

GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

COMMITTEE: Capital Projects
DATE: 15th January 2010
SUBJECT: Manchester Victoria Rail Station
REPORT OF: Interim Chief Operating Officer, GMPTE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update to Members on recent progress in relation to the proposed passenger facility enhancements at Manchester Victoria rail station, which are being taken forward through the National Station Improvement Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:-

- 1 Note the contents of this report and the progress which has been made on the scheme in recent months.
- 2 Note that a verbal update on the proposed wider development of Manchester Victoria rail station will be provided at the meeting by Network Rail.
- 3 Request that a further update report be submitted to the meeting of this Committee to be held on 5th March 2010.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to the Authority 18th December 2009 – Better Rail Stations
Report to Developments and Operations 1st May 2009 – Victoria Station Update.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is primarily to provide an update on progress in relation to the proposed passenger facility enhancements at Manchester Victoria rail station to be taken forward through the National Station Improvement Programme (NSIP).
- 1.2 A verbal update on the proposed wider redevelopment of this station will be provided at this meeting by the Executive's Interim Chief Operating Officer.

2 National Station Improvement Programme

- 2.1 The National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP) is a DfT backed programme to deliver improvements to 150 medium sized stations in England and Wales.
- 2.2 The primary objective of NSIP is to bring about a noticeable and lasting improvement in the environment at stations for the benefit of passengers, which will lead to an improvement in the passenger and public perception of the chosen stations. It is intended that improvements will be made to increase passengers' perception of security, to improve access and egress, to enhance the overall presentation of the station and to improve information provision and other facilities.
- 2.3 The funding for this programme is £150m (2005/6 prices) to be allocated in two tranches. The first tranche, of £100m, has been allocated with a further review before allocation of the remaining funding. An allocation methodology has been agreed by the National Programme Board based on the DfT criteria of fair geographical spread, passenger satisfaction and footfall.
- 2.4 The attraction of additional private sector funding is critical to the success of this programme and will be utilised to maximise the improvements possible.
- 2.5 The programme is managed as a joint programme between Network Rail as the landlord and the train operators as lessees and operators of the stations.
- 2.6 A number of rail stations in Greater Manchester which have already benefited from NSIP funding including Manchester Victoria. To secure and supplement the NSIP funding; and to enable GMPTE to assist in the development of the schemes contributions for each station scheme within the Minor Works Capital Programme is also shown.

Station	NSIP Allocation	GMPTE/ITA Contribution	Delivery
Manchester Victoria ¹	£1.7m	£0.05m	2010/11

- 2.7 For a number of years the Executive, Manchester City Council, Northern Rail (the station managers) and Network Rail (the station owners) have been seeking an affordable way to improve Manchester Victoria station. In partnership, a scheme has been developed, prior to the publication of the “Better Rail Stations” report, which will provide additional lighting, new waiting shelters, additional help points, increased CCTV coverage and refurbishment of the toilets to include facilities for the disabled and baby changing.
- 2.8 The scheme, developed as part of the National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP), will cost £1.7m and is fully funded by GMITA and Network Rail. It is intended that work will start on site in the spring of 2010 and be completed in the summer of 2010. To secure and supplement the NSIP funding; and to enable GMPTE to assist in the development of the scheme a £50,000 contribution (including GMPTE staff delivery costs) was included within the Minor Works Capital Programme approved on the 17th April 2009 by GMITA.

3 Wider Station Redevelopment Proposals

- 3.1 Network Rail, GMPTE, Manchester City Council and Northern Rail have been progressing the development of a scheme to bring about a major redevelopment of Victoria rail station and the vacant sites around the station. The scheme is intended to address the following issues:
- the need to further enhance passenger facilities;
 - conflicting passenger flows between station travellers and users of the MEN Arena;
 - the under use of the existing station buildings;
 - the poor state of the station roof; and
 - the vacant site adjacent to the station.
- 3.2 Following his week-long tour of the national rail network in April this year Lord Adonis, Secretary of State for Transport, commissioned Chris Green (senior industry figure) and Sir Peter Hall (Professor of Planning and

¹ Potential funding and Lord Adonis, Secretary of State for Transport, has revealed that the Manchester Victoria is among 10 stations across the country to benefit from a £50m fund which will be supplemented by commercial and third party contributions and commitments by train operating companies.

Regeneration, University College London) to prepare a report 'To advise the Government on ways to improve stations, focusing on getting the basic facilities right as well as considering the broader role of stations in the future.'

- 3.3 During the preparation of the report Chris Green and Peter Hall spoke with all PTEs and a number of other stakeholders, including train operating companies in Britain and Europe, Network Rail, station retailers and representatives of users. GMPTE presented the case for Victoria, that was well received.
- 3.4 The report 'Better Rail Stations' published on the Department for Transport's website on Tuesday 17th November, revealed that Manchester Victoria is considered to be the least satisfactory station used by more than 2m passengers per year.
- 3.5 Further, in response to "Better Rail Stations" report observations, the DfT has announced that up to £50m will be made available by Network Rail to help improve the ten 'National Interchange' stations highlighted in the report, including Manchester Victoria, and published a statement promising they will be consulting on the detailed implementation of its recommendations.
- 3.6 In addition to the funding associated with the "Better Rail Stations" report, the Executive, Manchester City Council and Network Rail are working together to identify other funding opportunities for taking forward the proposed wider redevelopment of Manchester Victoria rail station.
- 3.7 GMPTE will work with its partners and key stakeholders to draw together the various investment and development opportunities at Manchester Victoria Rail Station to ensure passenger benefits are maximised. It is recognised that a holistic approach to the wider development of the station is taken whilst ensuring that the heritage of this important rail station is respected and incorporated into emerging designs.
- 3.8 A verbal update on the latest position in this regard will be provided at the meeting by Network Rail.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 Please see front sheet of report for recommendations.

Bob Morris
Interim Chief Operating Officer