



**Meeting:** Transport Delivery Committee

**Subject:** Minutes

**Date:** Monday 6 February 2017 at 1.00pm

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**Present:**

Councillor Richard Worrall (Chair)	(Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council)
Councillor Philip Davis (Vice-Chair)	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	(Coventry City Council)
Councillor Roberts Alden	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Mohammed Fazal	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Kath Hartley	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Roger Horton	(Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council)
Councillor Timothy Huxtable	(Birmingham City 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)
Councillor Daniel Warren	(City of Wolverhampton Council)
Councillor David Welsh	(Coventry City Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew, Eaves and Holl-Allen.

**In attendance:**

James Aspinall (Corporate Services Director)  
Pete Bond (Director of Transport Services)  
Steve Hayes (Network Development and Delivery Manager)  
Laura Shoaf (Managing Director)  
Andy Thrupp (Operations Manager - Customer Facilities)  
Michael Wevill (Swift Development Manager)

**74/16 Chair's Remarks**

The Chair reported that a meeting of the Sprint Lead Member Reference Group would be held at 3.00pm today.

**75/16 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2017 were agreed, and signed by the Chair, as a correct record.

## 76/16 Matters Arising

- (a) **Lead Member Reference Group Report** (*minute no.62/16*)  
In relation to Councillor Stanley's enquiry regarding the outcome of the meeting with Network Rail to discuss the signage at New Street Station, the Director of Transport Services reported that he was scheduled to meet Network Rail next week.
- (b) **Forthcoming Events – Conference - Out of Sight, Out of Mind Public** (*minute no. 71/16*)  
Councillor Rowley reported that she would submit a report to the next meeting on the 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind' conference she had attended recently.
- (c) **Forthcoming Events - Bus Summit** (*minute no. 71/16*)  
The Chair asked that a joint report be submitted to the next meeting from the three members attending the bus summit on 9 February.

## 77/16 Bus Alliance Review - 2016

The committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Services that outlined the progress of the West Midlands Bus Alliance in 2016 and sought approval for the report to be presented to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board on 17 February 2017.

The Network Development and Delivery Manager outlined the report and advised the committee that specific deliverables would be developed over the coming months for the Bus Alliance Board to deliver over the next few years.

The committee welcomed and supported the work of the Bus Alliance but referred to some areas that required attention.

Councillor Lal reported that evening bus services were not always reliable and referred to 'missing' services that left passengers having to wait for buses for up to 40 minutes.

The Network Development and Delivery Manager acknowledged Councillor Lal's comments and advised him to refer any cases such as these to the Member Enquiries email address so that the Customer Relations Team could take forward issues of unreliability/ tardiness with bus operators.

In relation to comments from Councillor Welsh regarding congestion data and how the information was being used to encourage more people use to buses, the Network Development and Delivery Manager reported that the Bus Alliance Board has agreed to establish a congestion working group that would look at targeting 'quick wins'.

Councillor Huxtable reported that he was pleased to hear 'quick wins' would be delivered noting the need to do more to tackle congestion, punctuality and reliability. He added that Birmingham City Council was looking at introducing bus priority type measures on the Hagley Road without impacting on other road users and pedestrians and that he would like to discuss this with the Director of Transport Services.

The Director of Transport Services advised that he was happy to meet with Councillor Huxtable to discuss the 'quick wins' in Birmingham.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Horton as to whether the work of the Bus Alliance Board was being communicated by bus operators to bus drivers, the Network Development and Delivery Manager reported that the Bus Alliance has a communications plan and it also produces a newsletter that bus operators are encouraged to share with their staff. He added that he would add this item to the agenda for the forthcoming Bus Operators Panel meeting.

Councillor Alden reported that he was looking forward to seeing the reductions in emissions however, he noted that data presented in the report with regards to progress on emissions targets was very misleading and could be misinterpreted.

The Chair asked that the Network Development and Delivery Manager work with Councillor Alden to ensure that the information presented in the report on emissions accurately reflects the true position.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Horton regarding the correlation between patronage increases in rail and Metro and the fall in bus patronage (with the exception of Coventry), the Network Development and Delivery Manager reported that specific data with regards to Metro and bus patronage for Birmingham City Centre was not available although he could look to see whether the data could be captured.

