

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY  
COMMITTEE OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER  
PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY HELD ON  
5 JUNE 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Keith Whitmore (in the Chair)

Councillors Dylan Butt, Matthew Colledge, Yvonne Creswell\*, Peter Davison\*, Jim Dawson, Andrew Fender, Alan Godson\*, Roland Griffin, David Jones, Richard Knowles, Ian Macdonald, David Sandiford, Peter Scott, Val Stevens, Barry Warner, David White, Alan Whitehead, Michael Winstanley and Craig Wright.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Zulfiqar Ali, Sheila Magnall and Eunice Smethurst.

\*Indicates nominated deputy.

**P/08/81      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**P/08/82      MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Michael Winstanley to his first meeting of the Policy Committee.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the appointment of Councillor Michael Winstanley (Conservative, Wigan MBC) as a member of the Policy Committee, to replace Councillor Barry Fagan (Community Action Party, Wigan MBC), be noted.

**P/08/83      MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on the 3 April 2009 were submitted.

(P/08/78) Presentation – Greengauge 21

The Committee Administrator undertook to circulate a copy of the Greengauge 21 presentation to members of the Committee.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on the 3 April 2009 be approved as a correct record.

**P/08/84      CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING**

Consideration was given to a report which set out the status of the Capital Programme and sought approval for releases from the 2009/10 Outline Minor Works Capital Programme.

In response to a Member's query, the Interim Projects Director undertook to provide further detail to the next meeting of the Policy Committee, or its successor, on the allocation of SEMMMS Minor funding carried forward from 2008/09.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1) That the status of the Capital Programme be noted; and
- 2) That the release of £4.655 million from the 2009/10 Outline Minor Works Capital Programme, as detailed in the table below, be approved:

	<b>June 2009 Recommended Release £'000</b>
Metrolink Stop and other Infrastructure Improvements	3,500
Altrincham Interchange (Bus/Rail)	250
Rail Station Improvement Strategy	400
General Rail Station Development Contributions	80
General Bus Station Development Contributions	50
Manchester Hub Development Contributions	25
Bus Priority Development Contributions	200
Transport Model Development	50
General Park and Ride Development Contributions	25
Transport Data	50
Bus Shelter Programme	25
<b>Total for June Release:</b>	<b>4,655</b>

**P/08/85 RAIL STATIONS UPDATE**

A report was submitted which updated Members on recent progress in respect of the Rail Station Improvement Strategy, Rail Station Accessibility Programme and Altrincham Interchange rail projects.

A Member stressed the need to ensure that the rail station accessibility programme delivered improvements to at least two stations each year, in accordance with the Authority's stated performance target. In response, the Interim Projects Director, GMPTE, confirmed that the Executive would be working closely with Network Rail and train operating companies with a view to delivering accessibility improvements to at least two rail stations during 2009/10.

Members requested further detailed information in relation to the proposed on-going improvements at rail stations, as set out in the appendix to the report. In response, the Interim Projects Director agreed to provide additional detail in future update reports.

Members also enquired as to the delivery timescales for tranches 1, 2 and 3 of the Rail Station Improvement Strategy; the prioritisation of the remaining stations as set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report; and for information on the potential new rail stations in

Greater Manchester. In response, the Interim Projects Director reported that projected delivery timescales for tranches 1 and 2 could be provided in future updates, along with a prioritisation of improvement works at the remaining stations and a list of potential new stations, though the timescales for the delivery of tranche 3 were not yet available.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1) That the contents of the report and the progress made on the various schemes in recent months be noted;
- 2) That the Executive's proposal to add Bryn into the Rail Station Improvement Work Programme for 2009/10 be approved; and
- 3) That a further update report be submitted to an appropriate meeting of the Policy Committee in autumn 2009.

**P/08/86 DEVELOPMENT OF DECEMBER 2009 RAIL TIMETABLE AND CAPACITY ISSUES**

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the development of the December 2009 timetable and rail capacity issues, including ongoing negotiations to retain the Oldham Loop rolling stock within Greater Manchester and the use of additional carriages which the Government had agreed to fund through the High Level Output Statement (HLOS) process.

