



WEST MIDLANDS
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Meeting: Transport Delivery Committee

Subject: Minutes

Date: Monday 3 October 2016 at 1.00pm

Present:

Councillor Richard Worrall (Chair)	(Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council)
Councillor Philip Davis (Vice-Chair)	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Adrian Andrew	(Walsall 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	(Wolverhampton City Council)
Councillor David Stanley	(Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)
Councillor Daniel Warren	(Wolverhampton City Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Akhtar (Coventry City Council), Councillor Alden (Birmingham City Council), Councillor Brothwood, Councillor Eaves (Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council) and Councillor Welsh (Coventry City Council).

In attendance:

James Aspinall (Corporate Services Director, WMCA).
Pete Bond (Director of Transport Services).
Martin Hancock (National Express).
Steve Hayes (Network Development and Delivery Manager).
Phil Hewitt (Metro Programme Director).
Matt Lewis (Head of Swift).
Chris Perry (Head of Transport Innovation).
Sandeep Shingadia (Head of Programme Development).
Tom Skidmore (Interim Head of Sprint).

27/16 Chair's Remarks

(a) Welcome back - Councillor Roger Horton

The Chair, members and officers welcomed Councillor Roger Horton back to the committee following his recent absence.

(b) West Midlands Combined Authority Board Meeting – 30 September

The Chair reported that he had attended the recent WMCA Board meeting held in Rugby and the following meeting would be held in Nuneaton which served as a reminder that the WMCA worked on a regional basis.

(c) Scheduling of Future Transport Delivery Committee Meetings

Councillor Huxtable reported that today's committee meeting coincided with the Conservative Party Conference and asked that when the calendar of meetings is prepared for 2017, consideration be given to the scheduling of meetings to ensure that Transport Delivery Committee meetings are not held at the same time as the party conferences.

28/16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2016 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

29/16 Matters Arising

Minute No.20 /16 Matters Arising

In relation to a comment from Councillor Stanley that he was awaiting a report that provided feedback on 'Catch the Bus Week,' the Director of Transport Services, Pete Bond, undertook to provide Councillor Stanley with a copy of the report as soon as possible.

30/16 West Midlands Combined Authority Update – Transport Reports

The committee considered two transport reports that had been approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board at its meeting on 30 September.

The Metro Programme Director, Phil Hewitt, outlined the two Metro reports.

The first report entitled, 'Approval to submit a Transport and Works Act Order for Birmingham Eastside Extension' set out the aims of the project, description of route, consultation and impacts and benefits.

In relation to enquiry from the Vice-Chair, Councillor Davis, regarding the impacts and in particular the policy for replacing trees, his request for information related to the remedial environmental works and historical

environmental impact, the Metro Programme Director reported that the policy for tree replacement was two for one with regards to mature trees which, would be included in the code of construction pack. In relation to the historical /environmental impacts, the Metro Programme Director undertook to ask the relevant member of the Metro Team to contact Councillor Davis on this matter.

The second report, entitled, 'Midland Metro Update' reported on progress with regards to the following schemes: Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension, Centenary Square/Edgbaston Extensions, Wolverhampton City Centre Extensions and potential permissions and approvals to enable development of the East Birmingham to Solihull Tramway.

In relation to the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension, Councillor Huxtable reported of the need to be ambitious and suggested that a Metro link to Stourbridge Junction could form part of the scheme.

The Metro Programme Director concurred with the need to be ambitious and advised that the Metro link to Stourbridge would need to fit with the wider transport plan so that this could be taken forward as an 'add on' if appropriate.

In relation to concerns expressed by Councillor Stanley regarding the timescales for the delivery of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension given the time that has passed since the extension was first conceived and whether the section of the route to Dudley Port could be undertaken first so that this could connect with rail, the Metro Programme Director reported that he agreed with Councillor Stanley and he had asked the Alliance to look at the phasing of the delivery to see whether the scheme could be broken down in stages.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Huxtable regarding the new Metro route linking Digbeth to South Edgbaston that is referenced in the Birmingham Smithfield Master Plan and whether Transport for the West Midlands was taking this forward, the Metro Programme Director reported that strategic consideration was been given to the Smithfield Master Plan and that the Metro proposals would be considered as part of the strategic transport plan.

With regards to the East Birmingham to Solihull Metro proposals, Councillor Richards welcomed the proposals but reported of the need to ensure the right route is chosen and that it serves the regeneration areas before public consultation is sought.

