



Meeting: Transport Delivery Committee

Subject: Minutes

Date: Monday 7 November 2016 at 1.00pm

Present:

Councillor Richard Worrall (Chair)	(Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council)
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	(Coventry City Council)
Councillor Robert Alden	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Paul Brothwood	(Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)
Councillor Philip Davis (Vice-Chair)	(Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Susan Eaves	(Sandwell 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)
Councillor David Welsh	(Coventry City Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew (Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council).

In attendance:

James Aspinall (Corporate Services Director, WMCA).
Mark Babington (Safety and Security Manager).
Gurj Dulai (Principal Research and Intelligence Analyst).
Linda Horne (Head of Finance).
Chris Lane (Head of Smart Travel).
Laura Shoaf (Managing Director, Transport for the West Midlands).

36/16

Chair's Remarks

(a) **Bradley Lane Park and Ride**

The Chair reported that he was pleased to report that planning permission had been granted for the park and ride site at Bradley Lane that would provide 196 parking spaces for Metro users and thanked the staff of Travel for the West Midlands for their hard work in achieving this.

(b) Solihull Bus Service to Balsall Common

The Chair reported that a new bus service (number 89) had been introduced, replacing Taxibus in the Heart of England area and a provisional visit had been arranged for 23 November. He added that councillors interested in the service were welcome to attend the visit.

37/16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2016 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

38/16 Matters Arising

Minute No.30 /16 West Midlands Combined Authority Update - Transport Reports

In relation to the Metro extension to Merry Hill and Dudley Bus Station/ Interchange, Councillor Stanley reported that a visit scheduled with Mr. Bond, Director of Transport Services, had been cancelled and that he hoped to meet with him as soon as possible as there had been negative stories in the local press recently regarding Dudley Bus Station.

Laura Shoaf, Managing Director, TfWM, undertook to take the matter forward with the Director of Transport Services.

39/16 Financial Monitoring Report – Month Ending 30 September 2016

The committee considered a report of the Corporate Services Director that set out the financial position as at 30 September 2016. The report provided a summary of the Combined Authority's Transport Delivery Committee's revenue and capital budgets along with a summary of treasury indicators.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Davis, reported that committee members had received a briefing from the Head of Finance earlier in the day on the levy for 2017/18 which had been helpful and informative.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Worrall regarding Midlands Engine, Laura Shoaf, Managing Director, TfWM, explained that Midlands Engine was a wider regional partnership between the East Midlands and the West Midlands and the West Midlands Combined Authority was represented by Councillor John Clancy. She added that this pan regional body was wider than transport as it also focused on skills and international trade.

Councillor Horton considered that it would be useful for the committee to know who the members of Midlands Engine are and who they represent. Councillor Worrall added that members would also benefit from knowing the membership of WMCA and other TfWM transport groups along with their terms of reference.

The Managing Director, undertook to circulate the information councillors.

- (1) **Resolved** that the favourable year to date variance against the revenue budget of £0.130m and the adverse movement of £0.139m in the full year position be noted and
- (2) **Resolved** that the favourable year to date variance against the capital budget of £5.672m and the favourable movement of £5.284m in the full year position be noted.

40/16 **West Midlands Travel Trends 2016**

The committee considered a report of the Managing Director, TfWM on the West Midlands Travel Trends for 2016.

The report highlighted key trends for public transport during the year April 2015 to March 2016 and other contextual information in the West Midlands that included population, the economy, the environment and customer services.

Gurj Dulai, Principal Research and Intelligence Analyst, was in attendance to present the key statistics from the report and the actions being taken to address issues raised by the statistics.

In relation to the information provided on modal split and the cordon counts carried out at nine centres throughout the West Midlands, Councillor Stanley enquired whether Brierley Hill referred to Brierley Hill High Street or Merry Hill, noting that Brierley Hill High Street was very congested and had poor air quality. He further enquired why no reference was made to Stourbridge which had an interchange for bus and rail.

The Managing Director, advised that the report referred to Brierley Hill High Street as she understood the town featured in the Black Country Core Strategy and Stourbridge did not but would confirm this in due course. With regards to congestion in Brierley Hill High Street, the Managing Director reported that the Bus Alliance was looking at congestion in many towns including Brierley Hill as this was a major issue that was impacting on bus reliability and patronage.

Councillor Huxtable considered that the nine centres for cordon counts need to be reviewed in the light of population growth /movement and that the modal split section of the report should also include cycling.

The Managing Director concurred with Councillor Huxtable and reported that an evidence based approach would be undertaken.

