

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CAPITAL
PROJECTS COMMITTEE OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED
TRANSPORT AUTHORITY HELD ON 6
NOVEMBER 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Richard Knowles (In the Chair)

Councillors Dylan Butt, Jim Dawson, Andrew Fender, David Jones, Ian Macdonald, Peter Scott, *David Sandiford, Eunice Smethurst, Alan Whitehead, Keith Whitmore, Michael Winstanley and Craig Wright

* Indicates substitute Member in attendance

APOLOGIES: Councillor David White

**CP/23/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2009**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Capital Projects Committee held on 18 September 2009 were submitted for consideration.

The following matters on the Minutes were raised:

Capital Programme Monitoring – Minutes 12/09 refers

Members reminded the meeting of the undertaking given at the last meeting of the Capital Projects Committee to circulate a briefing note on the general policy of land acquisition in close proximity to rail stations and in particular the recent sale of land at Heald Green Rail Station and the lack of consultation/exchange of information with the local authority.

The Committee was advised that following an evaluation, the land at Heald Green Rail Station had proved not to be value for money; specific information would be contained within the briefing note to be circulated to Members of the Committee.

Rail Station Improvement Strategy – Minutes 14/09 refers

Members also sought assurances on the timescale for completing the works referred to in the three tranches of the programme of rail station improvements. Officers confirmed that the works identified in the first two tranches of work due for completion in December 2009, were on target. Those works identified in the third tranche would be completed in the New Year.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Capital Projects Committee held on 18 September 2009 be approved as a correct record.

2. That a briefing note explaining the current policy on land acquisition for potential car parking at rail stations, together with specific details on the evaluation of land at Heald Green, be circulated to Members of the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

CP/24/09 URGENT BUSINESS

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

Metrolink Didsbury Extension – Burton Road Stop

CP/25/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

CP/26/09 INTERNAL AUDIT OF GMITA CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS 2008/09

Consideration was given to a report presenting the findings of the Authority's internal audit functions with regard to the previous capital programme monitoring arrangements (2008/09) prior to the establishment of the Capital Projects Committee.

In introducing the report, the meeting was advised that the Audit Committee at its meeting on 16 October 2009, had considered the findings of the Internal Audit review and were content that the results of the 2008/09 Committee Improvement Project had addressed the concerns raised by Internal Audit. Internal Audit had also confirmed that the revised committee structure addressed all the issues raised.

Members confirmed that the establishment of the Capital Projects Committee enabled the Committee to give sufficient detailed consideration to specific issues.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted and that the Audit Committee be advised that the Capital Projects Committee had considered the issues raised by Internal Audit.

CP/27/09 MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME

A report was submitted seeking releases from the 2009/10 Outline Minor Works Capital Programme.

The Committee was informed that the requested release of £130,000 to develop the 'Informed Personal Traveller Project' would enable the Authority to pilot a 'personalised journey planner' that was integrated with mobile phone technology rather than GPS. The project's specifications included automatic updates to the traveller's mobile phone on journey progress, including estimated arrival times; personalised solutions for the visually impaired and deaf users; an application that could be adapted for visitors and displayed in different languages; destination stop information; ticket advice; and the facility for journeys to be refreshed in the event of a disruption or delay. The success of the pilot scheme would mean that the Authority would not be required to invest further capital in fixed-point information facilities.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the release of £660,000 from the 2009/10 Outline Minor Works Capital Programme be approved as follows:

	November 2009 Recommended Release £'000
Ring & Ride Vehicles	430
Smartcard	130
CCTV Northern Rail	50
Bus Shelter Programme	50
Total For November Release	<u>660</u>

2. That it be noted that the Capital Programme report to the 15 January 2010 meeting of the Capital Projects Committee would include an update on all schemes within the Minor Works and other Capital Programmes.

CP/28/09 ROCHDALE TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

Consideration was given to a report updating Members on the progress of Rochdale Transport Interchange.

The Committee also received a visual presentation on the Rochdale Transport Interchange scheme.

In response to Members questions, it was explained that the GMITA did not have a 'blanket' policy relating to bus operation within bus stations, however, wherever possible drive thru operations were favoured. The reverse 'pull out' of buses was in operation at the Manchester Airport bus station and in part at Middleton bus station. The decision to operate a 'reverse pull out' from stops within the proposed Rochdale Transport Interchange was informed, firstly, by the restricted operational footprint of the proposed site and secondly, the absence of safety issues given the restricted pedestrian access to the 'reverse pull out' area.

