

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED
TRANSPORT AUTHORITY HELD ON 5
MARCH 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Richard Knowles (In the Chair)

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Alan Whitehead and his substitute, Councillor Patricia Holland

CP/14/10 URGENT BUSINESS

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

Metrolink East Manchester Line

A Member expressed concern regarding the late circulation of reports relating to Metrolink, given the importance of the decisions requested under the delegation of authority to officers to commit large sums of money on behalf of the Authority. Whilst the electronic circulation of the papers was acknowledged, a number of Members relied on the paper version of reports. The meeting was asked to consider, whether, in the event of any questions raised by Members that could not be answered, to defer those elements of the report to a later date when there would not be the ability to consider the issues under delegated authority.

The Chair of the Committee confirmed that it was his intention to have all reports circulated in good time to enable Members to give appropriate consideration to the issues within those reports. It was agreed that further discussions should be held at the meeting of the Committee Improvement Project Panel.

CP/15/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor White declared a personal interest in the Rail Station Improvement Strategy report (Item 7 on the agenda).

**CP/16/10 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2010**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Capital Projects Committee held on 15 January 2010 were submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Capital Projects Committee held on 15 January 2010 be approved as a correct record.

CP/17/10 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT (DfT) "BETTER RAIL STATIONS" REPORT

Consideration was given to a report providing Members with an update on the progress to date in respect of the Greater Manchester stations included in the DfT "Better Stations" Report.

Members highlighted the absence of the 'Arts Strategy' in the proposals, which had been developed to assist in improving the general ambience, including the station approach and facade.

The Chair of the Authority suggested that district councils needed to be proactive in identifying development proposals for rail stations. He also requested officers submit a report on the implementation of the 'Arts Strategy' to a future meeting of the Authority.

Manchester Victoria

Members highlighted the sensitive consideration of heritage issues when developing proposals for Victoria Station, which had been over-looked by Network Rail during the recent work undertaken at Victoria Station.

Stockport

Members expressed concerned regarding the absence of consultation with relevant local authorities on the proposed station improvements and the potential to link into local regeneration projects to stretch the enhancements and benefits.

Members acknowledged the improvements undertaken in 2003 resulting in a much improved entrance and booking hall. However it was noted that there were still a number of outstanding issues to be addressed, reiterating the need to maximise links with local regeneration schemes and improved car parking provision to encourage park and ride. It was also noted that the Secretary of State had acknowledged these, and a number of other issues relating to station improvements earlier in the year.

Officers undertook to raise Members concerns to Network Rail regarding local authority consultation, in addition to identifying those elements of work which should be undertaken as part of the station operation with a view to implementing as many improvements as possible. The Chief Executive advised that the sums quoted for particular station enhancements were currently only indicative and further engagement with Network Rail was required on the detail and scope of the proposals.

Wigan North Western

The Committee was advised that the development of proposals for Wigan North Western Station were still in the early stages and possibly not yet progressed enough for consultation purposes. Further discussions with Wigan MBC were required, specifically in

relation to the passenger interchange between the Wigan North Western and Wigan Wallgate and local authority consultation with Network Rail.

In conclusion officers confirmed their assumption that 'Better Stations' standards would be a consideration during the Northern Franchise process in 2013. However, this would be clarified with the Department of Transport.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the progress made on the scheme in recent months be noted.
2. That officers be requested to submit a further update report to an appropriate meeting of the Capital Projects Committee in Summer 2010, once further clarity regarding the delivery of the improvements had emerged.
3. That officers be requested to submit a report on the implementation of the Arts Strategy to a future meeting of the Authority.
4. That officers be requested to clarify with the Department of Transport the inclusion of 'Better Stations' standards during the Northern Franchise process in 2013.

CP/18/10 SALFORD STATIONS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report updating Members in respect of Salford Central and Salford Crescent stations in the light of recent work undertaken with key stakeholders.

Salford Central

Officers were anxious to progress discussions with Network Rail regarding the Northern Hub and the aspiration for additional platforms at Salford Central Station to maximise benefits.

A Member highlighted the need to consider the provision of toilet facilities at the station as part of any future project. Officers undertook to ensure the provision of toilet facilities with Network Rail and train operators with broader station standards to be addressed under the next franchise process.