The Metro Programme Director endorsed the comments made by Councillor Richards.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Andrew regarding feasibility work on the Willenhall to Wolverhampton (New Cross) route, the Metro Programme Director reported that the feasibility work would be undertaken by the Strategy Team shortly and an update would be submitted to this committee in due course.

Councillor Horton, Lead Member for Rail and Metro, informed the committee that as part of this Lead Member role he would attend a Metro briefing each month.

Resolved that the transport reports submitted to the WMCA Board on 30 September 2016 be noted.

31/16 Bus Business Report

The committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Services that provided them with an update relating to the performance, operation and delivery of bus services in the West Midlands.

The Lead Member for Putting Passengers First, Councillor Hartley, introduced the report and invited members to inform her of any areas they would like to see covered in future reports.

The Network Development and Delivery Manager, Steve Hayes, provided an overview of the report which included a summary of performance, an Alliance Update, the results of the spring 2016 National Passenger Survey satisfaction results and operational matters and passenger impacts.

The Network Development and Delivery Manager reported that congestion was key theme running throughout the report noting the impact of congestion on journey time, patronage, punctuality and reliability. He informed the committee that a Network Resilience Group has been established to address the challenges around network resilience and a report would be submitted to a future meeting.

In relation to the West Midlands Low Emission Delivery Plan that outlines the region's ambitions for improving air quality by reducing emissions from buses, the committee noted that whilst Government funding had been secured for low emission vehicles, hydrogen buses and to retrofit some existing buses, the number of 'clean' buses was relatively low given the number of buses operating in Birmingham City Centre.

Martin Hancock reported that all of National Express's Platinum buses had Euro 6 engines and the company was continuing to replace its fleet with the new standard at a steady pace, however, he considered the real issue was congestion and that the Network Resilience Group would be looking at finding ways of mitigating against this.

In relation to work being undertaken with regards to improving air quality for the region and information that is currently being circulated to some councillors, Steve Hayes undertook to include Councillor Stanley on the circulation list with regards to his role as Opposition Lead for Putting Passengers First.

In relation to the new replacement service for the Heart of England Taxibus operating in Meriden Gap that is being supplemented by a temporary minibus service, the Network Development and Delivery Manager undertook to keep Councillor Holl-Allen updated on developments for the service.

(1) **Resolved** that the report be noted and

(2) **Resolved** that it noted a report on 'Network Resilience' and what is being proposed to manage the impact of congestion on the bus network to the December meeting.

32/16 Presentation: Swift Delivery Update

The Head of Swift, Matt Lewis, provided the committee with an update on Swift that outlined the background to the launch of the Swift card, the Swift products that have been developed this year and the benefits for customers. It was noted 2 million journeys were made on Swift during September which was a significant achievement.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Warren as to whether a ticket could be provided on Swift for apprentices aged 18-25 years, the Head of Swift advised that the technology could provide this but this was a policy decision. The Network Development and Delivery Manager added that the Bus Alliance Board would be giving consideration to fares for young people in general, following discussion at a recent meeting.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Horton regarding customer data on Swift, the Head of Swift reported that Swift customers are able to view the journeys they have made on a daily basis through the Swift portal.

Councillor Lal reported that he had received an enquiry from a member of the public with a Swift card, regarding daily capping as they thought a maximum daily rate would be charged for pay-as-you-go.

The Head of Swift in reply reported that fare capping was not available at present but was being investigated. In the meantime, he advised customers to carefully consider the journeys they would make so that they chose the Swift product that offered them the best value.

(1) **Resolved** that the presentation be noted and

(2) **Resolved** that Matt Lewis be thanked for this informative presentation

33/16 Sprint Progress Update

The committee considered a report of the Metro Programme Director that provided the committee with an overview of progress in developing the Sprint programme and future network and the next steps to be undertaken.

The Interim Head of Sprint, Tom Skidmore, outlined the report and advised the committee that following consideration at workshop with the Sprint Programme Board in June, three key actions had been identified; these were: the re-programming of the Hagley Road Scheme to be launched alongside the Birmingham to Airport and Solihull Sprint route in 2021/22; additional Sprint priority interventions on the Hagley and a review of Sprint schemes included within the HS2 Connectivity Package.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Rowley as to whether Transport for the West Midlands has received a response from the Department for Transport regarding derogation to operate a 24m vehicle, the Interim Head of Sprint reported that discussions were still on-going with the DfT and that a response was awaited from the Secretary of State for Transport on the matter.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Lal regarding whether there would be dedicated road space for Sprint, the Interim Head of Sprint reported that the first route, Quinton and Birmingham Airport/Solihull, would have more than 30% of dedicated road space and would also benefit from signal priorities and additionally, the scheme journey times would be 20% quicker than conventional bus.