The Director of Transport Services reported that work was being undertaken with regards to journey trips, journey patterns and other factors as this was complex area and undertook to report back to this committee in due course.

**Resolved** that the report be approved for submission to the WMCA Board on 17 February 2017 subject to the report being updated to reflect the comments made by the Transport Delivery Committee.

## **78/17 Solihull Statutory Quality Bus Partnership**

The committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Services that sought approval for the start of the formal consultation on the Solihull Centre Statutory Quality Bus Partnership (SQPS).

The Lead Member for Putting Passengers First, Councillor Hartley reported that she was pleased to see the proposed Solihull scheme which follows the creation of the SQPS for Birmingham City Centre in July 2012.

The Network Development and Delivery Manager reported that the proposed SQPS scheme for Solihull would be similar to the Birmingham scheme which would provide improved bus facilities and shelters, set standards for bus operators, introduce a slot booking system and set bus engine emissions standards.

Councillor Richards reported that he was very pleased to support the report's recommendation and that introduction of the scheme follows the improvements made as part of Solihull Gateway and Lode Lane schemes.

Councillor Linnecor reported that he concurred with Councillor Richards although he considered that the consultation on the Solihull SQPS could be undertaken later in the year due the work being undertaken in Lode Lane.

**Resolved** that approval be given for the start of the formal consultation on the Solihull Town Centre Statutory Quality Bus Partnership.

**79/16**

#### **TfWM Infrastructure Report**

The committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Services that provided an update with regards to the operation and enhancement of TfWM Customer Infrastructure which included bus stations, interchanges, travel centres, safety and security, real time information, Swift collectors, shelters, stops and park and ride enhancements.

With regards to real time information, Councillor Lal reported there were instances of the real time information displays being switched off at bus stations and not working properly (erratic displays) at bus stops in Perry Barr noting the need for information to be provided to the travelling public.

The Transport Operations Manager (Customer Facilities) advised that TfWM was always reviewing information and was keen to improve the reliability of real time information and that he could look into the matter if details were provided.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Warren with regards to the current position for coaches using the St. Georges Metro stop in Wolverhampton, the Director of Transport Services explained that whilst this was not TfWM's scheme, TfWM was in dialogue with the city council regarding coach movements in the city centre and how this facility could be utilised given the constraints of the single vehicle access into and out of the location.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Stanley regarding whether the Metro extension at Merry Hill would go into the bus station, the Network Development and Delivery Manager reported that a working group has been established and the Metro Alliance was giving consideration to the integration

of Metro including modelling how the Metro would fit into the bus station scheme.

With regards to an enquiry from Councillor Huxtable as to whether Merry Hill would be 'future proofed' for the Metro/tram-train route to Stourbridge in the short, medium or long-term delivery plans for Metro, the Managing Director advised that the route was not included in the short-term Metro delivery programme but was part of the Metro Alliance's long-term future plans and would be 'future proofed'.

**Resolved** that the contents of the report be noted.

## **80/16 Swift Programme Update**

The committee considered a report of the Managing Director that provided an update on the progress of Swift.

The report provided an update on Swift journeys, sales and modes, how the scheme compared to smart ticketing schemes within the other large urban regions and the next phases for Swift which included child ticketing and rail ticketing.

The Swift Development Manager reported that Swift journeys are continuing to increase and almost 100 million journeys were processed by Swift systems if concessionary smart journeys are included. It was noted that compared to smart ticketing schemes in other large urban areas, Swift has the greatest range of functionality and more than twice as many journeys as the next largest scheme.

Councillor Welsh considered that Swift was a brilliant scheme and enquired whether the scheme could be utilised for West Midlands' job seekers.

The Swift Development Manager reported that Swift technology has the capability to allow for a single use product that would enable job seekers to travel for an interview and could also be valid for set periods of time such as mornings. The Managing Director added that work was also being undertaken with local authorities to look at utilising Swift to purchase car hire, bicycle hire and car parking so that Swift was more than a single product.

Councillor Stanley considered that TfWM should be selling Swift cards at council buildings and promoting Swift with local authority staff to encourage use in the districts. He also noted instances of some readers on buses not recognising swift cards.

