



WEST MIDLANDS
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Meeting: Transport Delivery Committee

Subject: Minutes

Date: Monday 6 March 2017 at 1.00pm

Present:

Councillor Richard Worrall (Chair)	(Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council)
Councillor Philip Davis (Vice-Chair)	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	(Coventry City Council)
Councillor Robert Alden	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Adrian Andrew	(Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council)
Councillor Paul Brothwood	(Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)
Councillor Mohammed Fazal	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Kath Hartley	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Diana Holl-Allen	(Solihull Metropolitan Borough 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)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Susan Eaves and David Welsh.

In attendance:

James Aspinall (Corporate Services Director)
André Bromfield (Corporate Solicitor)
Pete Bond (Director of Transport Services)
Babs Coombes (Rail Partnerships Manager)
Jon Hayes (Head of Network Delivery)
Linda Horne (Head of Finance)
Shashi Patel (Metro Operations Development Manager)
Alison Pickett (Head of Sustainable Travel)
Colin Saward (National Express Midland Metro)
Sandeep Shingadia (Head of Programme Development)
David Whitehouse (Virgin Trains)

84/16 Chair's Remarks

The Chair reminded members of the committee to use the appropriate channels if they wish to raise very localised matters.

85/16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2017 were agreed, and signed by the Chair, as a correct record.

86/16 Financial Monitoring Report Month Ending 31 January 2017

The committee considered a report of the Corporate Services Director that set out the financial position as at 31 January 2017. The report provided a summary of the West Midlands Combined Authority's Transport Delivery Committee revenue and capital budgets along with a summary of treasury management indicators.

Resolved:

- (1) That the favourable year to date variance against the revenue budget of £0.516m and the favourable movement of £0.155m in the full year position be noted.
- (2) That the favourable year to date variance against the capital budget of £6.529m and the favourable full year position of £4.499m be noted.

87/16 2016/2017 TfWM Capital Programme Delivery Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report of the Transport for West Midlands Managing Director that provided a progress update on the approved Transport for West Midlands-led 2016/17 programmes and projects.

The Vice-Chair provided a progress update in respect of the Sprint programme which was now progressing. The Head of Programme Development added that with regard to Hagley Road scheme, Transport for West Midlands was working closely with Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP in respect of its Business Case.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable enquired about the delivery of park and ride sites and the delays behind the prioritisation study. Transport for West Midlands was currently undertaking a review of previous work that had been undertaken to ensure that it captured all key aspects of work needed going forward. A revised report on park and ride would be submitted to the next meeting of the committee for its consideration.

Councillor Diana Holl-Allen enquired about the delays in connecting CCTV at Dorridge and Solihull stations into the Combined Authority's Security Centre. The Head of Programme Development explained that the delay was due to the identification of a Responsible Officer within Chiltern Railways and the arrangement of required site visits. He undertook to look into this matter further and would provide an update in due course.

Resolved:

- (1) That the achievements since 16 May 2016 meeting of the Finance, Delivery & Performance Monitoring Committee be noted.
- (2) That the progress of deliverables under the 2016/2017 Capital Programme, with respect to the baseline programme previously endorsed, be noted.
- (3) Where indicated, any slippages from the baseline programme and the proposed mitigation/action being undertaken be noted.
- (4) That the 2017/18 Capital Programme as set out in the report be endorsed.

88/16 Metro Operations Business Report

The committee considered a report of the Metro Programme Director on matters relating to the performance, operation and delivery of Metro services in the West Midlands.

The Chair introduced Colin Seward, General Manager for National Express Midland Metro to the meeting who had replaced Ben Ackroyd. The positive growth in patronage on Midland Metro since the opening of the Grand Central tram stop was welcomed. Councillor Roger Horton assured the committee that the increase in patronage on Midland Metro was not at the detriment of other modes of transport.

On 1 January 2017, Snow Hill tram stop was renamed St Chads, and Bull Street tram stop which provided level access to Snow Hill was now the primary tram stop promoted as the interchange for Snow Hill station.

