

GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

Report for Resolution

DATE: 12th February, 2010

SUBJECT: Lobbying Programme 2010/11

REPORT OF: The Lobbying Manager, GMPTE and Deputy Clerk to the Authority

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report back on the Authority's lobbying activities during 2009/10 and to set out proposals for the lobbying programme in 2010/11

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the lobbying activities undertaken during 2009/10
2. To agree the broad Lobbying Programme for 2010/11 as set out in this report and to delegate responsibility to the Chair, Vice Chair and Leader of the Opposition, in consultation with the Clerk to the Authority, to finalise the detailed lobbying programme.
3. To approve a lobbying budget up to a maximum of £95,000 for 2010/11 and, in doing so, to encourage officers to seek appropriate sponsorship from suitable organisations to support the Authority's lobbying activities, where such contributions do not conflict with the Authority's lobbying objectives.
4. To agree that attendance of invited Members at such lobbying events should rank as an approved duty for Members' travelling and subsistence allowances purposes.
6. To agree to produce a Members' lobbying pack containing background information for all Members of the Authority to assist the lobbying of opinion formers.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to the Authority on 2009/10 Lobbying Programme, 6th February 2009

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1. Background

- 1.1 At the Authority meeting in February 2009 Members approved a Lobbying Programme for 2009/10, which included attendance at Spring Conferences, three Autumn Party Conferences, a Parliamentary Event, a European Event and a series of targeted activities involving key decision makers in, and associated with, all three political parties. The agreed budget for 2009/10 was £95,000.

2. Report back on Lobbying Activities during 2009/10

- 2.1 A full presentation of the Authority's lobbying activities during 2009/10 is attached at Appendix 1. In summary, the programme has encompassed the following activities.

Spring Party Conferences

- 2.2 The Authority was represented at the Liberal Democrat and the Conservative spring conferences (the Labour Party did not hold a spring conference) alongside PTEG (Passenger Transport Executive Group). The PTEG exhibition attracted a number of influential opinion-formers. Lead Members of the Authority and officers used the opportunity to reinforce the importance of the Manchester Hub and the problems of overcrowding on trains in Greater Manchester.

Autumn Party Conferences

- 2.3 The Authority arranged Fringe Meetings on the Manchester Hub, in partnership with Network Rail, at each of the three Autumn Party Conferences. The meetings allowed the Authority and Network Rail to highlight the fact that the Manchester Hub is central to the economic success of the north of England. The Authority and Network Rail also exhibited at the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester to further communicate the Manchester Hub issue, and the exhibition attracted a number of influential opinion-formers.
- 2.4 The Authority was also represented, in a speaking capacity, at the following events:
- The Chairman of the Authority addressed the following:
 - The All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group Fringe Meeting at the Liberal Democrat Conference entitled "Making the best of our railways – what is the future for tram/train?"
 - The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors' Fringe Meeting entitled "Will the bus get you back to work?"
 - The North West Liberal Democrats Reception

- The joint GMITA/Network Rail Fringe Meeting at the Liberal Democrat Conference entitled “The future of rail in the north – our vision for travel and the economy”
 - The Conservative Party Conference Passenger Focus Fringe Meeting entitled “Do passengers need Government more or less involved in bus and rail services?”
 - The Centre for Local Economic Strategies Fringe Meeting at the Conservative Party Conference entitled “Transport investment for a resilient economy”
- The Leader of the Labour Group addressed the following:
 - The All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group Fringe Meeting at the Labour Conference
 - The joint GMITA/Network Rail Fringe Meeting at the Labour Party Conference.
 - The Vice Chairman of the Authority addressed the following:
 - The All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group Fringe Meeting at the Conservative Party Conference
 - The joint GMITA/Network Rail Fringe Meeting at the Conservative Party Conference
 - The Centre for Local Economic Strategies Fringe Meeting at the Conservative Party Conference

2.5 The Party Conferences also provided the opportunity for Lead Members to brief a wide range of key spokespeople and policy-makers from the three parties on the Authority’s priorities. Consequently, officers can conclude that the Authority’s presence at the Party Conferences gave a positive contribution to the lobbying work of the Authority.

Parliamentary Event – House of Commons

2.6 A Parliamentary event, sponsored by the Authority, in partnership with Network Rail, was hosted by John Leech MP in October 2009. The event was used to highlight the Manchester Hub and the overcrowding on Greater Manchester rail services.

European Lobbying Event

2.7 The Authority’s European Lobbying Event took place in Brussels on Wednesday, 18th March. Full details are included in Appendix 1.

Visits and Meetings

- 2.8 As set out in Appendix 1, the Authority has undertaken a comprehensive programme of meetings with key transport policy figures.

