

**MINUTES OF THE RECONVENED MEETING OF
THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE GREATER
MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT
AUTHORITY HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Eddie McCulley (In the Chair)

Councillor Colin Shaw, Eunice Smethurst, and Barry Theckston and
Mr Francis Walsh

APOLOGIES: Councillors Stuart Corris, Peter Evans and Mike Smith

AUD/07/09 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair agreed to accept the following items of urgent business under the provisions of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972:

- Annual Accounts 2008-09
- Annual Governance Report

AUD/08/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

AUD/09/09 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2008-09

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval and sign-off of the final Annual Accounts for 2008-09 and seeking approval of the Letter of Representation.

The Committee was advised that there had been no further amendments to the consolidated accounts, which had impacted on the financial position of the GMITA or the Group for 2008-09. The only amendment to the accounts related to the re-classification of net costs in the Group Income and Expenditure Account between Metrolink and Operational Costs and the inclusion of a Group Statement of Movement in the General Fund Balance.

The accountancy treatment of £650k relating to Piccadilly Triangle had been addressed and GMPTE's financial statements had been amended appropriately, with no impact on either the GMITA or the Group figures.

A meeting of the GMPTE's Audit Committee had taken place on 29 September 2009 and it had been agreed that both the GMPTE and the Audit Commission produce a report explaining the lateness in the completion of the audit process and an action plan for 2009-10 to ensure the timely submission of audited accounts for the following financial year. The Treasurer undertook to provide a verbal report back to the 16 October 2009 meeting of the GMITA Audit Committee.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Annual Accounts for 2008-09 be approved.
2. That the draft Letter of Representation be approved and that the Treasurer and Chair of the Audit Committee be authorised to sign on behalf of the Authority.

AUD/10/09 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

A report was submitted which set out recommendations made by the external auditor, in accordance with the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice, following the 2008-09 audit of accounts.

The Auditor confirmed that an unqualified opinion on the accounts would be issued later in the day.

The Treasurer assured the Committee that formal and documented procedures regarding the availability of the short term funds to Manchester City Council had now been implemented, in line with procedures for other external investments. Supporting paperwork had also been produced for the deposits made to Manchester city Council during 2008-09.

Members requested regular progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations produced by the Audit Commission. The Treasurer advised the Committee that the Action Plan produced by the Audit Commission included implementation deadlines up to the end of the calendar year and undertook to submit a report on the progress of action to the 12 February 2010 meeting of the Audit Committee.

The Treasurer also acknowledged that the GMITA needed to consider its risk management strategy, not just in terms of GMITA risks but any implications as a result of the GMPTE Risk Register.

The Committee was assured that the reduction in the Group reserves had no impact on the financial position in going forward and the issues of the treatment of Metrolink revenue losses would be correctly addressed in the 2009-10 accounts. It was also confirmed that the adjustment to the Group reserves would not impact on the TIF monies for Bolton MBC and Wigan MBC.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

AUD/11/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee was advised that the timing of the 16 October 2009 would need to be adjusted to enable the Authority adequate time to receive a number of presentations. It was suggested that the Audit Committee meeting now be held at 1.00pm.

RESOLVED/-

That the suggestion that the 16 October 2009 meeting of the Audit Committee be held at 1.00pm be approved.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.