In relation an enquiry from Councillor Lal regarding the reduction in unemployment levels which seemed high, the Principal Research and Intelligence Analyst reported that the figures recorded the change from 2014/15 to 2015/16.

Councillor Alden reported that he had noted some inconsistencies in the report as some of the figures given in the commentary of the report did not match those given in the respective charts/graphs and provided examples of these. He also queried the information provided in relation to the environment and considered that the data for the environment should also include statistics that are important to public health.

The Managing Director, reported that she was aware there were some data source issues and she would ask the Data Team to respond directly to Councillor Alden.

Councillor Welsh reported that he considered the report to be very informative and enquired how Transport for the West Midlands would use the information contained in the report to change transport strategy. He added that Coventry has a very young population.

The Managing Director, Laura Shoaf, reported that Transport for the West Midlands was asking the same question and would be taking an evidence based approach to decision making. With regards to young people, she advised that the Bus Alliance Board has a member under 25 years old to represent the interests of young people and to challenge the Board on scheme development and design.

- (1) **Resolved** that comments on the report be noted and
- (2) **Resolved** that further analysis be undertaken by Research and Intelligence to provide robust strategic evidence base for informing the 2017-18 Annual Business Plan be endorsed.

41/16 Safer Travel Update

The committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Services that provided an update on the performance and operations of the Safer Travel Partnership.

The Safety and Security Manager, Mark Babington, was in attendance to present the report and provide an update on recent developments.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Lal as to whether Transport for the West Midlands was doing enough to promote CCTV, the Safety and Security

Manager advised that the TfWM Control Centre could not compete with the private sector but work was being undertaken with district authorities and non-constituent members of the WMCA to understand how the Transport Control Centre could assist with their future CCTV requirements.

Councillor Horton considered it might be useful for new TDC members to have a visit to the Transport Control Centre.

In relation to the slight increase in theft of passenger property (40 offences) year to date, on rail, Councillor Horton noted that the theft occurred on long distance trains when luggage was out of sight and reported that some luggage racks are located in the middle of the carriage rather than at the end of the carriage which reduces theft. He added that the design of the train carriage was important and enquired whether TfWM have made any recommendations to the Department for Transport for carriage design as part of the franchise process.

The Safety and Security Manager, Mark Babington, reported that TfWM had not put this proposal forward to the DfT but could do. He advised that rail crime was recorded at the termination stop for long distance journeys and as New Street Station was a central hub for rail journeys, Birmingham would be regarded as the location for a crime that occurred on a journey terminating at New Street.

Councillor Horton asked that the Safety and Security Manager provide him with a more detailed breakdown of the recorded crime figures for Metro and Rail for his Lead Member briefing.

- (1) **Resolved** that the contents of the report be noted and
- (2) **Resolved** that a full presentation of the works being undertaken be the subject of a January briefing for TDC members and this include how anti-social behaviour is being tackled and the results from the 'Gateway Operation' review and Restorative Justice Programme be noted.

42/16 Passenger Information Update and Re-charging Scheme

The committee considered a report of the Managing Director, TfWM, that provided an update on passenger information. The report also sought comments on printed passenger information, the revised re-charge scheme, and real-time information (RTI) developments and provisions.

The Head of Smart Travel, Chris Lane, was in attendance to present the report and highlighted key areas of activity with regards to passenger information and real time information.

Councillor Lal noted that there had been issues regarding RTI working properly and enquired as to the costs of replacing old equipment.

The Head of Smart Travel, advised that the technology is now being upgrading as part of a rolling programme of replacement which is at no cost to the organisation; TfWM has not paid for the failing equipment.

In relation to a further enquiry from Councillor Lal regarding the failure of RTI to provide any information as to why the number 74 bus service did not run for one hour during the evening recently, the Head of Smart Travel advised that TfWM staff are able to provide information regarding disruption from 8AM-6PM but are unable to do so outside of these times. He added that TfWM are currently looking to address this issue but in the meantime notifications for any known disruptions are provided for customers.

Councillor Horton reported that the RTI totem for the 89 bus service located on Colmore Row, was not providing any scrolling information (countdown times for buses) on 2 November.

The Head of Smart Travel undertook to look into the issue of scrolling RTI departure screens.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Warren as to whether there are any plans to roll-out further digital information/RTI to other West Midlands towns, the Head of Smart Travel, advised that more digital information would be extended to other towns as part of a new infrastructure project but customers would also be encouraged to use other digital tools such as the Network West Midlands app and Google Maps.

