

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE, HELD ON 16
JANUARY 2015**

PRESENT

Councillor David Chadwick	Bolton
Councillor Guy Harkin	Bolton
Councillor Stuart Haslam	Bolton
Councillor Noel Bayley	Bury
Councillor Joan Grimshaw	Bury
Councillor Andrew Fender	Manchester (in the Chair)
Councillor Naeem Hassan	Manchester
Councillor Chris Paul	Manchester
Councillor Tracey Rawlins	Manchester
Councillor Josie Teubler	Manchester
Councillor Adrian Alexander	Oldham
Councillor Norman Briggs	Oldham
Councillor Howard Sykes	Oldham
Councillor Shakil Ahmed	Rochdale
Councillor Philip Burke	Rochdale
Councillors Ian Duckworth	Rochdale
Councillor Roger Jones	Salford
Councillor Robin Garrido	Salford
Councillor Barry Warner	Salford
Councillor Dean Fitzpatrick	Stockport
Councillor William Wragg	Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside
Councillor Doreen Dickinson	Tameside
Councillor Peter Robinson	Tameside
Councillor Rob Chilton	Trafford
Councillor Michael Cordingley	Trafford
Councillor Mark Aldred	Wigan
Councillor Norman Bradbury	Wigan
Councillor Eunice Smethurst	Wigan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jon Lamonte	Chief Executive, TfGM
Rodney Lund	Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Bob Morris	Chief Operating Officer, TfGM

Steve Warrener	Finance and Corporate Services Director, TfGM
Peter Cushing	Metrolink Director, TfGM
Dave Newton	Transport Strategy Director, TfGM
Desmond Gardner	Head of Legal Services, TfGM
Howard Hartley	Head of Bus and Rail, TfGM
Daniel McMullan	Head of Communications, TfGM
Julie Connor	Head of GMIST
Paul Harris	GMIST

TfGMC14/61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from and Councillors Martin Candler (Stockport), Kevin Dowling (Stockport), Lynne Holland (Wigan), June Reilly (Trafford) and Jim McMahon (GMCA).

TfGMC14/62 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business reported. The following announcements were made by the Chair:-

a. Dr Jon Lamonte

The Chair on behalf of Members congratulated Dr Jon Lamonte on his recent appointment as the new chair of the Passenger Transport Executive Group (pteg). In addition, Members were also pleased to note that Dr Lamonte had been appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater Manchester.

b. Transport Budget Briefing

Members noted that a Transport Budget Briefing was to take place at Manchester Town Hall on Monday 9 February 2014. This event was to commence at 11.15 am.

TfGMC14/63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Philip Burke declared a personal interest in relation to Item 12, Metrolink 2017.

TfGMC14/64 MINUTES

The minutes of the TfGMC meeting, held on 14 November 2014 were submitted for consideration.

Resolved/-

To approve the minutes of the TfGMC meeting, held on 14 November 2014 as a correct record.

TfGMC14/65 MINUTES FROM SUB COMMITTEES

a. Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee

The minutes of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting, held on 21 November 2014 were submitted.

Resolved/-

To note the minutes of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting, held on 21 November 2014.

b. Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee

The minutes of the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee meeting held on 19 December 2014 were submitted.

Resolved/-

To note the minutes of the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee meeting, held on 19 December 2014.

TfGMC14/66 FORWARD LOOK

Members received a report which presented them with a Forward Look of key work streams requiring decisions from the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee over the next four months. The report also set out those significant elements of the Committee's work programme, where further updates on progress and activity were anticipated over a longer time period.

A Member highlighted that with regard to the Leigh-Salford-Manchester guided busway scheme, a number of local meetings had taken place at which concern was raised regarding traffic disruption during the on-going highway works on the A580 and in Atherton, Leigh and Tyldsley town centres. In response, the Chair noted that officers from TfGM were working closely with district colleagues to resolve local issues and implement the scheme as soon as possible with minimal disruption.

In response to an enquiry from a Member regarding a proposal to meet with potential bidders for the next rail franchise, officers noted that a process to arrange such meetings would be undertaken once the Invitation To Tender (ITT) documents had been issued.

Resolved/-

To note the Forward Look.