PTEG (Passenger Transport Executive Group) Lobbying

- 2.9 The Authority has contributed approximately £16,000 to the PTEG Lobbying Strategy in 2009/10, which consisted of exhibiting at the Spring and Autumn Conference, and holding fringe meetings at each of the Autumn Conferences. In addition, PTEG are also holding a Parliamentary event in the House of Commons in London on 23rd March 2010.

Summary of outputs

- 2.10 Once again, the Authority's lobbying activities were successful in maintaining a strong profile in relation to the key issues identified for 2009/10 lobbying purposes. This year's lobbying events have allowed the Authority to reinforce to Ministers, Shadow Ministers, MPs, prospective parliamentary candidates and party members the importance of the Manchester Hub and the issue of severe overcrowding problems on trains in Greater Manchester, as well as maintaining a high profile of the achievements of the Authority and GMPTE.

3. Proposed Lobbying Activities 2010/11

- 3.1 Given its strong track record, it is strongly recommended that the Authority continues to build on its previous lobbying activities. With the next General Election required to take place by June 2010 and a review of public resources anticipated thereafter regardless of the outcome 2010/11 will be a critical year for the future of public transport investment in Greater Manchester. It is suggested that the following key themes should be pursued through the forthcoming year's lobbying work.

Manchester Hub

- 3.2 Heavy rail remains a vitally important issue for the Authority. Network Rail will publish a report early in 2010 outlining a number of options to resolve the problems of the Manchester Hub. Cross party commitment to invest in the north's rail network is essential. As a result, it is recommended the Authority continues to adopt the Manchester Hub as a theme for the party conferences and Parliamentary Event lobbying purposes in 2010/11.

Other Heavy Rail Lobbying Themes

3.3 The Authority will also seek to raise the following heavy rail related issues through its lobbying activities:

- Opportunities for Greater Manchester to maximise the quantity and quality of rolling stock on both the Northern and Transpennine franchises;
- The importance of maximum early benefits for Greater Manchester from the forthcoming national rolling stock and investment programmes;
- The potential for High Speed Rail investment to the Manchester city region;
- The Authority's requirements from heavy rail beyond the current Northern franchise period;

Light Rail Lobbying Themes

3.4 On light rail, the Authority will

- continue to press the case for the future role for tram train developments on the Greater Manchester network;
- highlight the benefits that the Metrolink expansion programme will deliver for the City Region.

Bus Lobbying Themes

3.5 On bus, the Authority will:

- demonstrate to key stakeholders of the necessity for the Authority to retain the full spectrum of powers provided by the Local Transport Act 2008 – from voluntary partnership to quality contracts – to allow it to improve bus services and to ensure that public subsidies are effectively and efficiently invested;
- work with Government and the transport industry to progress an integrated ticketing system for Greater Manchester that can offer benefits similar to those offered by the London Oystercard system;
- promote the benefits of coordinating bus networks with other transport modes to reduce congestion, enhance residents' access to opportunities and reduce the carbon dependency of transport;

- continue to lobby Government to ensure that the Traffic Commissioners' offices are sufficiently well resourced and supported to allow them to effectively discharge their bus-related duties.

3.6 Subject to the Authority's approval, a lobbying briefing note containing background information will be prepared for all Members of the Authority to assist when attending lobbying events and to provide the opportunity for the lobbying of opinion-formers on any of the above issues.

2010/11 Lobbying Programme

3.7 Given the broad success of the 2009/10 programme, it is recommended the Authority should pursue a similar lobbying programme in 2010/11. Therefore, subject to Members' approval, the following broad programme of activities is recommended:

- attendance at the North West Conservative Conference in Bolton on 19th and 20th February 2010;
- attendance at the North West Liberal Democrat Conference in Rochdale on 20th March 2010;
- attendance at the National Liberal Democrat and Conservative Spring Party Conferences in 2010 (The Labour Party are not holding a Spring Conference);
- attendance at the Local Government Association Conference in July 2010
- attendance at all three Autumn Party Conferences in 2010;
- a Parliamentary Event in the House of Commons on Tuesday, 19th October;
- a programme of MPs briefings/meetings as and when necessary;
- targeted briefings/meetings with key decision makers and influencers from/linked to the three political parties, including policy makers advising the political parties;
- targeted briefings/meetings with business organisations such as the CBI, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and public transport organizations;
- targeted briefings/meetings with organisations with similar interests eg other PTAs and North West Regional bodies;
- meetings with the Regional Minister, Phil Woolas MP and the Chair of the Transport Select Committee, Louise Ellman MP;
- a programme of briefings sent to MPs as and when necessary to keep them up to date on our policies;
- a European lobbying event

Labour Party Conference 2010

- 3.8 As mentioned above, in 2009, the Conservative Party Conference took place in Manchester and therefore the Authority and Network Rail took the opportunity to provide additional proactive promotion of the Manchester Hub with a conference exhibition stand. In 2010, the Labour Party Conference will be held in Manchester. It is recommended the Authority books exhibition space at the Conference (in addition to exhibiting as part of PTEG), to reflect the similar opportunity offered here.