Salford Crescent

Members drew attention to the absence of the construction of a third platform within any of the options presented within the report. It was suggested that the case for a third platform may be required sooner than previously anticipated. In developing the case the meeting was advised that options for the proposed platform in the vicinity of the Manchester Bury, Bolton Canal would need to be given consideration, in consultation with the Manchester, Bury, Bolton Canal Society.

Officers confirmed that the options presented at the meeting were for illustrative purposes only and not the allocation of actual space, which would be undertaken as part of the evaluation works with Salford City Council and Salford University. This work would also take into consideration passengers to Media City and bus interchange facilities.

The requirement for the Northern Hub Study to consider passenger issues at Salford Crescent was reiterated, particularly given that Network Rail had allocated time and funds on the previous evaluation of the Frederick Road site option, which had been favoured from an operation perspective and not from a passenger benefit perspective.

Officers confirmed that the GMITA Policy and Resources Committee would be considering a report on the Northern Hub Study, which would highlight Members concerns.

Electrification

Members sought re-assurance that consideration would be given to the potential impact of the electrification scheme on all relevant projects and that Network Rail be encouraged to be flexible to enable maximum achievements to be realised. Officers confirmed that meetings had been held, and would continue to be held, with Network Rail to discuss the timing of works to ensure the electrification scheme was delivered in a comprehensive way to avoid any disjointed work.

Officers undertook to submit a report on the Network Rail proposition and scope of works for the electrification scheme to a future meeting of the Capital Projects Committee.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted, including the work to further develop solutions for Salford Crescent
2. That officers be requested to submit a further update report to the Capital Projects Committee in Summer 2010, when further information regarding the potential for taking forward improvements, including the provision of a third platform at Salford Crescent Station, would be available.
3. That officers be requested to progress a specific piece of work regarding the provision of toilet facilities at stations with Network Rail and train operators, with broader station standards to be addressed under the next franchise process.
4. That officers be requested to submit a report on the Network Rail proposition and scope of works for the electrification scheme to a future meeting of the Capital Projects Committee

CP/19/10 RAIL STATIONS IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY (RSIS)

Consideration was given to a report updating Members on the progress to date of the Rail Station Improvement Strategy (RSIS).

Concern was expressed regarding the timetable slippage of tranche 3 of the Station Improvement Strategy.

Work was ongoing to identify Network Rail standards and potential implications as a consequence of the newly revised tenancy agreements. The Committee was advised that the Authority may need to consider consolidating works at some point to limited stations as a consequence of the new tenancy agreements. A progress meeting would be held with Network Rail and an update, together with a possible draft response, would be circulated to Committee Members.

Members suggested discussions be progressed with district councils regarding CCTV coverage and security at car parking facilities at rail stations.

Officers confirmed that CCTV systems were a deterrent and had been developed by Network Rail as stand-alone systems, which recorded activity within the station.

Members expressed their disappointment in the programme, given the completion of tranches 2 and 3 delivered behind programme. It was suggested the design of the 'Help Points' could also be visually improved. It was also suggested that the forthcoming re-franchise process be utilised to address the issues.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report and progress made on the various schemes be noted.
2. That the current position in respect of Tranche 3 of the programme be noted and that officers be requested to seek a progress meeting with Network Rail.
3. That officers be requested to submit an update report to the next meeting of the Capital Projects Committee.

CP/20/10 BOLTON RAIL STATION - IMPROVEMENTS TO PASSENGER FACILITIES

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

The design of the pedestrian link between the new bus station and the rail station was work in progress, with the current proposition providing a link from the bus station concourse to the rail station booking hall. Members reiterated the connection from the bus station to the rail station needed to be as integrated as possible.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report and progress made on the scheme in recent months be noted.
2. That officers be requested to submit a report on the tender process and work programme to the Capital Projects Committee in Summer 2010.

CP/21/10 ROCHDALE TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE UPDATE

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

The Committee was advised that planning permission for the Interchange had been granted with a view to starting work on site in the Autumn subject to the relevant Department of Transport approvals being granted.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report and progress made to date be noted.

2. That officers be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Capital Projects Committee in Summer 2010, following the anticipated receipt of 'Conditional Approval'.

