



For the Attention of Terry Bowers

Sir Howard Bernstein
Clerk to the Authority
GMITA
PO Box 532
Town Hall
Manchester
M60 2LA

04 February 2010

Dear Mr Bernstein

GMPTA SUBSCRIPTION TO CLES FOR 2010/11

GMITA's current membership of CLES runs until 31st March 2010. I trust that members and officers at GMITA and GMPTE have found CLES membership services useful in their work. I would like to invite you to renew your membership of CLES. I highlight below CLES planned activities in the coming year that I feel are of particular interest to GMITA.

GMITA's subscription for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011 will at the same level as for the previous year at £7,000 + VAT.

General information

Councillor Keith Whitmore is a member of the CLES Board and Jane Nearney also attends Board Meetings with Cllr Whitmore giving GMITA a strong voice in the strategic direction of CLES.

CLES continues to promote the role of transport in regeneration and its key role in the economic success of the Greater Manchester City Region. In these changing economic times a main focus of CLES' work is to promote ways of ensuring local economies become more resilient and we see transport policy as a key element in the mix of factors that can ensure resilience. We remain interested in the issue of bus re-regulation and road pricing, and in particular the way forward for transport across the city region.

CLES-GMITA partnership at political party conferences

CLES and GMITA held a joint fringe event at Manchester Town Hall at this years Conservative Party Conference on *Transport Investment for a Resilient Economy* and we will be looking to work together again in 2010 on a fringe event at one of the main party conferences in the autumn. This fringe event could look at emerging transport policy and debate emerging post General Election 2010.

Planned policy work

Our policy research is focused on a number of key themes including:

- Future place
- New strategies: Environmental limits and economic downturn
- Assessing and understanding local economies
- Governing economic development and regeneration

ensuring positive local change

In this work we will use transport related examples where appropriate (e.g. case study examples, research into facets of transport, and the transport infrastructure within the Greater Manchester area).

Alongside this research, in the forthcoming year CLES will be focusing on the integrated regional strategy, bringing together transport planning and economic development, and the economic assessment duty. We view transport as a key element in local and regional economic development and look forward to involving GMITA in these work streams in the coming year. CLES are also increasingly interested in the local economic, social and environmental impacts of procurement spending and would be interested in collaborating with GMITA on a piece of research which explored the local value of transport related spending.

CLES Consulting

CLES Consulting, in its work within Greater Manchester, the North West and around the country, continues to support the vital role that transport plays in the economic, social and cultural health of places and people. In the past the Authority has used our consultancy services and should any projects arise in the coming year GMITA would receive preferential rates as a member of CLES.

Events

CLES events provide a useful forum for exploring the latest policy in economic development and regeneration, the relationship between transport and regeneration, and influencing debate at local, regional and national levels. Membership of CLES provides the GMITA with **8 free places** that can be used to attend any of our events. Your membership of CLES also provides an unlimited number of places at a reduced rate should all 8 free places be taken up.

I list below some of the forthcoming CLES events in Manchester. GMITA members or GMPTE staff could take places on any of these events as part of the membership package:

- ❑ CLES Policy Event *Local Economic Assessment Network Launch*
We view transport as a key element of a resilient local economy and would welcome GMITA's involvement in this event to help shape their engagement in Local Economic Assessments (LEAs).
- ❑ CLES Training Events
 - *Practical strategy development* March 9th;
 - *Delivering economic development and regeneration* March 16th;
 - *Future economic lives: How can economic development respond to a low carbon future?* March 19th;
 - *Overcoming the challenges of evaluation: An advanced evaluation course* April 26th;
 - *Introduction to evaluation* May 17th
 - *Project management* June 8th
 - *Making the most of local economic assessment* June 10th
- ❑ CLES Summit July 13th and 14th.
We are currently planning our two day Summit, where we plan to continue to focus on resilience, looking at how communities can become more resilient, how to ensure high levels of inclusion and fairness at a time of increasing demand and shrinking resources. Local transport policy and investment will be key areas in ensuring that all within the community have equal access to any opportunities and resources available.

Information and policy service

CLES provides a range of publications for member organisations, including regular titles such as *Local Work*, *Bulletin* and *Rapid Research*. In addition CLES produces a number of research and policy papers and handbooks throughout the year. These publications are distributed widely amongst GMPTE staff and also to all GMITA Councillors.

These publications do cover transport related issues and we welcome suggestions from members for future topics and indeed contributions from members, should they have an issue/case study that they would like to write a paper on.

GMITA/GMPTE also has access to our bespoke briefing service, which could be used to provide regular briefings for GMITA tailored to the specific needs and wants of the officers or members of the Authority.

CLES website and library

The CLES website includes a collection of CLES documents, news, discussion forum, links to other sites and a password-controlled area for CLES subscribers. Membership also provides GMITA/GMPTE with access to our specialist library, which contains materials and publications covering all aspects of economic development, local governance and regeneration.

Subscription cost

I hope you find this information useful. However, should you require any further details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. McInroy', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Neil McInroy
Chief Executive