

Agenda Item No. 2.1



WEST MIDLANDS
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Meeting: Transport Delivery Committee

Subject: Minutes

Date: Monday 5 December 2016 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 Roberts Alden (Birmingham City Council)
Councillor Adrian Andrew (Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council)
Councillor Paul Brothwood (Dudley Metropolitan Borough 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 Richard (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)

In attendance:

Ben Ackroyd (National Express Midland Metro)
Sophie Allison (Metro Operations Manager)
James Aspinall (Corporate Services Director)
Pete Bond (Director of Transport Services)
Jon Hayes (Head of Network Delivery)
Tunde Olatunji (Interim Rail Partnerships and Delivery Manager)
Alison Pickett (Head of Sustainable Travel)

46/16 Chair's Remarks

(a) Recent Awards Success

The Chair announced that Transport for West Midlands had recently been successful in achieving the following awards:

- Transport Awards - City Region Transport Authority of the Year
- UK Bus Awards - West Midlands Bus Alliance had won Local Authority Bus Project of the Year
- National Air Quality 2016 - Passenger Transport Award,
- Metro Alliance had won the Global Light Rail Award, Best Customer Initiative, the Project of the Year, and Construction Project of the Year.

The Chair congratulated all those who had been involved in these initiatives, and asked that the appropriate lead member continue to be informed of forthcoming awards at the various stages.

47/16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2016 were agreed, and signed by the Chair, as a correct record.

48/16 Matters Arising

(a) Solihull Bus Service to Balsall Common (*minute no. 36(b)/16*)

Since the introduction of the new bus service no. 89, which replaced Taxibus, patronage had increased. In addition to this, Transport for West Midlands had been in dialogue with local groups and forums to ascertain whether there were any areas that use to be serviced by Taxibus that needed to be reviewed.

(b) West Midlands Travel Trends 2016 (*minute no. 40(2)/16*)

In respect of resolution (2) 'that further analysis be undertaken by Research and Intelligence to provide robust strategic evidence base for informing the 2017/18 Annual Business Plan', the Director of Transport Services agreed to look into this and would provide an update to members of the committee.

(c) Safer Travel Update (*minute no. 41/16*)

The Director of Transport Services confirmed that at the January briefing for committee members, a comprehensive report that detailed a breakdown of the recorded crime figures for Metro and Rail would be provided and a visit to the CCTV Control Centre at 16 Summer Lane would also be incorporated into the briefing session.

The Director of Transport Services agreed to circulate a link to the Safer Travel video to members of the committee.

49/16 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 Metro Operations Manager provided an overview of the report and noted that patronage on Midland Metro had increased since the opening of the new Grand Central tram stop on 30 May. The passenger counters on the trams showed that passenger numbers were under-recorded by 16%, however this data was currently being validated. The scale of under reporting was unknown as further work needed to be undertaken.

Patronage had also increased on Midland Metro at weekends which meant that more people were travelling for leisure purposes.

With regard to the fare changes for 2017, Ben Ackroyd, National Express Midland Metro, advised that fares would increase by an average of 3% from January 2017. However some popular fares such as the £1 city hop and group fares would remain unchanged.

The Metro Operations Manager reported that the decision to progress Snow Hill 3rd Access was deferred in 2014 and this decision was currently being reviewed to review the position to date. An update on the progress being made in respect of the introduction of Snow Hill 3rd Access would be submitted to a future meeting of the committee.

The Metro Operations Manager added that the lift at Snow Hill tram stop was due to open in January 2017, which would give people access to other parts of the city. The request for additional signage by Bar Opus was noted.

Councillor Kath Hartley questioned whether the Metro Passenger Panel could be reflected within future reports to the committee. She would also welcome an explanation as to how the £1 city hop contributed to the increase in patronage, as residents within her ward would welcome this information. Ben Ackroyd noted this request and agreed to provide this information to Councillor Kath Hartley.

Resolved that the report be noted.

50/16 D Train Report

The committee considered a report of the Interim Rail Partnerships and Delivery Manager on the progress made by the project to support the introduction of the D train into trial.

Transport for West Midlands was co-ordinating a project in partnership with Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County council (as funders), Vivarail (as suppliers) and London Midland (as train operator) to deliver D trains into service on a trial basis.

