



**Transport Delivery Committee**

**Monday 14 March 2022 at 1.00 pm**

**Minutes**

**Present**

Councillor Richard Worrall (Chair)	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Christopher Burden	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Robert Grinsell	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Celia Hibbert	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Mohammed Idrees	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ziaul Islam MBE	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Morriam Jan	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Chaman Lal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor David Stanley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

**In Attendance**

Sophie Allison	Midland Metro Limited
Pete Bond	Transport for West Midlands
David Harris	Transport for West Midlands
Jon Hayes	Transport for West Midlands
Anne Shaw	Transport for West Midlands
Sandeep Shingadia	Transport for West Midlands
Kate Taylor	West Midlands Combined Authority

**Item Title**

**No.**

**62. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kath Hartley (Birmingham City Council), Councillor Samiya Akhter (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council), Councillor Alan Taylor (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council), Councillor Rizwan Jalil (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council), Councillor Linda Bigham (Coventry City Council), Councillor Adrian Andrew (Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council) and Councillor Mark Parker (Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council).

**63. Chair's Remarks (if any)**

Councillor Richard Worrall noted that he would be chairing today's meeting due to apologies from Councillor Kath Hartley due to a family bereavement.

As this was the last meeting of the municipal year the chair thanked all for their attendance and input over the past year.

The committee also received an update on Kevs Cars & Coaches Ltd following a fire which destroyed many buses and their depot. This company provide a subsidised service throughout the West Midlands and currently services to schools were being prioritised and work continued with Transport for West Midlands to get services up and running as quickly as possible.

The committee were also made aware of the reintroduction of the Metro service towards Birmingham Library from February. The chair also highlighted that Ring and Ride passenger numbers were increasing which was positive.

Following information of the possible proposed acquisition of National Express and Stagecoach the committee were informed that an offer was rejected and therefore currently there was currently no change to operators in the region.

In regard to bus and light rail funding the Government had approved a further package of funding for COVID recovery until October 2022.

**64. Minutes - 7 February 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 February 2022 were agreed as a correct record subject to amendments to minute item 56.

Resolved:

The minutes dated the 10 January 2022 be approved subject to amendments to changes to minute item 54 to reflect comments made by Councillor Mohammed Idrees.

**65. Matters Arising**

The committee requested that an action log be implemented and shared to ensure previous actions / requests made by the committee were followed up.

It was also highlighted that the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee would be received a private briefing on the technical evaluation on the tram fleet following the service suspension on Wednesday 23 March from 12noon and members of this committee would be invited to attend this briefing virtually.

**66. Financial Monitoring Report**

The committee received a report which set out the financial position as at 31 January 2022, the contents related to the financial position of the WMCA's Transport Delivery Revenue and Capital Budgets.

Resolved:

(1) The year to date position as at the end of January 2022 against the TfWM Revenue Budget shows an overall favourable variance of £4.401m, as detailed in Section A be noted.

(2) The TfWM Capital Programme Expenditure as at the end of January 2022 totals £241.7m, which was £105.3m below budget, as detailed in Section B be noted.

**67. Capital Programme Delivery Monitoring Report**

The committee received a progress monitoring update report on the approved TfWM led 2021/22 programmes and projects. Key achievements related to Dudley Interchange, Key Route Network, Perry Barr Rail Station and Bus Interchange, University Station, TfWM Asset Renewal Programme and West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable felt that the report and the appendix related to Perry Barr Rail Station and Bus Interchange had some contradictions as the RAG status was Amber/Red and the trend was worse, yet the report stated good progress had been made. The Director of Strategic Partnerships and Delivery Integration highlighted that good progress was being made against the overall programme but there was some risk on the additional works relating to the platforms. This explained why the RAG rating had changed to enable to completion of works in terms of delivery.

In regard to the West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme, the committee were informed of the tender progress being made on the sponsorship opportunities. All interested parties are being taken through a procurement process which would take a number of weeks and the committee would be kept updated as appropriate.

