

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED
TRANSPORT AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY,
16 OCTOBER 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Keith Whitmore (In the Chair)

Councillors Mark Aldred, Dylan Butt, David Chadwick, Stuart Corris, Yvonne Creswell, Peter Davison, Jim Dawson, Doreen Dickinson, John Dillon, Peter Evans, Andrew Fender, Alan Godson, Roland Griffin, Lynne Holland, David Jones, Richard Knowles, Ian Macdonald, Eddie McCulley, Brian Rigby, David Sandiford, Peter Scott, Mike Smith, Val Stevens, Barry Theckston, Barry Warner, David White, Alan Whitehead, David Wilkinson, Michael Winstanley and Craig Wright

ITA/9/39 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that he had agreed to the following items being considered as urgent business:

Overcrowding on the Rochdale and Huddersfield rail lines

To consider urgent measures to relieve peak hour rail overcrowding on the Rochdale and Huddersfield rail lines.

Appointment of Independent Members to the GMITA Standards Committee

To nominate members to the panel for the appointment of three independent members to the Standards Committee and to agree an extension of the term of office of the current Independent Chair of the Committee pending the filling of the vacancies.

ITA/9/40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made.

ITA/9/41 TRANSPORT AWARDS

The Chair reported that GMPTE and Stagecoach Metrolink Limited had achieved success at the Light Rail Awards ceremony held the night before. The Metrolink system won the 'Most Significant Safety Initiative' award, after three Metrolink stops earned Secure Station Status earlier in the year.

Stagecoach Metrolink Limited was highly commended at the awards in two categories: 'Best Customer Initiative', for its Travel Safe Officers scheme; and 'Employee of the Year', for which two staff were nominated – Mike Mabey,

Revenue and Security Manager, and George Barrow, Network Expansion Manager.

On behalf of the Authority the Chair extended congratulations to all those involved.

ITA/9/42 MINUTES

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Authority held on 28 August 2009 be approved as a correct record.

ITA/9/43 POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 11 September 2009 be received.

ITA/9/44 CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Capital Projects Committee held on 18 September 2009 be received.

ITA/9/45 AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit Committee meetings held on 21 and 30 September 2009 were submitted.

A Member raised an issue regarding short term loans. Officers agreed to raise the issue with the Treasurer and report back to members.

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 21 and 30 September 2009 be received.

ITA/9/46 RAIL AND METROLINK NETWORKS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Rail and Metrolink Networks Committee held on 2 October 2009 be received.

ITA/9/47 BUS NETWORKS AND PTE SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Bus Networks and PTE Services Committee held on 9 October 2009 were submitted.

The Chair of the Committee informed the Authority that the decision to revise the route of service 370/371 (Stockport – Cheadle/Didsbury – Altrincham) had been put on hold pending consideration of representations received from members of the public. A report on the outcome of those considerations would be submitted to the Bus Networks and PTE Services Committee as soon as possible.

Another Member referred to the decision to approve a replacement for service 343 (Oldham – Lees – Mossley – Stalybridge – Hyde) and asked that Oldham and Tameside councillors be advised of the successful tenderer.

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Bus Networks and PTE Services Committee meeting held on 9 October 2009 be received.

ITA/9/48 URGENT MEASURES TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING ON THE ROCHDALE AND HUDDERSFIELD RAIL LINES

Consideration was given to a report seeking agreement to the Authority securing the use of appropriate rail rolling stock from the units formerly utilised on the Oldham Loop Line to relieve acute peak hour overcrowding on the Rochdale and Huddersfield line, whilst negotiations continue to secure more appropriate long term arrangements to fund the retention of those units.

During the ensuing discussion members referred to a number of reliability issues affecting rail replacement services. It was noted that this was being exacerbated by substantial utility work on Great Ancoats Street in central Manchester. It was suggested that discussions should be held with Manchester City Council with a view to determining whether a re-phasing of traffic lights would help to alleviate the problems.

In response to concerns about revenue protection measures on rail services, the Interim Bus and Rail Director said that he would raise the issue again with Northern Rail. Another member suggested that when looking at Key Performance Indicators, officers should examine overcrowding on trains to assist the case for additional rail carriages.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the action proposed in the report be approved.
2. That the Interim Chief Executive, GMPTE and the Interim Bus and Rail Director, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Authority, be authorised to approve temporary arrangements, including

appropriate funding arrangements, to ensure the early deployment of rolling stock to relieve the acute peak time overcrowding presently being experienced by passengers using the Rochdale and Huddersfield rail lines.

3. That GMPTE officers be requested to continue to seek to secure more appropriate long term arrangements to fund the deployment of the units.

ITA/9/49 PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING GREATER MANCHESTER'S THIRD LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Consideration was given to a report setting out a proposed outline process for managing the development of the third Local Transport Plan and its supporting documentation in line with the recently published DfT guidance, in advance of the submission of the Plan by end March 2011.