The meeting was advised that electricity for the Interchange would be generated via the River Roch to meet the planning requirements for the scheme. Robust maintenance arrangements have been agreed for the site, which included the daily cleaning of the lower level glass panels, with the higher-level glass panels cleaned on a regular basis.

The meeting was also advised that there would be public information screens at each boarding point in the Interchange, in addition to the central information screens and the system would be able to accommodate 'real time information' once it came on stream.

RESOLVED/-

That the report and progress be noted and that officers be requested to submit a further update report to the 5 March 2010 meeting of the Capital Projects Committee.

CP/29/09 BOLTON RAIL STATION – IMPROVEMENT TO PASSENGER FACILITIES

Consideration was given to a report updating Members on the progress to date of the planned passenger facility enhancements at Bolton Rail Station.

Members were advised that the rationale behind the decision not to include the provision of escalators at the current time was partially due to the refurbishment of the passenger lifts at Bolton Rail Station in 2007 and the large footprint required to accommodate the escalators. Further consideration could be given to the provision of escalators when Moor Lane Bus Station was relocated to a new site adjacent to the Rail Station.

RESOLVED/-

That the report and progress to date be noted and that officers be requested to submit a progress report to the 5 March 2010 meeting of the Capital Projects Committee.

CP/30/09 CCTV ON NORTHERN RAIL ROLLING STOCK

A report was submitted updating Members on the Northern Rail proposal to install CCTV on rolling stock, and seeking approval to release a funding contribution towards the project.

Members expressed a number of concerns:

- a) the benefit for Greater Manchester passengers given the proposed installation of CCTV was for diesel 158 units and Class 323 and 333 electric units; the majority of vehicles in operation in Greater Manchester were class 142 and 150 units;
- b) the delayed implementation of phase 1 of the installation programme and the potential implementation of phase 2; and
- c) real time access to footage by train drivers/guards

Officers undertook to seek assurances from the Department for Transport that the long-term use of class 142 and 150 units in Greater Manchester would result in the units being refurbished to a minimum standard, which included the installation of CCTV.

The Chair of the Committee requested that a report on the outcome of phase 1 installation and the potential plans to implement phase 2 of the installation programme be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted and that the release of £50,000 as a funding contribution towards the project from the Minor Works Capital Programme be approved.

2. That officers be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Capital Projects Committee on the outcome of phase 1 installation and the potential plans to implement phase 2 of the installation programme.

CP/31/09 METROLINK UPDATE

A report was submitted providing the Committee with an update on the various Metrolink projects.

Members congratulated those involved in the recent complex works undertaken to complete the City Centre Track Renewals Scheme, which had included the relaying of tracks every few days to enable access to the Queens Road Depot for South-side Metrolink services for maintenance purposes.

The Chair of the Authority agreed with the sentiments and reiterated that the workforce be congratulated for delivering the scheme on time.

A Member referred to the design of the Burton Road Stop, which historically had planned level access to both platforms. To ensure that the focus on design was not overlooked in the period of renewal /upgrade, it was suggested that the plans for Metrolink stops contained within the plans for Metrolink Phase 3A and 3B, together with a schedule of work and progress, be circulated to Members to ensure the identification of potential issues and appropriate interventions.

Members drew attention to the recent system failures since the reopening of Metrolink in the City Centre and in particular, the free travel announced for the 14 and 19 November 2009, which was a good initiative to re-engage members of the travelling public with the benefits of using Metrolink.

Officers confirmed that the new real time information visual displays would be connected to the new Tram Operating System and all platforms had the ability to accommodate equipment requirements.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted and that all staff who had worked on the successful delivery of the City Centre Track Renewals scheme be congratulated for their efforts in ensuring the scheme was delivered to timetable.
2. That officers be requested to make available electronic versions of plans for Metrolink stops contained within Phase 3A and 3B be circulated to Members, where available and outstanding plans as and when available, together with a schedule of work and progress, with hard copies of the plans available upon request.

CP/32/09 FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED/-

That, as previously agreed, future meetings of the Committee be held as follows:

Friday, 15 January 2010 10.30 am
Friday, 5 March 2010 10.30 am

CP/33/09 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 items if business on the ground that these involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in Paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.

CP/34/09 MANCHESTER HUB PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation from Graham Botham, Network Rail, on the options under consideration to develop the Manchester Hub.

The Committee was advised that Network Rail had established a Communications Group tasked with ensuring the right messages were communicated across the North West.

