

47. COVID-19 Recovery Update

The Director of Integrated Transport Services provide a brief overview of the performance across the network following the onset of Plan B measures brought in over the Christmas period. It was recognised that the rail network had seen an overall reduction in usage levels through December between 35-40%. In relation to bus the network had stabilised to around 74 % of pre Covid passenger levels. He also provided information on the impact COVID-19 was having on staff availability across the rail and bus service.

Resolved:

The update be noted.

48. WMCA Board Transport Reports (for information only)

The committee received a brief overview of the WMCA Board Transport related reports which consisted of: City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Programme, West Midlands Future Bus Delivery Options, West Midlands Local Transport Plan 5: Draft Core Strategy, Commonwealth Games Transport Plan and Wednesbury – Brierley Hill Metro Extension Update.

49. Report back from Member Engagement Groups

The committee noted 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.

50. Date of Next Meeting
Monday 7 February 2022 at 1.00pm

The meeting ended at 3.15 pm.