

GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
REPORT FOR INFORMATION

COMMITTEE: POLICY AND RESOURCES
DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2009
SUBJECT: MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT UPDATE
REPORT OF: CLERK OF THE AUTHORITY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of the recent activities of the Museum of Transport.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

1. Note and comment as appropriate on the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Previous reports on the Museum of Transport can be found on file in the Town Hall in Room 308.

CONTACT OFFICERS

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Museum of Transport Manchester (MoTM) was established in 1970 by the Greater Manchester Transport Society (GMTS). It was granted charitable status in 1980 and became a company limited by guarantee in 1995. MoTM was established with the objective of encouraging an interest in the history of road passenger transport in the North West of England and to preserve important items and vehicles that are relevant to this history. The MoTM collection is one of the largest assemblies of buses in the UK, with over 80 buses currently recorded in their collection catalogue. It is run primarily by GMTS volunteers and is overseen by an elected board.
- 1.2 The MoTM moved to Boyle Street in Cheetham Hill in 1979, a building owned by the GMPTE that forms a part of the first bus garage built in Manchester. First Manchester's Queen St depot is located immediately adjacent to the Museum.
- 1.3 The Authority approved a report last year which confirmed the Authority's intention to continue to support the MoTM. Specifically, it endorsed an approach which would encourage the MoTM to work closely with the Museum of Science and Industry in the development of a new Land Transport Gallery in Upper Campfield Market.
- 1.4. The Appendix to this report is a short update of MoTM activity over the past year which has been prepared by the MoTM Chair and Vice Chair, Denis Talbot and John Pollock.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 A recommendation appears on the front page of this report.

Appendix

The Museum of Transport, Manchester

A few facts...

The Museum has been open for 30 years since 1979 and has had over 320,000 visitors.

We have a unique partnership between GMITA, GMPTE and the Society. GMPTE own the building and give support whilst GMTS run the Museum.

In our Collection are almost 90 local buses, including 10 stored off site plus over 80,000 documents, photographs and smaller items. 30 of the buses are owned by GMPTE, 20 by individuals who contribute to running the Museum while the rest are owned by the Society.

The Museum is having a great year in 2009; we are on track for a further increase in visitors to over 12,000 this year. Key headlines are that since January, under 16s have been able to visit the Museum free of charge and for the first time we have been open every day in August

Our visitors come from a wide variety of backgrounds, ages and places – often by public transport as shown by our current survey.

In the last two years we have brought the electrical system of the Museum building up to the required standard and installed a smoke detection system, all paid for by the Society. The building now has a 3 year certificate of electrical compliance.

In June this year the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council awarded the Museum *Full Accreditation* status. This is a Quality Standard which shows that the Museum is run professionally, gives good service to visitors and users and that we look after the collections in a proper manner.

We have continued to enjoy good relations with GMITA, GMPTE and the local operators. We showed Sir Moir Lockhead from First Group round Boyle Street in June this year.

Our aspirations...

We will aim to continue this success into the future.

We will develop the proposed Land Transport Gallery at MoSI which will give us a valuable city centre ‘shop window’ and add to the MoSI visitor experience. However, the Gallery will only take about 8 of our vehicles.

We want to continue with the Museum in its present form where people are able to visit and see buses on display and being restored, and to have a chance to see them running and to ride on them

We want long term security for the Museum and the collection, working with our present and future partners.

We want to improve the décor and presentation at the Museum.

We will continue with our objective to promote and educate about public transport

Our Achievements this year

Mindful of accommodation problems and duplication in the collection, we have reduced the collection by 10 vehicles.

In January we changed our admission policy on children aged between 5 and 15, and reduced their admission fee from £2 to free. This has been very well received and not caused a loss of overall revenue to date

We started our year off with a London bus day in Mid March, which was gathered together over 30 preserved London buses. Despite the vehicles not being from the area, a lot of interest was generated from our visitors

At the end of March we had a very successful Spring Transport festival with over 100 stalls and 1500 visitors

This was followed on the weekend of May 18/19th by a themed event based on Bolton Corporation. As well as running the Museum's Bolton buses, we brought together a number of privately preserved buses, which resulted in the biggest display of Bolton Corporation buses in one place for over 25 years. Among our guests was the Mayor of Bolton.

June saw our retired employees event, which is now into its second year. One of the most popular features was our oral history project in which we ask retired employees to tell us about their experiences in the transport industry in front of a video camera. We also borrowed examples of new buses from local operators for the day to give our visitors an opportunity to inspect at their leisure how buses have changed

In August we started another of our marketing initiatives and opened the Museum every day during August using part time, paid staff. In the past we have only opened on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. This has proved very successful, attracting extra visitors with no drop in visitor numbers on the days we were previously open.

We supported the Museum of Science and Industry's August transport weekend with a bus service between MOSI and Boyle Street and sent 6 of our collection on the cavalcade to celebrate 40 years of the PTE's on August 13th.

Our plans for the remainder of the year

We are holding our annual vehicle Rally in Heaton Park on Sunday 6th September. We are hoping for our usual turnout of about 200 vehicles

At the end of October we are celebrating 40 years of SELNEC and GMPTE. The event will take place on Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1st November. A small presentation is to be made to celebrate the occasion on the morning of Saturday 31st October and we have been asked by the Chair of the GMITA to invite all the Mayors of the ten AGMA authorities together with all the members of GMITA to the event.

Our final event of the year will be our Christmas Cracker, which is another event with over 100 stalls which is very popular with enthusiasts looking for Christmas presents.

As well as running fund raising events we are trying to develop the Museum using our own financial resources. During 2009 we are planning to refurbish our public toilets and have started a project to renovate our office/board room.

**Denis Talbot and John Pollock,
Museum of Transport Chairman and Vice Chairman.**