Councillor Lal considered that the introduction of more bus lanes would provide some of the benefits that could be realised from Sprint.

Councillor Huxtable noted that the Birmingham Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads had expressed concerns regarding Sprint.

The Interim Head of Sprint reported that he had met with Councillor Stacey regarding his concern on the quality of the ride and subsequently an offer had been made to show Councillor Stacey a successful Sprint route in operation.

The Vice-Chair reported that he concurred with Councillor Lal and wanted to be convinced with regards to the merits of Sprint and expressed concern with regards to the potential long-term investment that was required. Councillor Davis added that he would like to join Councillor Stacey on the Sprint visit.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Huxtable regarding the Sprint route for Longbridge connecting with Frankley and whether this was a priority, the Interim Head of Sprint advised that the Longbridge route to Frankley was under consideration and further information would be reported to this committee in December.

The Chair noted that Sprint schemes required the agreement of seven different local authorities to permit the allocation of road space for Sprint vehicles so routes would be dependent on what was practically feasible.

In relation to the Lead Member Reference Group for Sprint, Councillor Huxtable nominated Councillor Richards and himself as opposition support members.

- (1) **Resolved** that the recommendations of the Sprint Programme Board be noted ;
- (2) **Resolved** that the next steps for Sprint development be noted and
- (3) **Resolved** that the TDC elected member input into Sprint be via the Lead Member Reference Group that meets every two months be noted.

34/16 Annual Equalities and Inclusion Review 2015/16

The committee considered a report of the Corporate Services Director that provided an update on equality and inclusion achievements in 2015/16 through the submission of the annual equalities and inclusion review.

The Lead Member for Safe and Sustainable Transport, Councillor Rowley, introduced the report and conveyed her thanks to the Equalities and Diversity Manager, Anna Sirmoglou, for a comprehensive report.

Councillor Rowley informed the committee that she was pleased to report that the new Birmingham New Street Station included a new Changing Places facility for people who cannot use standard toilets that meets best practice accessibility standards.

Councillor Lal congratulated Councillor Rowley for hard work in successfully securing the facility at Birmingham New Street Station.

Councillor Rowley advised the committee that she had been informed that her Lead Member role did not include involvement in human resources on a day-to-day basis and she was therefore unable to answer any questions relating to this area.

In relation to an enquiry from the Vice-Chair as to who politically has day-to-day responsibility for human resource matters within WMCA, the Corporate Services Director, James Aspinall, reported that Councillor Izzie Seccombe holds the Portfolio Lead for Finance and Investments and it was assumed HR matters would come under her remit.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Lal regarding the lack of reference to political governance in the report, the Corporate Services Director reported that this could be included in future reports.

The Corporate Services Director outlined some of the other key achievements during the year which included the new high level walkway for New Street which reflected the work of this committee and the new Communication Pocket Guide, a resource that provides key messages to assist people with different disabilities to use public transport.

Councillor Lal asked if he could be provided with a copy of the Communications Pocket Guide.

In relation to Councillor Stanley's enquiry regarding crime statistics relating to Metro which saw an increase in 17.3%, the Corporate Services Director undertook to contact the relevant officer to provide an answer for Councillor Stanley.

In relation to Councillor Stanley's enquiry regarding the work carried out by police on buses, the Director of Transport Services, Pete Bond, explained that the Safer Travel Police Team is comprised of a consortium of British Transport Police, Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers who undertake a data lead approach to focus on issues that emerge. He added that a report on the work of the wider Safer Travel Police Team would be submitted to the next meeting of this committee.

- (1) **Resolved** that approval be given to the publication of the 2015/16 Equalities and Inclusion Review attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

35/16 Any Other Business

(a) Bus Driver of the Year Award

Councillor Stanley informed the committee that Craig Lockyer, a bus driver based at Park Lane Garage, Wolverhampton, had recently won the Bus Driver of the Year Award. The committee conveyed their congratulations to Mr Lockyer and the Corporate Services Director proposed that a letter be sent from the Chair on their behalf to acknowledge this fantastic achievement.

[The meeting ended at 3.15pm]

CHAIRMAN