Board approval was given on 22 July 2016 enabling the combined authority to support the development of a prototype D train by Vivarail. The innovative approach had the potential to address a national shortage of diesel rolling stock across the rail network. The trial would replace the Class 153 single car with a three- car D train. The Interim Rail Partnerships and Delivery Manager provided assurances in respect of the timescales for the trial and advised that it would commence on 27 February 2017.

Councillor David Welsh welcomed the report and highlighted the benefits of the introduction of the D train. He thanked the partners involved in this project and London Midland for its proactive approach. The Chair thanked the Interim Rail Partnerships and Delivery Manager and other colleagues who had been involved in this project.

Resolved that:

- (1) the update on the ongoing efforts by Transport for West Midlands and its partners to facilitate the delivery of the Class 230 train into trial on the Coventry-Nuneaton Line be noted;
- (2) the dates proposed for the start of the trial be noted; and
- (3) the key objectives for the trial be endorsed.

51/16

West Midlands Cycling Charter Progress

The committee considered a report of the Head of Sustainable Travel on matters relating to the performance, operation and delivery of the West Midlands Cycling Charter initiatives.

Councillor Judith Rowley thanked the Head of Sustainable Travel for a comprehensive and thorough report, and reminded the committee of the target of 5% of all trips being made by bicycle by 2023.

Councillor Daniel Warren welcomed the report and enquired about the levels of engagement with other local authorities and public health bodies. The Head of Sustainable Travel reported that Transport for West Midlands was a member of a number of public health and planning groups, and was currently in dialogue with the newly appointed Implementation Director of the WMCA Mental Health Commission.

Councillor Ted Richards supported the West Midlands Cycling Charter but noted his concerns about dedicated cycle lanes on the highway, as a majority of cyclists chose not to use them due to safety concerns. Councillor Diana Holl-Allen added that, although she supported cycling, she also recognised that more needed to be done to improve cycle safety.

Councillor Judith Rowley reported that there was an intention to have a joined-up regional approach to deliver the cycling vision, and with regards to safety, it was recognised that this could be a barrier to travel, although the number of measures and regulations that had been introduced to improve cycle safety were significant. The Head of Sustainable Travel provided an overview of the initiatives introduced and available funding to ensure cycle safety.

Resolved that the progress to date with the West Midlands Cycling Charter Action Plan be noted.

52/16 Revised Public Transport Services over the Christmas and New Year Holiday Period 2016/17

The committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Services on the special arrangements for bus, rail and metro services over the Christmas and New Year holiday period 2016/17.

The Head of Network Delivery explained that normal service would operate on all modes up until Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Eve, bus services to adjacent shire counties and some local rail services would finish early.

With regard to communicating with members of the public, comprehensive leaflets would be produced that would include all bus, rail and metro service information from Christmas Eve until 3 January 2017. Advertisements and posters would direct members of the public to the Network West Midlands website for service information on all modes.

In respect of rail services, Councillor Kath Hartley sought assurances that the rail operator would ensure that passengers were aware of the timetable for Christmas Eve, as some services would finish early. The Head of Network Delivery assured the committee that Transport for West Midlands would be in dialogue with rail operators to ascertain the information that they would be releasing to its customers.

Councillor David Welsh enquired about the network that would be operating in Coventry over the Christmas and New Year period. The Head of Network Delivery agreed to provide Councillor David Welsh with details on the network that would be operating in Coventry during the Christmas and New Year period.

Councillor Roger Horton enquired as to whether he could receive copies of the Christmas and New Year leaflets when they were available for distribution. The Head of Network Delivery noted this request and agreed to send a number of copies to him.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Roger Horton, the Head of Network Delivery agreed to liaise with colleagues within the Metro team to ascertain whether information could be displayed on respective tram stops that indicated the time of the last tram from that particular tram stop. The Head of Network Delivery agreed correspond directly with Councillor Roger Horton.

Resolved that the contents of the report be noted.

53/16 Transport Delivery Committee Lead Member Responsibility

The committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Services on the work undertaken to further refine the Lead Member roles and responsibilities aligned to the work programme for Transport Delivery Committee.