Section 2: Item for further consideration by GMCA

TfGMC14/67 2015/16 TRANSPORT LEVY BUDGET PROPOSALS

A report was presented which provided members with budget proposals for 2015/16 and updated them on the discussions that had taken place with the GMCA Transport Levy Scrutiny Panel, which consists of the Leaders and Treasurers of Wigan Bury and Trafford Councils and the Lead Combined Authority Member for Transport, in developing this budget proposal. An update on the latest outturn position was also presented.

It was noted that the budget proposal, as set out in section 4 to the report, related to the Transport Levy budget, including all the costs of TfGM and the financing and overhead costs of GMCA which are attributable to transport related activities and traffic signals. The budget also includes the financing costs and the agreed Levy contributions to the financing costs relating to the public transport schemes included within the Greater Manchester Transport Fund (GMTF).

Members noted that in setting the Levy budget for 2014/15 last year, GMCA also agreed an indicative Levy settlement for 2015/16, which was for a 3% reduction in the 'Core' Levy and a 3% increase in the ring fenced funding the Greater Manchester Transport Fund (GMTF). This was the same as the settlement agreed for 2014/15.

Members were informed that it was agreed last year that the increase in 2015/16 of 3% in the Levy for the GMTF financing costs would be reviewed again in the 2015/16 Levy Scrutiny process.

Based on work undertaken with colleagues from GMCA, and as reported back to the Scrutiny Meeting, a deferral of half (i.e. 1.5%) of the previously agreed 3% increase could be made until 2016/17 without adversely affecting the overall funding position for the GMTF. It was noted that this proposal was to be presented to GMCA for approval at its upcoming meeting in January 2015.

As a result of the above, the overall proposal for the Levy for 2015/16 is for a 1.5% (approximately £3 million), reduction, which compares to the previous proposal for an overall net cash standstill.

A Member highlighted the financial benefits bus operating companies were continuing to enjoy as a consequence of the continued reduction in fuel costs. It was suggested that these savings should be passed on to the customer via fare reductions. In response, officers noted that they would continue to encourage bus operators to reduce fares and noted the provisions of the Greater Manchester Agreement in relation to bus reform.

Following an enquiry from a Member regarding reserves, it was noted that some reserves were held by GMCA and noted that a comprehensive analysis of reserves will be included in the January 2015 GMCA Revenue Budget report.

Resolved/-

1. To note and endorse the discussions with the GMCA Transport Levy Scrutiny Panel and the proposal for the underlying Levy (excluding the element relating to the Financing Costs of the GM Transport Fund) to be as previously agreed with GMCA in the budget process for 2014/15. This will result in a reduction of 3% in 2015/16 in funding for costs, excluding those relating to financing costs. This recommendation will be considered by GMCA at its meeting on 30 January.
2. To approve the proposed increase in Bus Station Departure Charges of 2.3%, with effect from 29 March 2015.

Section 3 - Item for Resolution TfGMC

TfGMC14/68 POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Members considered a report which provided an overview of political engagement activities by the Committee and TfGM over the past 6 months and outlined a proposed approach for future engagement.

Resolved/-

1. To note the report
2. To approve a budget for the 2015-16 municipal year of £41,700 and
3. To delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive of TfGM in consultation with the Chair and the three Vice Chairs of TfGMC to continue to develop and refine TfGMC's approach to political engagement.

Section 4 - Items for Information

TfGMC14/68 UPDATE ON TfGMC POLICY PRIORITIES

A report was presented which advised Members of the arrangements in place to progress and report on the 2014/15 Policy Priorities that were determined by the Committee at its annual meeting on 20 June 2014.

Following an enquiry from a Member, officers undertook to confirm the status in writing of the Highway signals asset replacement programme.

Resolved/-

That the progress in securing TfGMC's key Policy Priorities be noted.

TfGMC14/69 WI-FI ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Members considered a report which provided an update on the Wi-Fi on Public Transport Project, the progress to date and to provide timescales for

the implementation of Wi-Fi on Metrolink Trams and the 20 City Centre Metroshuttle Buses.

Resolved/-

1. To note the report
2. To note that a further report will be submitted once the Wi-Fi service has launched in order to update Members on future developments.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved/-

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

Section 5 - Item for Information

TfGMC14/70 METROLINK 2017 - PRESENTATION

[Note Councillor Philip Burke declared a personal interest this item and left the room during its consideration .]

Members received a presentation which advised them of the work currently being undertaken by TfGM to define an operating model for Metrolink from 2017 onwards and explained the processes to develop a specification for service and the procurement process.

Resolved/-

To receive and note the presentation.