Following the Metro extension from Snow Hill station and the loss of direct access from the Metro stop (now re-named St Chads) to Snow Hill rail platforms, the Vice-Chair asked whether the committee could be advised on what would be done to restore seamless passenger access. The Head of Programme Development agreed that the current situation was unacceptable and advised that Transport for West Midlands would review initial works that had previously been undertaken on the development of the Snow Hill 3rd Access. He added that the scheme was also referenced within the Snow Hill Master Plan.

The Head of Programme Development agreed to submit a report on Snow Hill 3rd Access to Transport Delivery Committee on 8 May 2017. Prior to its submission to the committee, the report would be shared with members of the Rail and Metro Lead Member Reference Group.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

89/16 Christmas Period Public Transport Services

The committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Services on what happened with public transport provision over the Christmas 2016 period, with an emphasis on Boxing Day.

The Head of Network Delivery commented that bus service provision over the Christmas period in Coventry was not as good as some other areas, and to avoid this happening again Transport for West Midlands would have early dialogue with Coventry City Council and the bus operators to find solutions.

Councillor Roger Horton welcomed the 'Festive Bus, Tram and Train' leaflet that provided service information during the two week festive period and asked whether the leaflet could be circulated wider and earlier in the future. The Head of Network Delivery agreed that there were lessons to be learnt, however the timescale for its distribution was very difficult to manage due to the discussions and negotiations to be had with partners.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report and proposed actions for Christmas 2017/18 be approved.

90/16 Virgin Trains Partnership Agreement Update

The committee considered a report of the Transport Services Director on the creation of a partnership agreement between Virgin Trains and Transport for West Midlands. Members of the committee also considered a summary of the agreement and received a joint presentation from Babs Coombes, Rail Partnerships Manager, and David Whitehouse from Virgin Trains.

Councillor Chaman Lal enquired about Virgin Trains ex-offenders programme and asked how people with criminal convictions could benefit from the partnership. David Whitehouse reported that Virgin Trains had developed and introduced an extensive ex-offenders programme and welcomed experiences, views and comments about how the programme could be extended further.

The Chair welcomed the partnership and looked forward to working with Virgin Trains.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That Transport for West Midlands entering into a partnership agreement with Virgin Trains be approved.

91/16 2017/18 Transport Annual Plan

The committee considered a report of the Transport for West Midlands Managing Director on the draft 2017/18 Transport Annual Plan which set out the delivery of those objectives contained within the West Midlands Strategic Plan.

The committee considered that the West Midlands Combined Authority needed to address the disparity between regional spend and spend in London, as it was suggested that this had widened. Also, given the importance of tackling air quality, additional emphasis on this was required within the Transport Plan. Members also recognised the importance of the need for better bus services on local estates, improvements to interconnectivity, and that the section relating to safety and security within the plan needed to be expanded.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable highlighted a number of areas within the business plan that needed to be reviewed relating to the metro extension programme, park and ride and bus-based park and ride sites.

With regard to the Productivity and Investment Fund, the Head of Programme Development explained that there had been some discussion about how the fund could be aligned with the Key Route Network and a 'call-out' had gone out to local authorities with regard to its proposals about how this fund could be utilised.

Councillor Adrian Andrew enquired about the audience of the document due to the format of the Transport Plan. The Transport Services Director commented that the Transport Plan was key commentary in dialogue with stakeholders and partner organisations.

The Head of Finance thanked the committee for its comments. She was aware that additional checks were needed on the draft Transport Plan and agreed to feedback the comments received to the design team to incorporate into the document.

Resolved:

- (1) That comments on the draft 2017/18 Transport Annual Plan to be integrated into the document and presented to the West Midlands Combined Authority on 17 March 2017 for approval.

- (2) That delegation of any amendments of the Plan to Transport for West Midlands Managing Director on-route to the Combined Authority Board as a statutory approval body be approved.

92/16 West Midlands Smart Network, Smarter Choices 16/17 Programme Update

The committee considered a report of the Transport for West Midlands Managing Director on the transition/legacy plans for sustainable travel activities beyond March 2017, following the outcome of West Midlands Combined Authority's submission to the Department for Transport's Access Fund.