A Member underlined the importance of member to member links, including Executive members, across the district councils as part of the process. This point was acknowledged and would be picked up in the report to the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the proposed approach to LTP3 set out in the report be approved.
2. That it be agreed that further reports on the development work, in accordance with the work streams also set out in the report, should be brought to the Policy and Resources Committee.
3. That it be noted that a report on the proposed approach would also be taken to the AGMA Executive.

ITA/9/50 EAST MIDLANDS ROUTE UTILISATION STRATEGY

A report informing members of which aspects of the East Midlands Route Utilisation Strategy impacted on Greater Manchester was submitted. The report also recommended a response to the Consultation Draft.

In response to a question about the Northern Route Utilisation Strategy, it was reported that the process would be the same as that for the East Midlands Route Utilisation Strategy, with much of the work being done during 2010.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the East Midlands Route Utilisation Strategy recommendation that 12 additional carriages should be deployed on the Liverpool – Norwich service be welcomed, but that Network Rail be advised of concerns that the demand forecasts are low and therefore further carriages will be required before 2019.

2. That the intention that the proposed Northern Route Utilisation Strategy will include a comprehensive review of services between Liverpool and Manchester also be welcomed.
3. That the East Midlands Route Utilisation Strategy recommendation that there is no business case for improving connectivity between the North West and East Midlands be noted and Network Rail be advised of concerns that the demand forecasts are low and therefore the revenue and benefits have been underestimated.

ITA/9/51 DfT GREEN BUS FUND

A report was submitted providing details of the DfT's Green Bus Fund and the various approaches that are being pursued in order to maximise this opportunity to increase the number of low carbon buses operating in Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the work being undertaken to identify potential bids for vehicles from GMITA, bus operators and other bodies be noted;
2. That the proposed approach for officers to develop bidding options for Yellow School Buses, Metroshuttle vehicles, tendered service vehicles and enhancements to operator fleets, as outlined in the report, be agreed.
3. That authority to approve any proposed GMITA bid be delegated to the Clerk to the Authority and the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and the Leader of the Opposition.

ITA/9/52 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVISED PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2009-10

A report setting out the Revised Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for 2009-10 was submitted.

RESOLVED/-

That the Revised 2009-10 Prudential Indicators listed below be approved:

No.	PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2009-10
1	Ratio of Gross Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	12%
2	Incremental Impact of Capital Investments on Levy	£4.133m
3	Capital Expenditure	£316.039m

4	Capital Financing Requirements (as at 31 March)	£380.361m
5	Operational Boundaries for External Debt	£402.642m
6	Authorised Limits for External Debt	£409.642m
8	Upper Limits on Fixed Interest Rate Exposures	217%
9	Upper Limits on Variable Interest Rate Exposures	45%
10	Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing:-	
	Under 12 months	Lower Limit 0% Upper Limit 30%
	12 months and within 24 months	Lower Limit 10% Upper Limit 50%
	24 months and within 5 years	Lower Limit 10% Upper Limit 40%
	5 years and within 10 years	Lower Limit 0% Upper Limit 30%
	10 years and above	Lower Limit 60% Upper Limit 80%

ITA/9/53 INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Members were informed that a notice had been placed in the press and on the GMITA web-site inviting applications from persons interested in joining the Authority's Standards Committee as an Independent Member. Each of the party groups was requested to nominate a member to sit, with the Monitoring Officer, on a recruitment panel to oversee the appointment process.

It was also noted that the term of office of the current Independent Chair of the Standards Committee, Dawn Leake, was due to expire on 23 November 2009 and the Authority was asked to agree to extend Ms Leake's term of office pending the outcome of the recruitment process. It was further noted that Ms Leake had indicated a willingness to continue in the role.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the process for the recruitment of 3 Independent members to the Standards Committee be approved, and that authority be delegated to a panel comprising Councillors Dawson, Rigby and a member to be nominated by the Liberal Democrat Group and the Monitoring Officer to oversee the recruitment process, including the short-listing and interview of candidates .
2. That the recommendations of the panel on appointees as Independent Members be submitted to the Authority for approval.

3. That the term of office of Ms Dawn Leake, the current Independent Chair of the Standards Committee, be extended pending the outcome of the recruitment process.

ITA/9/54 CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

RESOLVED/-

1. That Councillors Dillon and White be nominated to attend the North West Bus Summit 2009 to be held in Liverpool on 26 November 2009 and that any other members of the Authority wishing to attend should contact the Clerk's office.
2. That no action be taken on the following conferences:
 - (a) A Sustainable Transport System: Short Term Priorities, Long Term Planning, London, 22 October 2009
 - (b) Tough Times: Getting Best Value from transport Budgets, Birmingham, 18 November 2009
 - (c) Transport Times Annual Bus Conference, London, 26 November 2009

ITA/9/55 EXCLUSION OF 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 it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.

ITA/9/56 ROCHDALE AND HUDDERSFIELD RAIL LINES

Members were appraised of the financial implications of the proposed action described in Minute ITA/9/48 above.

RESOLVED/-

That the details of the financial issues and on-going negotiations with Northern Rail and the Department for Transport regarding measures to alleviate overcrowding on the Rochdale and Huddersfield lines be noted.