Councillor Morriam Jan requested further information on Hamstead Station as she recently started a petition over safety concerns related to a crossing of the station.

Resolved:

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

**68. Metro Operations Monitoring Report**

The committee received a report updating them on the operational performance of Midland Metro Limited, operator of West Midlands Metro. Following the last update in November 2021, the Metro services were temporarily suspended for just over four weeks between the 13 November and the 14 December. This was to enable essential repairs to be undertaken on the bogie boxes of the Urbos 3 trams which had experienced cracking.

Although the Metro service had been suspended for a short period Councillor Chris Burden highlighted that it was positive to see that passenger numbers were increasing. He also requested further information on the Metro Ticket Zones consultation exercise which took place to structure options such as flat fares, metro ticket zones and number of stops travelled. The Commercial Director West Midlands Metro highlighted that a separate meeting had been arranged between herself and Councillor Chris Burden to enable the detail of information requested. It was also highlighted that although no changes were being made to the ticket zones a review would be undertaken.

The Chair requested the tram lift at St Chads be looked at due to technical difficulties and it being out of service. Councillor David Stanley also highlighted similar concerns with the Bilston Tram Stop lift.

Resolved:

The contents of the report be noted.

**69. Update on University and Perry Barr Transport Interchange Projects**

The committee requested they be provided with an update on the progress on University and Perry Barr Interchange projects being taken forward by the West Midlands Rail Programme.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable requested further information on the discussions being undertaken with train operators for additional services during the Commonwealth Games. The programme sponsor for WMRE shared that he would update the committee separately on any arrangements being proposed.

Councillor Chris Burden highlighted the positives of the work being done towards the station in preparation for the games.

Following the comments related to engagement with residents, businesses and communities within the area, the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Delivery Integration shared the communication work to ensure all local residents were informed of any changes and updated as appropriate.

The Chair highlighted the issues with the lift access to the platform which wasn't currently accessible or fit for purpose, The programme sponsor for WMRE sought to provide further information on accessibility.

The committee would also be provided with further details on how the station would be operating in the future following the Commonwealth Games.

Resolved:

The contents of the report be noted.

**70. Transport for West Midlands 2022-23 Directorate Plan**

The committee received a report of the draft Transport for West Midlands 2022-23 Directorate Plan, informing them of the agreed High – Level Deliverables agreed for the forthcoming financial year.

Resolved:

The contents of the TfWM Directorate plan for 2022-23 be noted.

**71. Reimagining Transport on the West Midlands Local Transport Plan – Draft Core Strategy Engagement**

The committee received a report updating them on the developments of the new West Midlands Local Transport Plan and in particular the engagement of the new Local Transport Plan Core Strategy.

Councillor Chris Burden highlighted the positives of good engagement with the public but felt that although traffic seem to be the main issue he thought that electric cars was not the solution. The Transport Strategy and Place Manager explained the results of the travel behaviours and the approach needing to be taken forward to enable the West Midlands to be realistic.

The Chair requested that members of the committee looked further at the consultation and provide any feedback as the consultation did not end until April 2022.

Resolved:

(1) The proposed approach and progress on development of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the publication of the West Midlands LTP Core Strategy for consultation be noted.

(2) The approach for developing the LTP Big Moves and Areas Strategies through to Summer 2022 be noted.

**72. Bus Funding Update**

The Head of Bus provided the committee with information relating to formal confirmation of a further six months funding for Bus until October 2022 which also included additional funding for the West Midlands for support to the region during the Commonwealth Games.

**73. WMCA Board Transport Reports (for information only)**

The Director of Integrated Transport Services provided the committee with a brief overview of the WMCA Board transport related reports.

Resolved:

That the transport related reports submitted for information only being considered by the WMCA Board on 18 March 2022 be noted.

**74. 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.

**75. Date of Next Meeting**  
To be confirmed

The meeting ended at 3.25pm