Present: Councillor Fender (in the Chair).


Apologies: Councillors Battye, Biant, Knowles, Murphy and Whitehead.

TfGMC/11/83 CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

a. Councillor John Byrne

The Chair expressed sadness on hearing of the death of Councillor John Byrne, TfGMC Member for Bury, over the Christmas period. As a mark of respect Members and officers stood for a minute of silent reflection.

b. Councillor Richard Knowles

The Chair informed Members that Councillor Richard Knowles would not be attending any TfGMC related meetings for the next 3 months whilst he was undergoing medical treatment.

The Clerk undertook to write to Councillor Knowles to convey the best wishes of all Members for his speedy and full recovery.

TfGMC/11/84 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Andrew Fender and Chris Paul each declared a prejudicial interest in Item 10 Property Disposals.

TfGMC/11/85 MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the TfGMC meeting, held on 2 December were submitted.

Resolved/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the TfGMC meeting, held on 2 December 2011, be approved as a correct record.
Resolved/-

That the Minutes of the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub-Committee, held on 9 December 2011, be received.

Resolved/-

That the Minutes of the Bus Network and TfGM Sub-Committee, held on 6 January 2012, be received.

Section 2
TfGMC Recommendations for Further Approval by GMCA

TfGMC/11/86  2012/13 BUDGET

Members considered a joint report of the Chief Executive, TfGM, the Treasurer, GMCA and the Corporate Services Director, TfGM that provided an update on the transport levy budget for 2012/13; the projections for 2013/14 and 2014/15; and the current status of the discussions with the GMCA Transport Budget Review Panel meetings that had taken place with the Leaders and Treasurers of Wigan, Trafford and Bury.

The budget presented in the report related to the Transport Levy budget and included all the costs of TfGM and those financing and overhead costs of GMCA which were attributable to transport-related activities. The base budget and projections presented included the financing costs and the agreed levy contributions to the financing costs relating to those public transport schemes included within the Greater Manchester Transport Fund.

The report explained that AGMA Leaders at their meeting of 28 October 2011, agreed that options would be produced to show how overall levy reductions of 1%, 2%, 3% and 4% could be achieved, compared to the base position of a 1% increase, in addition to the previously agreed 3% relating to the Greater Manchester Transport Fund.

The options for making savings which were to be considered by the Combined Authority included:

- reductions in finance costs;
- further reductions beyond those included in the base budget in operating costs across a range of cost categories;
- additional savings in funding for GMATL accessible transport;
- the removal of all or part of the concessionary cost allowance for the impact of BSOG; and
• removal of allowances for deregistration and further reductions in the subsidised services budget.

These reductions were to be considered further by the GMCA Transport Budget Review Panel and, subsequently, by GMCA at its meeting on 27th January, when the levy is to be determined.

Members commented that the budget for GMATL should not be reduced any further as it helps some of the most disadvantaged people with much needed transport services.

A Member commented that at a recent public Budget Update meeting a number of attendees did not appear to appreciate the benefits of capital investment and renewal.

A Member commented that the delays to the Metrolink extensions and to the introduction of the Tram Management System (TMS) will result in delays to services operating and therefore reductions in the projected levels of Metrolink revenues. In response, it was reported that modest allowances had been made in the budget to reflect the Metrolink revenue position. Modelling exercises had also been undertaken regarding contributions to the capital fund.

In response to an enquiry regarding maintaining costs for the provision of subsidised bus services, it was noted that savings ought to be achieved from operational efficiencies rather than from services.

A Member commented that the over-running of works for traffic signal schemes was a cause for concern. In response, officers explained that such works remained the responsibility of the relevant Highway Authority and therefore they would incur any additional costs resulting from over-running works.

In response to an enquiry from a Member regarding interest rates, officers explained that 70% of those loans were at favourable, fixed rates from the European Investment Bank.

A Member enquired if there was provision for the funding of additional Sunday and evening rail services until the next franchise in the budget. In response, it was reported that no allowances had been made for subsidising Sunday and evening rail services.

A Member enquired if TfGM could work with bus operators in order to develop a travel support scheme for young people that will assist them as they looked for employment opportunities. In response, officers explained that work was ongoing with regard to this issue.

Clarification was provided to Members that the projected balance of the finance reserves was £19 million, which was at an appropriate level given the borrowings for the ongoing capital programme.

Resolved/-
1.) That the issues affecting the 2012/13 budget and projections for 2013/14 and 2014/15 and the current status of the discussions with the GMCA Transport Budget Review Panel, as set out in the report, be noted;

2.) That the proposed increase in Bus Station Departure Charges of 5.4% with effect from 2 April 2012, be confirmed.

Section 3
Items for Resolution by TfGMC

There were no items requiring resolution by TfGMC reported.

Section 4 - Items for Information

TfGMC/11/87  FORWARD LOOK

Members received a report that presented them with a Forward Look of key work streams requiring decisions from the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee over the next four months.

Resolved/-
That the Forward Look be noted.

TfGMC/11/88  LSTF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – LARGE PROJECT BID UPDATE

The Transport Strategy Director, TfGM submitted a report that informed Members of the submission of the final business case for the Greater Manchester “Large Project” bid to the DfT Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) and advised on the next steps in the process.

A copy of the LSTF final bid executive summary was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members commented that local cycling groups had provided positive feedback on this matter and that cycling along the Bridgewater Canal tow-path had increased by 300%.

Resolved/-
That the report and the final bid executive summary, as appended to the report, be noted.

TfGMC/11/89  EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved/-
That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and
The public should be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Section 5 - Item for Resolution by TfGMC

TfGMC/11/90 SMART TICKETING SCHEME UPDATE

Members considered a report that provided Members with an update on the procurement of a Smart Ticketing System Solution and documented the procurement process that had been undertaken. In addition, Members were informed of the results of the evaluation to date and were advised of the next stage of the procurement process, where the remaining bidders will be invited to submit best and final offers.

Resolved/-

That the report, particularly the progress made to date in the development and procurement of the Smart Ticketing System Solution for Greater Manchester, be noted.

TfGMC/11/90 PROPERTY DISPOSALS

[Note Councillors Andrew Fender and Chris Paul each declared a prejudicial interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting room whilst it was considered.]

COUNCILLOR ROGER JONES IN THE CHAIR

A report was provided that sought the approval of the Joint Committee for the disposal of two areas of land, as set out in sections 2 and 4 to the report.

The report also sought Members’ approval to recommend that Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) give a general consent to TfGM to make minor disposals in future. In response, Members advised that they wished that all property disposals were to continue to be considered by the TfGMC and therefore this recommendation would not be supported.

Resolved/-

1.) That approval of the disposal of land identified at section 2 to the report, be granted;
2.) That approve of the disposal of land identified at section 4 to the report, be granted;
3.) That the request for the Joint Committee to recommend to GMCA that general consent to be granted to TfGM to make minor disposals in future, be not approved.