



**Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

**Thursday 8 September 2022 at 10.00 am**

**Minutes**

**Present**

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Chaman Lal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Martin McCarthy	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Barbara McGarrity	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Karen Simms	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Rupinder Singh	Coventry City Council
Councillor Vera Waters	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

**In Attendance**

Carl Beet	Head of Strategy and Intelligence
Dan Essex	Governance Services Manager
Chris Lane	Head of Transport Innovation
Lyndsey Roberts	Scrutiny Officer
Anne Shaw	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands
Colin Whitehouse	Programme Mitigation Manager

**Item No. Title**

**65. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mark Westwood (Dudley).

**66. Chair's Remarks**

**(a) Attendance at Meetings**

The Chair highlighted the importance of member attendance at meetings and agreed to write to those members that had not attended a meeting so far this year.

**67. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

The appointment of the Vice-Chair was the responsibility of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee and had to be a member from a different political group to the Mayor. The Chair proposed that Councillor Chaman Lal be appointed as Vice-Chair of this sub-committee.

Resolved:

Councillor Chaman Lal be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee for 2022/23.

**68. Minutes - 14 July 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

**69. Matters Arising**

**(a) Progress Report on Transport Governance Review**

The Chair reported that work on the Transport Governance Review continued, and that she had been asked for her views on the transport governance arrangements, which would be fed into the ongoing review.

**70. Dudley - Brierley Hill Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee Metro Briefing Note**

The sub-committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands that addressed the concerns raised at the last meeting by a member of the public regarding the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill metro extension.

It was recognised that whilst the revised route, as proposed, could lower costs for the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill extension, it would not directly stop at Merry Hill and The Waterfront, which would have an impact on patronage and the overall viability of the scheme.

Members discussed and shared comments on the current works being undertaken along the Wednesbury - Dudley route, observations of Metro Line 1 and future extensions, compulsory and voluntary purchase orders of residential properties, funding options and the implication of inflationary rises.

In addition to the delivery of the metro extension, members stressed the importance for the provision of parking facilities to discourage indiscriminate parking. In relation to Dudley Port, the Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands agreed to liaise with Councillor Karen Simms directly with regards to the proposals to improve the facilities in this area.

Resolved:

(1) That officers be thanked for the comprehensive report; and

(2) The report be noted.

**71. Walking and Cycling Index Report**

The sub-committee considered a report of Ridhi Kalaria, Sustrans on the Walking and Cycling Index

The Walking and Cycling Index supported leaders of cities and towns to understand and improve walking, wheeling and cycling across the UK and Ireland. It was the biggest ever survey of walking, wheeling and cycling in 18 urban areas across these countries. Since their first report in 2015, the data had informed policy decisions, justified investment and enabled cities to develop more ambitious action plans for walking, wheeling and cycling.

Members noted the key messages that had arisen from the report, which had indicated a desire for a cleaner, safer, better connected, sustainable and a cheaper way to travel. Members shared comments with regards to the physical and mental benefits of walking, wheeling and cycling, the operation of school streets schemes, pavement parking and the issues associated to this, Local Traffic Note 120, the Local Transport Plan, cycle lanes and funding for active travel schemes.

Resolved:

The report be noted.

## **72. Connected and Automated Mobility in the West Midlands**

The sub-committee considered a report of the Director for Policy, Strategy & Innovation that provided an overview of the connected and automated mobility (or self-driving) eco-system in the West Midlands, including what was happening now and potential for the future.

The West Midlands had become a springboard for real-world future mobility technologies and services provided either directly through Transport for West Midlands or through partners in the region.

The sub-committee welcomed the report and the collaborations with WMG at the University of Warwick and local authorities within the region, which had generated public and private investment in autonomous vehicles and associated services in the West Midlands.

The Head of Transport Innovation provided an overview of the work being undertaken to manage the relationship between other road users and autonomous vehicles, public perception, public safety, innovational testbed projects, sustainability of funding and the digitalisation of the road network.

Resolved:

That the progress being made be noted.

## **73. Travel Demand Management Programme Update**

The committee considered a presentation from the Programme Mitigation Manager that provided an overview of the Travel Demand Management programme.

Transport for West Midlands demand management approach recognised that customers could make intelligent decisions given the right information. A key focus of the approach was targeting business sites around prime areas of disruption, providing advice and support to enable them to mitigate impacts of congestion and disruption.

Resolved:

The presentation be noted.

**74. Work Programme**

The sub-committee discussed its work programme of business for consideration at its future meetings and at the WMCA Board.

The committee proposed a number of items of business to be considered at future meetings, including the bus service improvement plan, mobility hubs, progress on the delivery of new railway stations, transport going forward and the city regions sustainable transport settlement line one business case. The Chair agreed to discuss these items further with the Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands.

Resolved:

The work programme be noted.

**75. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 13 October at 10:00am (Q&A Transport Policy matters)

The meeting ended at 12:00pm.