4. Budget

- 4.1 The 2009/10 lobbying budget was £95,000. The outturn forecast is approximately £65,000 as Officers secured £25,000 of sponsorship from Network Rail for joint lobbying.
- 4.2 The 2010/11 budget is proposed to be held at the 2009/10 level. Officers will target, where possible, additional sponsorship from suitable organisations to support the Authority's lobbying activities and reduce the net budget cost. The lobbying budget is included and funded from the GMITA/PTE revenue budget, which will be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee for review and approval in March. 2010.

5. Recommendations

A full set of recommendations appears at the front of this report.

Jane Nearney
Lobbying Manager, GMPTE

Stephen Clark
Deputy Clerk to the Authority

Appendix 1

Full Summary of GMITA Lobbying Activities during 2009/10

Spring Party Conferences

The Authority was represented at the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Party Spring Conferences in 2009 as part of PTEG (Passenger Transport Executive Group). PTEG exhibited at the Conferences and GMITA Members and Officers used the opportunity to talk to opinion formers.

During the Liberal Democrat Spring Conference Councillor Whitmore met the four Greater Manchester MPs and other Conference delegates to discuss the Manchester Hub and overcrowding on trains in Greater Manchester.

At the Conservative Spring Conference discussions took place with the Conservative Transport Commission for the North and a number of prospective parliamentary candidates about the importance of the Manchester Hub.

The Authority was also represented at the North West Conservative Spring Conference which took place at the Reebok Stadium, in Bolton on Friday, 20th and Saturday, 21st March. The former Chairman of the Authority, Councillor Colledge and the Authority's Head of Transport Policy, Stephen Clark gave a presentation to delegates on the Manchester Hub.

Autumn Party Conferences

The Authority was involved in an increasing number of Fringe Meetings at each of the three Autumn Party Conferences.

It was agreed the Authority's main lobbying message at the three Party Conferences would be the Manchester Hub and the theme for the fringe meetings was "The future of rail in the north – our vision for travel and the economy". The meetings were organised jointly with Network Rail and allowed the Authority to highlight and explain to Ministers, Shadow Ministers, MPs and Party Members the importance of the Manchester Hub to towns and cities in the North of England.

Liberal Democrat Conference

The Fringe Meeting was held in the in the Trouville Hotel in Bournemouth and was chaired by TV and radio presenter, Andy Crane. Speakers were the Leader of Liberal Democrats in the House of Commons, Tom McNally, the Westmorland and Lonsdale MP, Tim Farron, Network Rail's Jo Kaye and the Chairman of the Authority, Councillor Whitmore.

The Authority was also involved in two other Fringe Meetings .The first was the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors' Fringe Meeting entitled "Will the bus get you back to work?" This meeting allowed delegates to discuss the Local Transport Act and whether it went far enough to improve bus services in certain parts of the country.

The Authority also organised a Fringe Meeting on behalf of the All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group entitled "Making the best of our railways – what is the future for tram/train?" Councillor Whitmore spoke at the meeting.

Councillor Whitmore also spoke at the North West Regional Reception along with the Transport Spokesperson, Norman Baker MP and the Managing Director of Northern Rail, Heidi Mottram.

Labour Party Conference

The Fringe Meeting was held in the Hilton Hotel, Brighton and was chaired by Manchester Evening News correspondent, Jim Hancock. Speakers were, the Transport Minister, Chris Mole MP, Manchester Central MP, Tony Lloyd, the Leader of the Authority's Labour Group, Councillor Andrew Fender, and Network Rail's Paul Plummer.

The Authority also organised a Fringe Meeting on behalf of the All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group. Councillor Fender spoke at the meeting.

During the Conference Members and Officers held informal discussions with a number of Greater Manchester MPs.

Conservative Party Conference

The Fringe Meeting was held in Manchester Town Hall and was chaired by Andy Crane. Speakers were the Shadow Transport Minister, Stephen Hammond MP, the Crewe and Nantwich MP, Edward Timpson, the Vice Chairman, Councillor Ian Macdonald and Network Rail's Paul Plummer.

The Authority also organised a Fringe Meeting on behalf of the All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group. Councillor Macdonald spoke at the meeting.