CP/22/10 CYCLE PARKING PROVISION

Consideration was given to a report providing Members with information about the current availability of cycle facilities at bus, Metrolink and rail stops and stations in Greater Manchester and plans for future enhancements.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the funding opportunities available via the LTP 3 process to review the allocation of 'minor works' funding, to assist with the provision of facilities for cyclists.

The Chair of the Capital Projects Committee reminded the meeting that a small working group had been established to discuss the carriage of cycles on trams, requesting that the initial meeting be held at the rise of the Policy and Resources Committee on 19 March 2010.

The meeting was advised that consultation with cycling user groups regarding cycle lockers would be undertaken, with a view to providing a report back to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Members suggested that the remit of the working group be expanded to cover wider issues including the assessment of cycle parking facilities within a 'short distance' of Metrolink stops plus the potential for the introduction of sign-posting for cycle facilities.

Members were assured that a report regarding LTP 3 key strategic issues would be submitted to the 19 March 2010 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, which would include Member involvement leading up to public consultation. In the meantime, technical work had been progressing.

The LTP 3 process could provide the opportunity to explore the wider policy aspiration to establish cycle centres across Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted and that officers be requested to submit a further report, providing an update on progress, to a meeting of the Capital Projects Committee in Summer 2010.
2. That the initial meeting of the working group established to discuss the carriage of cycles on trams, be arranged to meet at the rise of the Policy and Resources Committee on 19 March 2010.
3. That it be noted that the 19 March 2010 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee would be considering a report on LTP3 strategic issues.

CP/23/10 METROLINK AIRPORT LINE EXTENSION

Consideration was given to a report providing Members with an update on progress of the procurement of the Metrolink Airport Line extension and setting out the proposed procurement route following the conclusion of the initial price testing exercise.

A Member asked for it to be noted that opportunities should be retained for the future consideration of interchange and the inter-operability between this line and any potential upgraded service on the Altrincham – Stockport line that may result from other initiatives.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the proposed procurement activity to enable the contract for the Metrolink Airport Line extension to be let on time be endorsed.
2. That the proposal to commit up to £26M of budgeted expenditure in relation to the Airport Line extension in the period up to September 2010 be approved.
3. That the delegation of Authority to the Chief Executive, the Finance and Corporate Services Director and Metrolink Director, GMPTE, to conclude the commercial and contractual arrangements for the works, as contained within the report now submitted, up to the value of £26M be approved.
4. That it be noted that, dependant upon the outcome of negotiations with the Metrolink Contractor, in respect of the Airport extension, it may be necessary to undertake a competitive pricing exercise, commencing in the next few months

CP/24/10 METROLINK ISSUES

Consideration was given to a report referring to a number of issues relating to Metrolink extensions to the network.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the proposal to conduct works, in relation to the Oldham/Rochdale Line Connection to the existing system, under a seven day blockade in August 2010 as opposed to continuous weekend possessions, between July and September 2010 be approved.
2. That the revised layout of the Burton Road Metrolink Stop be noted and that the commencement of planning application/land acquisition processes be approved.

CP/25/10 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 of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.

CP/26/10 METROLINK EAST MANCHESTER LINE

Consideration was given to a report updating on a number of issues relating to the East Manchester Metrolink extension.

Officers acknowledged the importance of progressing the extension from Droylsden to Ashton Moss given the significant Park and Ride facilities available at Ashton Moss, whilst

reminding the meeting that this section of the line was the largest and most complex to deliver.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the design of the Droylsden Metrolink Stop and the delivery plan for the East Manchester Metrolink line be approved.
2. That Tameside MBC be assured that best endeavours would be made to progress the Metrolink alignment between Droylsden and Ashton Moss as quickly as possible given the significant Park and Ride facilities available at Ashton Moss.

CP/27/10 METROLINK PHASE 3B OLDHAM TOWN CENTRE EXTENSION – MUMPS PARK AND RIDE SITE ACQUISITION

Consideration was given to a report providing Members with information about the Metrolink Phase 3B Oldham Town Centre Extension and the proposed park and ride site at Mumps, Oldham.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the revised proposals in relation to the Oldham Mumps Metrolink stop and park and ride facilities be approved.
2. That the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive, Finance and Corporate Services Director and Metrolink Director to conclude the contractual arrangements to purchase land be approved.
3. That the Chair of the Capital Projects Committee and the Leader of the Opposition be informed of the conclusion of the negotiations.