



**West Midlands  
Combined Authority**

## **Transport Delivery Committee**

<b>Date</b>	10 October 2022
<b>Report title</b>	Member Engagement Groups Update
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**Recommendation(s) for decision:**

**Transport Delivery Committee is recommended to:**

(1) To note the recent activities 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 The introduction of Lead Member Reference Groups occurred in 2017 when it was felt that the formal meetings of this committee did not allow members to get further into detail of a number of transport-related items. Following a subsequent review of the role and remit of the Lead Member Reference Groups, they have been renamed as Member Engagement Groups (MEGs) to give the rest of the WMCA a clearer sense of their purpose, allowing members the opportunity to focus on specific aspects of the work of Transport for West Midlands in the delivery of policies.

- 2.2 In total there are currently six MEGs:

- Air Quality, Congestion & Environmental Impact
- Finance & Performance
- Putting Passengers First
- Rail & Metro
- Safe & Sustainable Travel
- Sprint

- 2.3 Each of the MEGs normally meet ahead of each meeting of this committee and are open to all Transport Delivery Committee members to attend.

## 3. Member Engagement Group Updates

- 3.1 An update from Member Engagement Groups is provided below for those groups that met after the last committee.

### *Air Quality, Congestion & Environmental Impact (Councillor Linda Bigham)*

A verbal update will be provided at committee due to the Air Quality, Congestion and Environmental Impact member engagement group not meeting until Monday 7 September 2022.

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

The Finance and Performance MEG last met on 2nd August with full attendance from MEG members.

As this was the first meeting of the new financial year members were given an update on the 22/23 budget and year to date financial performance which included the latest position on transport recovery funding particularly in relation to bus. An update was also provided on the latest Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for transport including some of the challenges and the process for updating the MTFP and reporting to WMCA Board. Finally the forward plan for MEG topics was discussed.

### *Putting Passengers First (Councillor Mary Locke)*

The Putting Passengers First Member Engagement Group (MEG) met Thursday 1st September 2022. Members present were Councillor Mary Locke (Chair) and Councillor David Stanley with Councillor Bill Gavan, Councillor Shabrana Hussain and Councillor Carol

Hyatt joining remotely. Apologies were received from Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner and Councillor Clare Simm.

Members received an update on BSIP funding, with members asking for clarification of the amount originally requested compared to the amount awarded and asked for details as to how the reduced amount was prioritised. Members were pleased to hear that the original amount allocated for Safety on the network had remained the same and raised concerns as to the increase in Anti-Social Behaviour and crime on the network. The group are due to have a briefing with National Express and it was asked that safety be a priority issue to be raised at this briefing.

The group also received an update on the proposals for a trial of co-mingling Demand Responsive Transport with the Ring and Ride service in Coventry. Members asked to ensure that comprehensive user consultation took place, particularly with existing Ring and Ride users and encouraged the use of open-ended questions.

The group also received an update on Sprint, with details of progress on Phase 1 and Phase 2 with a commitment made to keep the group updated as the project progresses. The group also discussed updating the Terms of Reference, adopting all existing responsibilities and it was agreed to include an ongoing commitment for members to take part in the Bus Passenger Satisfaction Steering Group, with all members of the Putting Passengers First MEG being invited to join this group and for regular updates to be included in the Forward Plan. The next meeting is now scheduled for 31st October 2022.

#### *Rail & Metro (Councillor Timothy Huxtable)*

The Rail and Metro MEG met on 25 July. This was the first meeting under new chair Cllr Huxtable. The main subjects of discussion were the Metro capital works programme and the Rail Programme. Other topics discussed included interface between Rail and Sprint and Sprint and Metro, rail industrial relations, and Park and Ride.

The West Side extension opened to passengers on 17th July, with good ridership reported. Some residual works on side streets need to be completed, but these will wait until after the CWG. The majority of construction is complete on the Wolverhampton extension, with the track and paving fully installed. The aim is to open in October 2022. On Wednesbury to Brierley Hill, Members were briefed on the recent discussions on this subject that took place at WMCA Board. Works on Section 1 of Eastside stopped for the CWG. They will recommence in August and complete by the end of the year.

On the Rail Programme, Members heard that at Darlaston and Willenhall contractors were onsite starting enabling works. At Darlaston there are some land acquisition issues that still need to be concluded, and a CPO process is in motion, although the Rail Programme hope to be able to reach a commercial settlement. On Package 2 (Camp Hill Line) the team have instructed the principal contractors, who will undertake the design and delivery, and have secured the bulk of the land parcels. Perry Barr reopened to customers as planned before the CWG. The expanded platforms at University are also available for use, again ahead of the CWG.

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

The Safe and Sustainable Travel MEG met for the first time this financial year. The new Head of Safety Security and Emergency Planning presented a brief update on the team including 3 new TSOs who are currently being trained. Monthly tasking is ongoing and new CCTV coverage will provide expansion of the Control Centre for the Games. The new Implementation Manager for Cycling and Walking Development provided a brief update on

active travel, with several schemes being delivered as part of the second tranche of Active Travel Fund. West Midlands Cycle Hire has an offer over the Games period with free use of the hire bikes twice a day for 30 minutes at a time. The Cycling and Walking Team has been restructured in preparation for the increased investment in active travel and to build resource and expertise to develop LTN 1/20 compliant schemes.

*Sprint* (Councillor Richard Worrall)

A verbal update will be provided at committee.

#### **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 None.