The Authority was also involved in a Fringe Meeting with the Centre of Local Economic Strategies entitled "Transport investment for a resilient economy" Councillor Macdonald chaired the meeting and Councillor Whitmore was one of the speakers.

Councillor Whitmore also spoke at the Passenger Focus Fringe Meeting entitled "Do passengers need Government more or less involved in bus and rail services?". Other speakers included Network Rail's Chief Executive Iain Coucher and Stephen Hammond MP.

The Authority and Network Rail exhibited at the Conservative Party Conference. Leading Members discussed the Manchester Hub and overcrowding on Greater Manchester trains with a number of senior Conservative MPs who visited the exhibition stand including the Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, Theresa Villiers, the Shadow Transport Minister, Stephen Hammond, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, William Hague, the Shadow Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, the Shadow Environment Minister, Ann McIntosh, the Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, Andrew Rosindell and the Shadow Minister for Business, Jonathan Djanogly.

Parliamentary Event – House of Commons

This event took place in the House of Commons on Tuesday, 13th October and was hosted by the Manchester Withington MP, John Leech. The event was jointly sponsored with Network Rail.

Over 100 people attended including over 50 MPs and Members of the House of Lords. Almost all the Greater Manchester MPs attended as well as the Shadow Transport Minister, Stephen Hammond MP and the Liberal Democrat Spokesperson, Norman Baker MP. Other attendees included trade unions, media and public transport organisations. The Secretary for State for Transport, Lord Adonis spoke at the event along with John Leech MP, Councillor Whitmore and Network Rail's Paul Plummer. Speakers used the event to highlight the importance of the Manchester Hub and Councillor Whitmore announced the ITA decision to fund extra rail services on the Rochdale line due to the overcrowding problems.

European Lobbying Event

This year's European Lobbying Event took place in Brussels on Wednesday, 18th March. The Greater Manchester Brussels Office, through AGMA, held a "Manchester week" and organised a number of seminars. The Authority took the lead on the "City Region on the Move" seminar which took place in the European Parliament. The event was used to present the new Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority in Europe, to explain the Authority's new role and expanded responsibilities and to highlight the issues facing Greater Manchester and the way in which a transport strategy seeks to support the city region's competitiveness and social inclusion agendas. Speakers included Brian Simpson MEP and Gary Titley MEP.

Visits and Meetings

On 13th January a public transport presentation was given to the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidates.

On 20th and 27th January meetings took place with Greater Manchester MPs to discuss the way forward following the TIF referendum.

On 10th March Leading Members met the Chairman of Network Rail, Ian McAllister and held discussions on the Manchester Hub.

On 16th March a public transport presentation was given to the Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary Candidates,

On 21st April at the PTEG Parliamentary Reception the Chairman held discussions on the Manchester Hub with the former Secretary of State, Geoff Hoon MP

On 19th May Councillor Whitmore held discussions with Tony Lloyd MP on the Manchester Hub and overcrowding on trains.

On 1st June the Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, Theresa Villiers MP visited GMPTE's Offices. Discussions on Manchester Hub, High Speed Rail and Quality contracts/partnerships took place with Councillor Macdonald and Councillor Dickinson.

On 17th June at the North West Rail Campaign Parliamentary Event, the former Chairman, Councillor Matthew Colledge held discussions with a number of MPs about the Manchester Hub

On 22nd June a public transport presentation was given to the Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidates.

On 15th July a meeting with Greater Manchester MPs took place to discuss overcrowding on trains.

On 10th September the Shadow Transport Minister, Stephen Hammond MP visited Manchester. During the visit he held discussions with Councillor Macdonald and Councillor Dickinson

On 16th September Leading Members met the Transport Minister, Chris Mole MP in GMPTE's offices. Discussions took place on the Manchester Hub and overcrowding on trains in Greater Manchester.

On 13th October the Chairman held discussions with the North West Minister, Phil Woolas MP

On 3rd November, the Head of Transport Policy and a number of Greater Manchester MPs met the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis to discuss overcrowding on trains in Greater Manchester.

On 1st December a further meeting took place with Greater Manchester MPs to follow up on the meeting held with the Secretary of State for Transport on 3rd November.

PTEG (Passenger Transport Executive Group) Lobbying

The Authority contributed financially to the PTEG Lobbying Strategy in 2009/10, which consisted of exhibiting at the three Spring and Autumn Conferences, and holding fringe meetings at each of the Autumn Conferences. PTEG also held a Parliamentary event in the House of Commons in London on 21 April 2009. The Authority's contribution to PTEG lobbying this financial year is approximately £16,000 which is included in the Authority's lobbying budget.