

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLI
RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE GREATER
MANCHESTER PASSENGER TRANSPORT
AUTHORITY HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Macdonald (in the Chair)

Councillors Dylan Butt, Doreen Dickinson, Peter Evans, Andrew Fender, Alan Godson, David Jones, David Sandiford, Peter Scott, Colin Shaw, Eunice Smethurst, Barry Theckston*, Keith Whitmore and Craig Wright.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Richard Knowles, Val Stevens, Brian Rigby, Barry Warner, Alan Whitehead and David Wilkinson.

*Indicates nominated deputy.

P/09/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

P/09/17 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair agreed to accept the following item of business, as a matter of urgency, under the provisions of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972:

- **P/09/19 Metrolink – Replacement of Altrincham Overhead Line Equipment**

P/09/18 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 24 July 2009 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on the 24 July 2009 be approved as a correct record.

P/09/19 METROLINK – REPLACEMENT OF ALTRINCHAM OVERHEAD LINE EQUIPMENT

A report was submitted which informed Members of the circumstances leading to the late completion of works to replace the Overhead Line Equipment on the Altrincham Line, and the subsequent delay in reopening the tram stops at Navigation Road and Altrincham.

Members were highly critical of the performance of the Contractor Stagecoach Metrolink Limited which had resulted in the delay in the reopening the Navigation Road

and Altrincham tram stops. A summary of the issues raised by Members are set out below:

- The Contractor's failure to build in sufficient contingency time to ensure robust 'real life' commissioning before the line came back into service;
- The need to ensure that lessons are learned so that such incidents were not repeated again on the network;
- The importance of ensuring that the GMPTE recover all the additional costs associated with the incident, including: loss of revenue; the cost of the X5 and X6 replacement bus services; and compensation to affected passengers;
- The importance of keeping Members well briefed should any similar incidents occur in future; and
- The need to investigate reported domestic power failures at properties adjacent to the Altrincham line.

In response, the Interim Chief Executive, GMPTE, explained that the Stagecoach Metrolink Limited had given a verbal assurance that they would meet all additional and unbudgeted costs arising from the issues relating to the Overhead Line Equipment project as set out in the report. He also reported that, following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority, all Metrolink passengers would be offered one day's free travel across the network following completion of the Metrolink city centre track renewals in November 2009.

The Chief Operating Officer, GMPTE, assured Members that the lessons from the Overhead Line Equipment works had been learned and current and future work programmes would be amended to ensure that such incidents were not repeated in future.

With respect to the reported domestic power cuts in the vicinity of the Altrincham line, the Chief Operating Officer, GMPTE, explained that these were unlikely to be caused by the Overhead Line Equipment works but that the matter would be investigated and the findings reported back to the Member directly.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

P/09/20 REGIONAL CENTRE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report which informed Members of the Regional Centre Transport Strategy (RCTS) and outlined the consultation process that would seek views from key stakeholders.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 2) That authority for approving the consultation draft of the Regional Centre Transport Strategy (RCTS) be delegated to the Clerk of the Authority, Interim

Chief Executive, GMPTE, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority and the Leader of the Opposition;

- 3) That consultation drafts be issued to members of the Authority as soon as they had been approved;
- 4) That the outline consultation proposals, as set out in Section 4 of the report, be endorsed; and
- 5) That a further update on the RCTS be submitted to the meeting of the Authority on the 16 October 2009.

P/09/21 RAIL STATIONS UPDATE

A report was considered which updated Members on the recent progress in respect of the Rail Station Improvement Strategy and the Rail Station Accessibility Programme, and sought endorsement for the associated recommendations in relation to the forthcoming DfT Access for All Small Scheme Funding bid.

Members welcomed the prioritisation process for the Rail Station Accessibility Programme, as set out in section 3 of the report, and suggested that the geographical 'pairing arrangement' for the delivery of schemes be adopted, whereby a station on the periphery of the conurbation be prioritised, followed by a 'inner' station, or vice-versa.

Members also requested that further detailed information on each of the proposed schemes set out in the Rail Station Improvement Strategy be provided to Members in future reports.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the report and the progress made on various schemes in recent months be noted.
- 2) That the proposed delivery of Horwich Parkway enhancements in conjunction with the Rail Station Improvement Strategy Work Programme for 2009/10 be noted;
- 3) That the proposals for the future Rail Station Improvement Strategy delivery programme be endorsed;
- 4) That the proposal to develop submissions for DfT's Access for All Small Scheme Funding for the 2010/11 Rail Station Improvement Strategy and Rail Stations Accessibility programmes be endorsed;
- 5) That the proposed methodology relating to the Rail Station Accessibility programmes be noted; and
- 6) That a further update report be submitted to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on the 19 March 2010.

P/09/22 YOUNG PERSONS' CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL PASS

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval for the implementation of the Young Persons' Concessionary Travel Pass (YPCTP) scheme.

