



# WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

## Transport Delivery Committee

Monday 9 October 2017 at 1.00 pm

### Minutes

#### Present

Councillor Richard Worrall (Chair)	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Phil Davis (Majority Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Opposition Vice Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Mohammed Fazal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Mohammed Hanif	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Kath Hartley	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Diana Holl-Allen	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Roger Horton	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Chaman Lal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Keith Linnecor	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ted Richards	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Judith Rowley	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor David Stanley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

#### In Attendance

Andre Bromfield	West Midlands Combined Authority
Lee Eteo	Transport for the West Midlands
Richard Hardman	Transport for the West Midlands
Jon Hayes	Transport for the West Midlands
Malcolm Holmes	West Midlands Rail
Linda Horne	West Midlands Combined Authority
Chris Lane	Transport for the West Midlands
Edmund Salt	Transport for the West Midlands
Peter Sargant	Transport for the West Midlands
Laura Shoaf	Transport for the West Midlands

#### Item No.

#### 35. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew, Sidhu, Warren and Welsh.

**36. Chair's Remarks**

(a) The Chair reminded colleagues to ensure that any papers sent to Councillor Horton are in the correct format so that he is able to read them.

(b) In relation to the Lead Member Reference Groups, the Chair reported that a report would be submitted to the next meeting that would include timetables for the various Lead Member Reference Groups meetings along with the respective forward plans.

**37. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the following amendments :

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Mohammed Hanif for his inability to attend the meeting and

*Busting delay on the bus network – bus stop rationalisation (Minute no. 29)  
Recommendation 2 to read:*

*'That a pilot to rationalise bus stops within the South Birmingham Network Review Area, as set out in the report and pursuant to the emerging objectives of the wider Strategic Action Plan be approved'.*

**38. Matters Arising**

**(a) Financial Monitoring Report (minute no. 24 refers)**

Councillor Rowley reported that she could not recall being provided with a response to her enquiry regarding the reasons for the 4 % increase in child patronage. Linda Horne undertook to check whether a response had been sent to Councillor Rowley.

**39. Correspondence/ Petitions**

**(a) Letter from Tom Watson, Member of Parliament**

Councillor Horton referred to a copy of a letter he had received from Tom Watson, MP, which had been sent to Transport for the West Midlands on behalf of one his constituents. The letter raised the issue of insufficient integration of West Midlands bus services. The Managing Director, Laura Shoaf confirmed that she had received the letter.

**(b) Petition regarding bus serving Bearwood Road/facilities in Bearwood**

Councillor Horton submitted a petition on behalf of residents in his ward that sought the reinstatement of a full bus service in Bearwood Road/Bearwood to access the shopping centre, GPs and dental practices.

Councillor Huxtable reported that he had submitted a petition in June regarding moving the number 98 bus stop on the Lickey Road nearer to Eliot Gardens and asked to be provide with an answer on matter. The Head of Network Development, Jon Hayes, undertook to look into the matter and feedback to Councillor Huxtable.

**40. Creating World Class Interchange for Wolverhampton**

The committee considered a report of the Area Manager Transport Operations (Black Country), Richard Hardman and the Programme Director of West Midlands Rail, Malcolm Holmes, that updated the committee on the initial work being undertaken with regards to the Wolverhampton Interchange Project.

It was noted that following the completion of the new rail station building and the Metro extension, the three transport modes of bus, rail and Metro would be bought together in one interchange that would provide a significant opportunity to bring together public transport in one cohesive high quality facility.

The report set out progress to date and next steps with regards to the most achievable passenger benefits/outputs following a workshop with key stakeholders.

Councillor Rowley welcomed the report noting the huge benefits that the interchange would bring for Wolverhampton and the region and enquired as to whether the track alignment for Metro had been agreed and whether the project had taken into consideration the needs of people with disabilities including those with hidden disabilities.

The Programme Director for West Midlands Rail reported that the track alignment had not yet been finalised and that with regards to the interchange catering for people with disabilities, this was inherent in the scheme design and what is proposed. He added a consistent approach was being sought to ensure there was seamless travel across the three modes.

In relation to enquiry from Councillor Stanley regarding whether the Metro would serve the rail station, the Programme Director for West Midlands Rail confirmed that Metro would serve the bus station and the railway station.

Resolved:

- (1) That the principles and aspirations of the report to make Wolverhampton Interchange a World Class facility be endorsed; and
- (2) That the progression of the most achievable project outputs (as detailed in table 1 of the report be endorsed.

**41. Park and Ride Update**

The committee considered a report of the Head of Rail that provided an update with regards to the delivery and development of park and ride sites in the Transport for the West Midlands area since the previous report was submitted on 3 April 2017.

The report set out the current park and ride provision, future pressures on park and ride, car park expansion workstreams including projects, car park enforcement, private sector partnership, park and ride charging, development of new park and ride sites on the Sprint network, park and ride standards, lease review, save a trial, encouraging other access options, stakeholder engagement and the review of charging arrangements at Sutton Coldfield.

Councillor Hanif reported that he welcomed the report and asked to be kept informed in relation to work being undertaken in Dudley.

The Head of Rail replied that he was happy to keep Councillor Hanif updated on matters in Dudley.

Councillor Huxtable noted that some of the car parks identified for expansion were on the boundary of the West Midlands and enquired as to whether consideration was being given to charging non-West Midlands residents for parking which could be undertaken by utilising modern technology such as automatic number plate recognition or Swift for example, as he noted that West Midlands residents paid for parking through their council tax. Councillor Huxtable also enquired as whether parking at stations by non-rail users was also an issue that could be tackled using technology such as Swift.