The Swift Development Manager in reply reported that TfWM was working with district colleagues to promote Swift but accepted more could be done. With regards to readers on buses not accepting smartcards, the Swift Development Manager advised that smart card technology was very new

when Swift was first introduced but technology has since vastly improved and this led National Express to transfer its direct debit customers from paper tickets to Swift cards.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

## **81/16 WMCA Update - Transport Reports**

The committee considered three transport reports that had been approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board at its meeting on 20 January.

The Corporate Services Director reminded members that WMCA Board reports were submitted to this committee for information only although any comments could be fed back to report authors.

Councillors Huxtable, Richards and Welsh questioned the value of receiving WMCA Board reports after the WMCA Board had already considered them.

The Managing Director explained that the current process works for some reports highlighting the Bus Alliance Board report that was today considered by this committee in advance of the WMCA Board on 17 February. The Managing Director also advised that draft WMCA Board reports are circulated to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Opposition Group Leader to provide them with the opportunity to comment on the reports in advance of the WMCA Board meeting.

The Vice-Chair explained that the Levy report was an example of a report that needed to be agreed by Leaders and could not be shared in advance with TDC members but he considered the timing of these meetings should be examined.

Councillor Huxtable proposed that Transport Delivery Committee meetings could be held one week later than the current schedule which would allow the committee to consider WMCA Board reports that have been published and before the WMCA Board has met.

In relation to the Chair's enquiry as to whether Transport Delivery Committee meetings could be re-scheduled so that the committee considers published reports in advance of the WMCA Board meetings, the Corporate Services Director reported that committee meetings could not be re-scheduled this year but he could look at this for the new municipal year.

The Managing Director outlined the first report, Contactless Ticketing and Fare Capping that set out the work being undertaken with PA Consulting to develop contactless payment and best value capping across all modes in the West Midlands.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Horton regarding the security of contactless payments following a recent television programme that focused

on the issue, the Swift Development Manager reported that security would be examined as part of the contactless work but considered the risk should fall on the bank or operator and acknowledged that security was an important part of people's acceptance of the contactless payment method.

In relation to the second report, Strategic Cycle Network, the Managing Director reported that the report was submitted to the WMCA Board as this was a key component of the Authority's Strategic Transport Plan.

With regards to the third report, 2017-2018 Transport Levy, the Corporate Services Director reported that the WMCA Board had agreed the report recommendations that were consistent with the previously agreed 3 year settlement and explained how the levy recommendations would impact on Birmingham's finances following an enquiry from Councillor Alden on the matter.

**Resolved** that the transport reports submitted to the WMCA Board on 20 January 2017 be noted.

#### **82/16 Forward Plan**

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

With regards to reports on the forward plan relating to Metro, the Managing Director advised that the issue of 'future proofing' would be included in the reports.

**Resolved** that the report be noted

#### **83/16 Any Other Business**

##### **(a) Department for Transport Access Fund Outcome**

The committee considered a briefing note from the Lead Member for Safe and Sustainable Travel on the outcome of the September 2017 submission by the West Midlands Combined Authority to the Department for Transport's Access Fund.

Councillor Rowley, Lead Member for Safe and Sustainable Travel, reported that she was very disappointed to learn that the WMCA's bid had not been successful and had not been awarded funding.

It was noted that initial feedback from the DfT indicated that whilst the bid was of high quality with a strong strategic case, demonstrated high value for money and included a well worked up project plan, the Access Fund was highly competitive and oversubscribed with less than half of the applicants receiving funding from a limited pot of money.

Councillor Rowley added that this was a very sad day for sustainable travel that had implications for TfWM's plan and work streams which

included business, education, employment, cycling and WorkWise and the staff working in these areas.

Councillor Hartley highlighted that WorkWise, a 14 year old scheme, was under threat and there was need to find a way of funding this successful and acclaimed scheme.

The Managing Director reported that a wholesale review was being undertaken with regards to the work undertaken on all modes and how young people are supported. In relation to WorkWise, the Managing Director added that TfWM would be meeting with operators and partners on how they could take forward the scheme in the future.

It was noted that a detailed report would be submit to the March meeting of this committee outlining the transition plans for the Smart Network, Smarter Choices Programme.

**Resolved** that the outcome of the WMCA's bid to the Department for Transport's Access Fund be noted and a further report be submitted in March 2017.

**CHAIRMAN**