Members reemphasised the need to retain the Oldham Loop rolling stock to help alleviate the existing overcrowding problems on the Bolton/Atherton/Rochdale/Stalybridge corridors. It was also suggested that train operators could be encouraged to operate trains without rear-door opening to allow extra carriages to be used before the necessary platform lengthening infrastructure improvements were in place at some stations.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the report be noted.

**P/08/87 PERFORMANCE TARGETS 2009 - 2012**

A report was submitted which sought approval for the performance measures and targets for the period 2009 – 2012 which were discussed and agreed with Members at the Performance Management Committee on the 7 April 2009.

The Chair of the Performance Management Committee suggested, and it was agreed, that the proposed suite of performance targets be further examined by the Policy Committee, or its successor, at its next meeting.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1) That the proposed suite of performance management measures be approved; and

- 2) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on the proposed suite of targets to accompany the performance management measures set out in the report.

**P/08/88 DfT CONSULTATION ON POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL**

Consideration was given to a report which informed Members of the proposed response to the DfT consultation on possible changes to the administration of concessionary travel.

With reference to the Government's intention to transfer the special grant funding element of the statutory minimum concession into the wider formula grant settlement, a Member highlighted the position of the LGA Regeneration and Transport Board that the special grant be maintained.

A Member also suggested, and it was agreed, that the ITA response be shared with districts for comment, though it was noted that there was a tight deadline for the submission of consultation responses.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 2) That PTEG be requested, when preparing its response, to consider in detail the nature of any potential funding issues to be addressed with regard to Question 11 of the consultation; and
- 3) That authority for agreeing the final response be delegated to the Clerk and Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Leader of the Opposition and Chair of Development & Operations Committee and district authorities.

**P/08/89 DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT (DfT) CONSULTATIONS**

A report was submitted which advised Members of two DfT consultations: the *Guidance to the Statutory Traffic Commissioner* and *Improving the Accessibility of Light Rail Vehicles*.

With reference to the consultation on the *Guidance to the Statutory Traffic Commissioner*, a Member reemphasised the ITA's position that any guidance should not inhibit the delivery of the Authority's aspiration for securing the delivery of improved bus services in Greater Manchester, either through a partnership approach with bus operators or via Quality Contracts.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1) That the report and DfT consultations be noted; and
- 2) That authority for agreeing the final responses to the two consultations be delegated to the Clerk and Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Leader of the Opposition and Chair of Development and Operations Committee.

**P/08/90      CONFERENCES**

**RESOLVED/-**

It was agreed that the Authority would not nominate representatives to attend the *Door-to-Door by Public Transport Conference* on the 24 June 2009.

**P/08/91      PRESENTATION – EUROPEAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES STUDY**

The GMPTE's Finance and Corporate Services Director gave a presentation on the outcome of a GMPTE study of European funding opportunities for transport schemes in Greater Manchester.

Members made the following observations in relation to the presentation:

- The need to investigate the potential for utilising TEN-T funding for the Salford Crescent rail station redevelopment;
- The need to ensure that future transport development schemes were aligned to potential EU funding timescales;
- The need to develop the ITA/PTE's capacity to bid for ERDF funding;
- The need to determine the role of each agency in the development and co-ordination of EU funding bids; and
- The need for improved liaison between the ITA and North West MEPs.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the presentation be noted.

**P/08/92      EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED/-**

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

**P/08/93      BUS STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to a report which updated Members on progress made with bus operators towards the implementation of bus partnership agreements and set out a proposed work plan to review options and issues arising from Quality Contract powers.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1) That the position reached with bus operators in discussions towards establishing partnership agreements be noted;

- 2) That the proposed Quality Contracts work programme be approved;
- 3) That a further report be submitted in autumn 2009, following the conclusion of network discussions with operators, covering progress with:
  - a) the target bus network;
  - b) code of conduct; and
  - c) Quality Contract options.

**P/08/94 DfT KICKSTART COMPETITION**

A report was submitted which provided an update on progress to date on the development of a bid submission for Kickstart funding from DfT.

**RESOLVED/-**

- 1) That the work being undertaken in conjunction with operators and local authorities to develop bid proposals be noted;
- 2) That the proposed approach for developing schemes from the bus strategy in order to maximise the opportunity to deliver target network aspirations be approved;
- 3) That the provisional bid proposals for submission be approved; and
- 4) That authority to approve the final Kickstart bid be delegated to the Clerk and Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Leader of the Opposition and Chair of Development & Operations Committee.