



**Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

**Monday 6 February 2023 at 3.00 pm**

**Minutes**

**Present**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)    | Association of Black Country Authorities |
| Councillor Chaman Lal (Vice-Chair) | 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 Alan Taylor             | Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council      |

**In Attendance**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Pete Bond                | Director of Integrated Transport Services         |
| Helen Edwards            | Director of Law and Governance                    |
| Dan Essex                | Governance Services Manager                       |
| Steve Hayes              | Head of Network Transformation                    |
| Lyndsey Roberts          | Scrutiny Officer                                  |
| Anne Shaw                | Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands |
| Councillor Jackie Taylor | Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council             |

**Item Title**  
**No.**

**88. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Vera Waters (Walsall).

**89. Minutes - 24 November 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

**90. Question Time - Transport Policy: Response from the Portfolio Lead Member for Transport**

The sub-committee received a response in respect of the observations it had identified following the Q&A session on 13 October 2022 that was based on transport policy related matters.

The Chair explained that on 16 December 2022, the WMCA Board considered a report on the Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund and noted that a further report setting out the next steps and intended decisions was anticipated to be presented to the board in January 2023. The Chair agreed to liaise with the Chief Executive regarding the legacy programme and timescales.

Councillor Rupinder Singh stressed the importance of cross boundary travel for school aged children and whilst the challenges of this was recognised, he considered that more could be done to enable an affordable, seamless journey to school. The Director of Integrated Transport Services referred to the significant work being undertaken regarding the in-conurbation ticketing arrangements and assured members that further dialogue would be held with non-constituent colleagues regarding cross boundary travel for school aged children.

Resolved:

The response received from the Portfolio Lead Member for Transport to the observations identified by the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee following the Q&A on 13 October 2022 be noted.

#### **91. Transport Governance Review Update**

The sub-committee received a presentation from the Director of Law & Governance on the latest position regarding the transport governance review.

The Director of Law & Governance provided an overview of the terms of reference for the review and explained that the review would provide clarity on roles and responsibilities, consistency and alignment with other WMCA boards and committees, simplification, clear lines of accountability and transparency of the transport decision-making arrangements within the WMCA.

The sub-committee discussed and shared comments on the current political transport governance structure, the importance of the public voice in the WMCA's transport decision-making process and the need for further engagement with young people. The Chair also sought clarity on the consultation process, formulation of the recommendations and timescales.

In terms of next steps, a draft report on the emerging recommendations would be submitted to the next meeting of the sub-committee on 16 March 2023, for consideration.

Resolved:

The observations of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee be noted.

#### **92. Future Bus Delivery Options (Including Franchising)**

The sub-committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Services that provided an update on the measures Transport for West Midlands was undertaking to address ongoing challenges in delivering bus services that met the ambitions of the region's Vision for Bus, including ongoing Enhanced Partnership and a Full Franchising Assessment.

In 2019, the WMCA approved the West Midlands Vision for Bus that set out the ambition of the region's bus network. The WMCA had requested that Transport for West Midlands developed an Outline Business Case to assess

available options for delivery based on Enhanced Partnership and Bus Franchising powers provided under the Bus Services Act 2017.

The Head of Network Transformation outlined some of the potential challenges associated with the introduction of a Bus Franchising model across the region and explained that Transport for West Midlands had employed consultants with the appropriate expertise around bus regulations to support the assessment to avoid any potential legal challenges if franchising was pursued.

As part of the bus franchising assessment members considered that there needed to be a regime to access data to enable the evaluation and comparison of passenger information including, race, gender and location. The importance of equality impact assessments was also emphasised. Councillor Martin McCarthy enquired about the challenges and lessons learnt from the current bus partnership model and asked whether these were documented to ensure future improvements and the identification of any systemic issues.

Resolved:

The observations of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee be noted.

**93. Pre-Decision: West Midlands Local Transport Plan 'Reimagining Transport in the West Midlands' - Final Core Strategy and draft Big Moves and draft Area Strategy Guidance**

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Transport for West Midlands on the final version of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan 'Reimagining Transport in the West Midlands' Core Strategy as the first element of the new West Midlands Local Transport Plan.

In terms of engagement on the strategy, it was considered that there needed to be a creative approach to connect with younger members of the public and that were representative of the region. With regards to encouraging behaviour change, Councillor Barbara McGarrity suggested that the inclusion of additional information within the Council Tax leaflet could potentially help to raise awareness of the personal benefits of modal change. The Chair added that creative solutions also need to be sought as to how retail outlets supported and encouraged its customers to use alternative modes of transport to access its facility.

The sub-committee discussed and shared comments on the importance of consumer affordability within the strategy, the withdrawal of the eScooter trial, the provision of infrastructure to accommodate alternative modes of transport, managing demand and benchmarking.

Resolved:

- (1) The Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee support the approval of the recommendations contained with the report and being considered by the WMCA Board at its meeting on 10 February 2023.

- (2) The observations of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee regarding consumer affordability, the need for widespread and creative engagement and benchmarking be noted.

**94. Work Programme**

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

Resolved:

The programme be noted.

**95. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 16 February 2023 at 10:00am (Q&A: Transport Delivery related matters).

The meeting ended at 5.00 pm.