The Head of Rail advised that TfWM does not currently distinguish between West Midlands residents and non-West Midlands residents but work was being undertaken to map the usage of stations by post code. He added that non-West Midlands residents did use park and ride at some stations this however was not as big an issue as one might expect. In relation to park and ride spaces being used by non-rail users, the Head of Rail advised that this was not a widespread problem as most car parks were full by 8.00 am although it was an issue around Tile Hill Station where enforcement arrangements could be applied if necessary.

Councillor Alden reported of the need to 'future proof' any car park expansion to take account of clean air zones and future transport schemes, notably Metro and HS2 and enquired as to the future opportunities for expanding parking provision at Erdington.

The Head of Rail concurred with the need to ensure park and ride is integrated into all public transport schemes and that park and ride sites need a good rail service in order to be attractive. In relation to possible expansion proposals for Erdington, the Head of Rail reported that Erdington had been identified and undertook to speak to Alden further on the matter.

Resolved:

- (1) That the current status of development for park and ride expansion schemes be noted;
- (2) That the significant amount of activity that is underway on how park and ride is developed and delivered be noted and supported ;

- (3) That the broader policy decisions on park and ride charging will be an issue for the WMCA Board at the appropriate time be noted; and
- (4) That the charging arrangements that exist at Sutton Coldfield be reviewed as outlined in paragraph 5.28 of the report be agreed.

**42. Passenger Information Update**

The committee considered a report of the Head of Smart Travel that provided an update on the passenger information activities of Transport for West Midlands from April to June 2017.

Further to the request of Councillor Hartley, Lead Member for Putting Passengers First, the Head of Smarter Travel, Chris Lane provided an update on the work of the Passenger Information Innovation Group.

In relation to a comment from Councillor Davis regarding the need for 'joined-up' passenger information and whether bus information will continue to be provided for the West Midlands conurbation following the demise of West Midlands Travel Information Services (WMTIS), the Head of Smart Travel reported that TfWM would continue to receive data for bus services across the country and TfWM also process data for the West Midlands Shire authorities. He added that the discussions are also on-going with non-constituent authorities to further develop the regional arrangements for 2017/18 and beyond.

Resolved: That the activity with respect to information provision and the progress being made towards all operator real-time information be noted.

**43. Customer Engagement Update Report**

The committee considered a report of the Head of Customer Services that provided an update on key engagement forums and activity undertaken with regards to Your Public Transport Matters Events, other engagement channels and Passenger Champion Activity.

The Customer Relations Manager, Lee Eteo presented the report and outlined the change in format to the Your Public Transport Matters Events (YPTM). It was noted that future YPTM events would integrate with other forum and public consultation events to consolidate customer contact in a more efficient way. A list of YPMT and WMCA events was included in the report although it was noted that further events would be planned which would involve partners.

In relation to a comment from Councillor Horton that he had not been informed of the Metro and Rail Event and his suggestion to review the distribution/ mailing list for events, the Customer Relations Manager reported that he would review the mailing list to ensure invitations were sent to the appropriate people.

Resolved: That the contents of the report and in particular the revised arrangements for face to face customer engagement be noted.

#### **44. Bus Business Report**

The committee considered a report of the Network Development Manager that provided an update on the performance, operation and delivery of bus services in the West Midlands.

In relation to West Midlands low fares zones offered by National Express on the Outer Circle route, Councillor Lal reported that bus drivers on the number 11 route have refused to accept the low fare ticket stating that the cheaper £3 ticket was invalid; he asked for clarity as to where the cheaper ticket could be used.

The Network Development Manager, Edmund Salt, undertook to contact National Express to seek clarification regarding the low fare zone ticket and the number 11 service.

Councillor Akhtar considered that all parties should work together to lobby Government to reduce fares which would serve to increase patronage.

The Head of Network Development reported that TfWM is working to increase patronage and reduce fares and reported of the recent success of the 16-18 photocard for apprentices/ those in job related training which allows this group to travel for half fare. He added that congestion also impacts on patronage and referred to the 50 deliverables that have been agreed by the West Midlands Bus Alliance which will look to tackle these issues among others. The Head of Network Development reported that he would respond directly to Councillor Akhtar on the matter.

In relation to the West Midlands Bus Alliance objectives and deliverables, Councillor Stanley reported that this was a useful document for sharing with the committee. The Network Development Manager undertook to circulate a copy of the document to members.

In relation to the bus stop rationalisation pilot, Councillor Huxtable reported that some of the bus stops that have been de-commissioned are impacting on other bus routes/services and considered that the position on these selected stops should be reviewed as soon as part of the trial rather than waiting until the end of the pilot.

The Head of Network Development reported that TfWM has received approximately 100 comments relating to the trial and the team was currently working their way through these to determine the best way forward and added that the trial is flexible; bus stops could be re-instated if required.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

#### **45. WMCA Update -Transport Reports for Information Only**

The committee considered transport reports that would be considered by the West Midlands Combined Authority Board at its meeting on 13 October 2017.

In relation to the report, 'West Midlands Common Approach to Cycling: Bikeshare' and an enquiry from Councillor Stanley regarding the provision for bikes on trains, the Managing Director, Laura Shoaf reported that decision as to whether bikes are allowed on trains is determined by the train operator and whilst London Midland allows bikes on trains, Chiltern Railway does not. The Managing Director undertook to ask the Programme Director for West Midlands Rail to provide an update for members with regards to the position for West Midlands trains.

Resolved: That the reports be noted.

**46. Forward Plan**

The committee considered a report of agenda items to be submitted to future meetings.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

**47. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 6 November 2017 at 1:00pm