Councillor Judith Rowley, Lead Member for Safe and Sustainable Travel, introduced the report and referred to the unsuccessful outcome of the September 2016 bid submission by the Combined Authority to the Department for Transport's Access Fund, which would unfortunately result in a loss of jobs within the organisation. The report highlighted what would be achieved, lost and provided a succession strategy for each workstream (including Education Travel Plan engagement, Business & Employer Travel Plan engagement, Cycling support and WorkWise support).

Councillor Judith Rowley informed the committee that Alison Pickett, Head of Sustainable Travel would be leaving the West Midlands Combined Authority at the end of March 2017. She had done an extremely good job over the years and would be a loss to the organisation. The committee expressed its thanks to Alison Pickett for her hard work and valuable contributions over the years and wished her well for the future.

Alison Pickett reported that the report highlighted the achievements of Local Sustainable Transport Fund Programme over the years and in terms of WorkWise support, she was pleased to report that bus operators had approved an enhanced ticket discount of 50% for the first three months for eligible unemployed people starting a new job, with customers paying the other 50%.

The Head of Sustainable Travel agreed to include the Local Sustainable Transport Fund grants given to Birmingham, Dudley and Coventry as part of the 2012-15 Local Sustainable Transport Fund funding.

Resolved:

- (1) That the outcome of the September 2016 submission by the West Midlands Combined Authority to the Department for Transport's Access Fund and transition/legacy plans for the Transport for West Midlands sustainable travel activities beyond March 2017 be noted;
- (2) That the progress to date of the 2016/17 Local Sustainable Transport Fund-funded Smart Network, Smarter Choices programme be noted.

93/16 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind' - Understanding Transport & Mobility Issues for People with Hidden Disabilities

The committee considered a joint report from Councillor Judith Rowley, Lead Member for Safe & Sustainable Travel, and Councillor Diana Holl-Allen on the 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind' - Understanding Transport & Mobility Issues for People with Hidden Disabilities Conference in London on 23 January 2017.

Councillor Judith Rowley provided an overview of the report and shared her thoughts, views and experiences of the conference which she found to be very informative. Councillor Diana Holl-Allen considered the conference to be very interesting and considered that people with hidden mental issues needed more help. She commented that the presence of staff and additional staff training in identifying and helping people with a hidden disability was of significant importance.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

94/16 UK Bus Summit

The committee considered a report of the Transport Services Director on the UK Bus Summit conference held in London on 9 February 2017.

Councillors Kath Hartley, Susan Eaves and David Stanley attended the UK Bus Summit along with a number of officers from Transport for West Midlands. The Head of Network Delivery commented that the conference was very useful and had a focus on air quality and congestion, which continued to increase across the country.

The Head of Network Delivery agreed to circulate the slides from the conference and presentational material to members of the committee for information.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

95/16 WMCA Update - Transport Reports for Information Only

(a) Network Resilience - Preliminary Report

The committee considered a report on the work undertaken to understand the scale of the challenge of managing and securing a resilient and robust transport network during a period of major infrastructure work across the West Midlands. The report also highlighted a number of actions which were recommended in order to mitigate potential adverse impacts of any resulting poor network resilience (the ability of the system to cope with planned change and incidents).

The forthcoming M5 Oldbury viaduct major maintenance works that was due to commence shortly would have a significant impact on traffic movement across the region. Councillor Adrian Andrew reminded members of the committee that the issue of resilience was on an everyday basis and not just when major schemes were taking place.

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council was concerned about the forthcoming works as it was thought that Sandwell would become gridlocked. Councillor Roger Horton added that National Express West Midlands had made some changes to services on local routes as a result of the forthcoming works but not many changes were made on those routes that would be directly affected by the planned works.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

(b) HS2 Connectivity Package

The committee considered a report which set out a revised HS2 Connectivity Package following a review of scheme viability.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

96/16 Forward Plan

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

Councillor Judith Rowley added that she and Councillor Daniel Warren had recently attended a visit to West Yorkshire to see the Leeds Bradford Cycle Superhighway. She agreed to submit a report on her visit to the next meeting of the committee.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

97/16 Any Other Business

(a) Arrangements for Director of Transport Services Role

The Transport Services Director reported that as from 31 March 2017, he would be taking adoption leave for a 12 month period. Steve McAleavy had been appointed as Interim Director of Transport Services and had considerable experience within the public transport industry.

CHAIRMAN