Councillor Welsh enquired whether there was a standard for passenger information across the West Midlands as he noted there were some bus stops in Coventry that had poor timetable information.

The Head of Smart Travel reported that there was a standard set for information in city centres that was adapted for each local authority but generally this should be of the same standard and advised that he would need to visit the location described. The Head of Smart Travel added that an Information Group was in the process of being set up which would look at whether information could be improved or refreshed in the format that it is currently being provided.

Councillor Stanley considered the poor positioning of the timetable case near the bottom of the bus stop flag made this difficult to read as the paper timetable tended to slip within the case and proposed that card was used instead of paper for the timetable. He advised that condensation within the timetable case also made it difficult for bus users to see the timetable clearly.

The Head of Smart Travel reported that the positioning of the timetable case at the bottom of the bus flag was the preferred choice for bus users and he would refer the issue of timetables falling within the case to the Information Group. In relation to condensation, the Head of Smart Travel reported that he had a meeting scheduled with the timetable manufacturer and would raise the issue with them.

Councillor Stanley also enquired whether there were any plans to change the design of the bus stops flags.

The Head of Smart Travel advised that flags at key interchanges were black whilst those in other areas would remain blue however, the contractor would replace blue flags at bus stops that had fading issues.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Linnecor regarding how the consultants for the review of digital passenger information were chosen and the cost of their work, the Head of Smart Travel advised that a framework agreement was in place for Aecom to undertake the work; he undertook to check whether costs could be made available in accordance with the rules on commercial confidentiality for public procurement.

Councillor Huxtable noted that the routes of some bus services in the West Midlands also served the Shires and enquired whether consideration has been given to extended the re-charging approach across the whole route.

The Head of Smart Travel reported that the information re-charging scheme only applied to the WMCA area although attempts have been made in the past to seek the participation of Shire authorities but these have not been successful to date.

It was agreed that subject to appropriate legal amendments, the scheme would be published and would be live as early as possible and before April 2017.

The Chair reported that it would be useful for members to receive a follow-up briefing on passenger information in 2017.

- (1) **Resolved** that comments on activity with regards to information provision and the progress being made towards a revised passenger information re-charging scheme be noted.

43/16 Update report on the Cross Country Trains Direct Award Announcement

The committee considered a report of the Interim Rail Partnerships and Delivery Manager.

The report, drafted at the request of members, provided an update on the recent Cross Country Trains franchise extension and also advised the committee of the dates for refranchising for West Midlands' rail operators.

The Interim Rail Partnerships and Delivery Manager, Tunde Olatunji, was in attendance to present the report.

The Interim Rail Partnerships and Delivery Manager reported that Cross Country Trains account for 22% of rail journeys in the West Midlands and it was therefore considered important to provide an update to this committee.

He added that whilst TfWM does not have a partnership agreement with Cross Country Trains, the organisation was working with West Midlands Rail (WMR) to seek to influence the franchise.

Councillor Huxtable noted that three stations in the West Midlands, Nuneaton, Tamworth and Stafford would not be included in the West Midlands franchise and there was a need to include these as part of the travel to work area.

The Interim Rail Partnerships and Delivery Manager reported that he agreed with Councillor Huxtable and that WMR was seeking to influence this and expand their transport devolution ambitions.

The Managing Director, TfWM, reported that the DfT had extended the contract for the Cross Country franchise as they can only run a certain number of franchises at one time. However, the benefit of delaying the franchise would enable TfWM and WMR to become involved in helping to specify the new franchise.

In relation to the dates of the new franchises, the Interim Rail Partnerships and Delivery Manager advised the committee that the date of the Intercity West Coast franchise given in the report as April 2018 has since been extended by the DfT to March 2019 to enable the franchise to take account of plans for HS2 services.

(1) **Resolved** that the update report be noted.

44/16 Forward Plan and Schedule of Transport Meetings

The committee considered a plan of items to be reported to future meetings of the Transport Delivery Committee along with a schedule of dates of WMCA meetings with a focus on transport.

In relation to the forward plan, it was agreed that pre-TDC member briefing sessions would be added to the plan.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

45/16 Any Other Business

(i) Wolverhampton Interchange Project

In relation to the Wolverhampton Interchange project, Councillor Rowley reported that it would be helpful for members to receive a briefing on the matter.

It was agreed that a briefing session would be arranged for a future meeting.

[The meeting ended at 3.30pm]

CHAIRMAN

Draft