A Member enquired whether the smart card enabled YPCTP could be adapted to provide district concessions such as free access to leisure facilities or additional public transport concessions. In response, the Information Systems Director confirmed that a smart card enabled YPCTP could be adapted to include other services for young people. With regard to the provision of additional public transport concessions, he again confirmed that this would be feasible, subject to the appropriate administrative arrangements being put in place between districts and the GMPTE.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the introduction of the Greater Manchester YPCTP scheme before the end of the 2009/10 academic year, along the lines set out in the report, be approved;
- 2) That the proposed charge of £5 for each new application, which would cover the cost of setup, ongoing administration and card production be approved;
- 3) That the proposed charge of £5 for each subsequent replacement card that is requested (unless a valid police crime reference number is available) be approved;
- 4) That the GMTL reduction in the System One weekly young persons' travel pass from £8 to £7, and the inclusion of the System One logo on the YPCTP card be noted; and
- 5) That a further report be brought forward in April 2010 which would:
 - Put forward for approval the detailed changes to the ITA's concessionary travel scheme, including details of the proposed conduct-based pass withdrawal scheme and the proposed date for implementation of the changes to the scheme.
 - Report further on the operators' ticket offer for 11-16 year olds who would no longer be included in the concessionary scheme.

**P/09/23 QUARTERLY PROGRESS AGAINST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Q1 2009/10**

A report was considered which set out Quarter 1 2009/10 progress against performance indicators and actions underway to improve performance where appropriate.

The Vice Chair of the Committee clarified that performance measure 8 (*regular user satisfaction with bus*) should read 'within 5% of target' rather than 'within target' as stated in the report.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the current performance be noted; and
- 2) That the actions underway to improve performance where necessary be noted.

P/09/24 LOW CARBON TRANSPORT: A GREENER FUTURE

A report was submitted which set out the key implications for the Authority stemming from the Department for Transport publication of a Carbon Reduction Strategy for Transport, entitled *Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future*.

Members welcomed the report and highlighted the opportunities for piloting electric bus technologies in Manchester city centre, should funding be available via the Green Bus Fund.

The Interim Bus and Rail Director explained that a working group had been established to explore the potential of developing bids to the Green Bus Fund for Metroshuttle, Yellow School Bus and general services. A further report, setting out the progress of the working group, would be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority for consideration.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 2) That the Authority's duty, under the Local Transport Act 2009, to take into account government policies with respect to the environment and change be noted;
- 3) That the proposed approach for officers to engage with operators, other PTEs and vehicle suppliers to investigate the potential of the Green Bus Fund, as outlined in appendix 2 to the report, be endorsed; and
- 4) That a further progress report be submitted to the meeting of the Authority on the 16 October 2009.

P/09/25 OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING STUDY INTO LOCAL BUS SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report which advised Members of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) report into local bus services which identified features of local bus markets that it proposed to refer to the Competition Commission for full investigation.

Members welcomed the OFT study into Local Bus Services and highlighted the need to submit a robust response to the study, restating the Authority's long-standing, cross-party position against the deregulation of local bus services.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the OFT report be noted; and
- 2) That the Authority respond to the OFT consultation, and that authority for approving the response be delegated to the Clerk of the Authority and the Interim Chief Executive, GMPTE, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority and the Leader of the Opposition.

P/09/26 RAIL SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

A report was submitted which informed Members of the recommendation agreed at the Rail & Metrolink Networks Committee meeting on the 17 July 2009 and sought approval for further action.

The Interim Bus and Rail Director, GMPTE, explained that officers would be meeting with Northern Rail officials to confirm the costs and financial implications of the proposed rail service enhancements set out in the report, and that officers would aim to submit a further report on the matter to the next Authority meeting on the 16 October.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the cost implications of the recommendations from the Rail & Metrolink Networks Committee meeting on the 17 July 2009 be noted;
- 2) That officers be requested to carry out further work to confirm the costs and financial implications of the proposals made; and
- 3) That a further update report on the matter be submitted to the Authority meeting on the 16 October.

P/09/27 MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT UPDATE

A report was submitted which updated Members on the recent activities of the Museum of Transport.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

P/09/28 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/09/29 MANCHESTER METROSHUTTLE CONTRACT - UPDATE

A report was submitted which set out the current position with regard to the contract for the Manchester Metroshuttle free bus service.

RESOLVED/-

- 1) That the continuation of the current service contract up to a period of 12 months, provided that the ITA/PTE's proportion of the funding does not increase, be approved.
- 2) That the proposed further investigation into the most advantageous vehicle procurement option be endorsed;

- 3) That the further contact with partners by Manchester City Council to secure funding be noted;
- 4) That the further proposed actions set out in section 10 of the report be noted;
and
- 5) That further updates on the progress of the contract be submitted to the Committee as appropriate.