

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
RAIL AND METROLINK SERVICES  
COMMITTEE OF GREATER MANCHESTER  
INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY  
HELD ON 9 APRIL 2010**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Dickinson (in the Chair)

Councillors Mark Aldred, David Chadwick, Jim Dawson, John Dillon, Peter Evans, Patricia Holland, Brian Rigby, Yvonne Smethurst\*, David Wilkinson and Craig Wright.

\* Indicates nominated deputy for an absent committee member.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Roland Griffin, Alan Whitehead and Michael Winstanley.

**RMN/09/39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of a personal or prejudicial interest made regarding any matter on the agenda.

**RMN/09/40 MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the committee held on 5 February 2010 were submitted.

In relation to the discussion at the last meeting on the development of the December 2010, May 2011 and December 2011 rail timetables (Min RMN/09/036 refers) the Committee was advised that:

- a) comments outlined in preamble to be included in priorities for immediate inclusion in the final development of the December 2010 rail timetable and confirmed with Northern Rail – this was still being pursued
- b) a user group seminar was being planned as requested.
- c) Patronage data from Lostock and Wigan stations would be forwarded to Members after the meeting.

Members thanked officers for their efforts in securing the installation of a replacement shelter at Ince station and suggested that the possibility of installing CCTV should be explored to prevent a recurrence of problems at the station.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Rail and Metrolink Networks Committee held on 5 February 2010 be approved as a correct record.

## **RMN/09/41 LOCAL RAIL SERVICE PERFORMANCE**

Consideration was given to a report informing Members of local rail service performance within Greater Manchester and the surrounding area for the period from 10 January to 6 February 2010 (period 11 2009/10). A verbal report on the more current performance was given.

It was noted that measures for improving reporting on performance were being explored, including the possibility of rescheduling committee meetings in the forthcoming Municipal year to coincide better with performance reporting periods.

A member referred to the proposal to provide a bus replacement service between Manchester Victoria and Rochdale on Sundays between 18 July and 5 September due to track renewal work. He expressed concern at the potential increased journey times if buses called at all stations between Victoria and Rochdale. He asked whether it would be possible to provide an alternating express service. Officers agreed to look at this suggestion and to report back to the Chair and the Member concerned.

The Committee was also advised of a proposal to provide rail replacement buses to serve stations between Manchester Piccadilly and Chinley via Romiley, on Sundays between 4 April – 9 May and Saturdays between 10 and 17 April, to enable track replacement work at New Mills.

A Member suggested that replacement buses could run to and from Marple - New Mills – Chinley. People could then continue their journey by rail to cut down on travelling time. Officers agreed to look into the feasibility of the suggestion.

In relation to the continuing poor performance of services on the Hazel Grove to Preston service officers undertook to report to the next meeting on measures for improving performance. It was noted that the Rail Quality Improvement Team were looking at the issue in detail and would report back.

### **RESOLVED/-**

That the report be received.

## **RMN/09/42 LOCAL RAIL STATIONS AND PROMOTION**

A report was submitted that informed Members of all of those activities related to local rail stations and promotion within Greater Manchester and the surrounding area.

Members raised concerns about fly-tipping on land adjacent to rail lines and litter in general on track. In response the Network Rail representative explained that the issue was being addressed by Route28 and explained the difficulties faced.

A Member referred to the problems caused by train staff using on-train toilets during the 25 minute stop over at Rose Hill station. He suggested that the problem could be resolved by opening up the platform toilet for use by train crews. The Network Rail representative undertook to review the situation.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the report be noted.

**RMN/09/43 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAY 2010 AND DECEMBER 2010 TIMETABLES**

Consideration was given to a report updating Members on the development of the May and December 2010 rail timetables.

The report outlined minor changes to train services that will be implemented from May 2010; progress with developing a number of GMITA train services aspirations which could be implemented in December 2010; and other relevant GMPTE area train service changes. It was emphasised that omission of reference to other GMITA timetable development aspirations did not indicate that they were not being pursued with Northern Rail. The intention was to report progress on those at future meetings of the committee

The Committee was informed that provision had been made in the 2010/11 budget to fund the additional evening Calder Valley services and the transfer of additional off-peak services to Rose Hill as detailed in the report submitted. In respect of the Rose Hill service enhancement the Committee was recommended to approve funding for a one year trial period subject to monitoring of the usage levels and verification of Northern Rail revenue loss forecasts.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the report be noted;
2. That the timetable changes which operators are proposing to introduce be noted and those which will benefit passengers in the GMPTE area be welcomed;
3. That the implementation of those train service changes which will require GMITA funding be endorsed.

**RMN/09/44 PROVISION OF EXTRA SEATING ON LOCAL TRAIN SERVICES**

A report was submitted informing Members how the GMITA funded vehicles, made available due to the closure of the Oldham Loop, have been used by Northern Rail. The report also provided initial details of further strengthening of local services in the GMPTE area funded by the Department for Transport.

A Member commented on the continuing problem of overcrowding on the 17.00 hours Manchester Victoria to Rochdale service. In response it was noted that Northern Rail were aware that their performance, in particular regard to the 17.00 hours Manchester Victoria-Leeds service, was not satisfactory and measures were being implemented to improve matters. As with all scheduled strengthening, those services would continue to be monitored and unsatisfactory performance taken up with Northern Rail. The agreement to fund the units would cease in June and DfT would continue to fund them and the extra strengthening as detailed in the report.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the report be noted and that further reports be submitted when further details are known.

#### **RMN/09/45 METROLINK SERVICE PERFORMANCE**

A report was submitted which informed Members of the service performance and developments which had affected the Metrolink system over recent months.

A Member said that he welcomed the introduction of the new trams but outlined several problems that had been drawn to his attention relating to the ticket vending machines. Unfortunately, he had not received a response to his correspondence. Officers undertook to take the matter up with the operator and contact the Member direct.

In response to a question about the lifts at Timperley station it was reported that refurbishment works had commenced in the middle of March and it was anticipated these would be completed by mid-June.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

That the performance of Metrolink services be noted.

#### **RMN/09/46 ADDITIONAL METROLINK PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

A report informing Members of additional Metrolink service performance measures was submitted.

The Committee discussed at length statistics relating to the actual number of trams in service against the contractual requirement. It was noted that difficulties were being experienced with the reliability of the older vehicles in the fleet. Work was being done with Stagecoach in putting together a package of upgrades. This work would become easier as more new vehicles became available.

In relation to the problems caused by adverse weather conditions it was noted that engineers were working on solutions to the problems experienced in order to avoid such difficulties in the future.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a report be submitted to the next meeting on the lessons learned from the difficulties experienced during the adverse weather conditions experienced over the winter period.

#### **RMN/09/47 DEPLOYMENT OF METROLINK TRAVEL SAFE OFFICERS**

A report on the deployment of Travel Safe Officers on the Metrolink system was submitted.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the report be noted.

2. That appreciation be extended for the work done by Travel Safe Officers and Greater Manchester Police in preventing fare evasion.
3. That future reports should contain statistics on the number of people stopped that are suspected of fares evasion, alcohol confiscation rates, action on anti-social behaviour, and results on the Knife Enabled Crime initiative.

**RMN/09/48 PRESENTATION ON NORTHERN RAIL REVENUE COLLECTION**

Simon Ashworth, Revenue Delivery Manager, Northern Rail gave a presentation on the Revenue Protection Strategy.

**RESOLVED/-**

That Northern Rail be thanked for their interesting and informative presentation.