The working arrangements for the Lead Members and their reference groups were now underway and had been developed further since the last report in September 2016. The committee noted the updated list of Lead Members, support members and opposition members. The Chair added that Councillor Daniel Warren was a support member for the Safe and Sustainable Travel Reference Group and not Sprint.

Councillor Huxtable nominated Councillor Adrian Andrew to be appointed as the opposition member onto the Rail and Metro Lead Member Reference Group.

Resolved that:

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) the amendments to the Lead Member roles and responsibilities as shown in appendix 1 of the report, to be effective immediately, be agreed, subject to Councillor Daniel Warren being identified as a support member for the Safe and Sustainable Travel Lead Member Reference Group and not Sprint; and
- (3) Councillor Adrian Andrew be appointed as the opposition member on the Rail and Metro Lead Member Reference Group

54/16 West Midlands Combined Authority Board Update - Transport Reports

(a) Devolved Transport Grant

The committee considered a report of the Head of Programme Development on the approach for allocating the Devolved Transport Grant, which was confirmed by Government in March 2016 for the period 2017/18 to 2020/21. The report would be submitted and considered by the West Midlands Combined Authority Board on 9 December 2016.

The Director of Transport Services agreed to ask the Head of Scheme Development to provide a breakdown of the specific schemes that would be delivered through the funding streams once this information was available.

Resolved that the report be noted.

(b) Mobility as a Service Commercial Pilot

The committee considered a report of the Head of Transport Innovation on the progress towards establishing a 'Mobility as a Service' pilot project in the West Midlands, which also sought the agreement for Transport for West Midlands to facilitate progressing this pilot to a live commercial service. The report would be submitted and considered by the West Midlands Combined Authority Board on 9 December 2016.

Resolved that the report be welcomed and noted.

55/16 Notice of Motion

The committee considered and debated a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Timothy Huxtable, and following an amendment submitted by the Vice-Chair, the Notice of Motion, as amended, was debated and voted upon.

Resolved that the Notice of Motion, as amended, be agreed as follows:

'The Transport Delivery Committee welcomes the announcement of £5m funding for the Midlands Rail Hub in the Autumn Statement.

The Transport Delivery Committee continues to support greater investment in West Midlands' heavy and light rail infrastructure and in the work of Midlands Connect in investing in and promoting partnership between the West and East Midlands regions, towards improved pan-regional transport links and better connectivity to English ports. The committee calls for a consistent Government policy of long-term investment to achieve these aims.

The committee notes, however, the alarming economic condition of the UK following six years of damaging austerity imposed by the Government, plus forecasts of a £59bn - £125bn gap in the public finances by 2020, with negative consequences for investment in transport. The committee regrets that nothing in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement will correct these failing policies or address the growing imbalance between transport spend in London and in the West Midlands.'

56/16 Any Other Business

(a) Coventry Bus Lane Review

The committee considered a report of the Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands, on the review of bus lanes within Coventry that had

involved Transport for West Midlands and bus operators in the development of the process and agreed outcomes.

Members of the committee reviewed the revised list of bus lanes proposed for the trial and considered the measures of success and failure as detailed in the report. In respect of air quality, it was considered that this was an important area to be assessed, although it was recognised that this was an area for Coventry City Council to consider as the air quality monitoring authority for Coventry.

Resolved that;

- (1) The work undertaken with Coventry City Council, the assurances sought and agreed regarding the approach and management of the review, including the mitigation measures for monitoring the impact of the trial and what was deemed as success or failure, be noted;
- (2) The revised list of bus lanes proposed for the trial through joint consultation with Coventry City Council and bus operators which represents approximately 25% of the city's bus lanes, be endorsed, and these sections of route be monitored to ensure a consistent approach was taken to evaluating benefits and dis-benefits to car and bus journey times for customers;
- (3) The agreement to extend the period of objection for an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order from six months to eight months, so that a full assessment could be made whilst the results of the trial were analysed, and still allowing for formal objection if appropriate, be recognised and endorsed;
- (4) The measures of success and failure shown in paragraph 18, which ensure that all parties were clear about what the objectives were, be agreed; and
- (5) The Transport for West Midlands' commitment to collating and sharing all appropriate bus based data, and to provide representation at the various boards and forums to support the trial, be supported.

[The meeting ended at 2.55pm]

CHAIRMAN

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