A Member reminded the meeting of proposals contained within the South East Manchester Multi Modal Study (SEMMMS) in 2001, in particular issues relating to the priority of local rail services and suggested alternative operations. It was agreed that the Member concerned would forward the SEMMMS proposals to Graham Botham at Network Rail.

Members were concerned that the proposed high speed rail link had not featured in the options under evaluation.

The meeting was advised that a definitive name for the Hub had not yet been agreed.

Members suggested that detailed consideration of the issues involved with the options to be evaluated for the Manchester Hub should have been presented to the Committee in report form. In particular, the Authority needed to be aware of the risks associated with each option.

RESOLVED/-

That the presentation be noted and that officers be requested to submit a report to the Capital Projects Committee at every stage of the approval process.

CP/35/09 VICTORIA STATION

Graham Botham, Network Rail provided the Committee with a verbal update on the proposed phased works for Victoria Station.

Graham Bothman agreed to provide the Committee with the detail of the National Change Improvement Programme Investment programme for Victoria Station.

RESOLVED/-

That the update be noted and that officers be requested to submit a progress report to the 15 January 2010 meeting of the Capital Projects Committee.

CP/36/09 METROLINK COMMERCIAL ISSUES PRESENTATION

The Finance and Corporate Services Director and the Metrolink Director gave a presentation setting out the background to the current fares structure and a proposed way forward for the next twelve months and approach for the future.

The Chair of the Committee confirmed that the current policy was to implement fares changes annually, however, given the extensive disruption to services there was a requirement to rebuild patronage levels and in the current circumstance it was appropriate to re-consider the current policy.

Members were concerned that the request to postpone the fares increase was to be considered in the absence of a medium term financial strategy. Officers assured the Committee that the position had been viewed from long-term financial perspective and there was no short impact on finances. In terms of patronage levels, the Committee was advised this information would be circulated to Members.

RESOLVED/-

1. That there be no change in fares in January 2010 and that the next change in fares be implemented post Summer 2010.
2. That there be a return to the annual change cycle in January 2012.
3. That officers be requested to present fares proposals to the Capital Projects Committee in Summer 2010.

CP/37/09 METROLINK PHASE 3B ACCELERATED PACKAGE PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report providing Members with an update on the procurement of the Metrolink Phase 3B Accelerated Package and seeking approval for GMPTE to award contract variations for the design and construction elements of the Metrolink Phase 3B Accelerated Works and the works to fully develop the Trafford Depot and the Tram Operating System (TOS) for those extensions.

Officers confirmed that the current proposed dates for the three Metrolink extensions were still on target. Members requested that all opportunities be exploited to progress physical advance works.

Members were also advised that all information had been passed to the Department for Transport to inform the funding decision due November 2009.

Officers also explained that the Transport Operating System (TOS) enabled the Control Room to be informed of the exact position of all vehicles in operation.

RESOLVED/-

1. That, subject to terms listed in resolution 2 below, the approval of GMPTE to proceed with the award of variations to the existing Design, Construct and Maintain and Tram Operating System (TOS) contract to include the Metrolink Phase 3B Accelerated Works including the works to develop the Trafford Depot be confirmed.
2. That it be noted that the award of the contract variances were subject to verification of satisfactory performance; the final confirmed costs being within budgets; ongoing value for money assessment of the existing contractors; and confirmed funding approvals from the Department for Transport and the GMITA in relation to the local borrowings.
3. That officers be requested to submit a progress report on the final Design, Construct and Maintenance and Tram Operating System contract variation to the 15 January 2010 meeting of the Capital Projects Committee.

CP/38/09 MANCHESTER AIRPORT THIRD PLATFORM – REPORT ON PROGRESS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Consideration was given to a report updating Members on progress and lessons learned on the provision of the third platform at Manchester Airport Rail Station.

The Committee was assured that future joint projects would include appropriate and timely design reviews and that wherever possible legal agreements would ensure that GMPTE retained sufficient powers and authority such that the ability to formally to accept (and sign off) or reject design proposals.

RESOLVED/-

That the report, key issues and lessons learned be noted.

CP/39/09 METROLINK DIDSBURY EXTENSION – BURTON ROAD STOP

Consideration was given to a report, which sought Members' views on the options for access at the Burton Road Metrolink stop on the Didsbury extension.

RESOLVED/-

That authority be delegated to the Chair, Vice Chair of the Capital Projects Committee and the Leader of the opposition to approve the access option to the Burton Road Metrolink stop on the Didsbury Metrolink extension and that a site visit be arranged to inform the decision.