

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE RAIL AND
METROLINK SERVICES COMMITTEE OF GREATER
MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TRANSPORT
AUTHORITY HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Dickinson (in the Chair),

Councillors Aldred, Dawson, Dillon, Evans, Griffin, Rigby, Whitehead, Whitmore*,
Wilkinson, and Winstanley.

* Indicates nominated deputy for an absent committee member.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Chadwick, Holland and Wright.

RMN/09/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Resolved/-

That no declarations relating to any personal or prejudicial interest were made.

RMN/09/14 URGENT BUSINESS

Resolved/-

That no items of urgent business were reported.

RMN/09/15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 17 July 2009 were submitted.

A Member explained that with regard to Metrolink Service Performance (Min Ref RMN/09/06) information was requested regarding Metrolink Lift Management and not details of the maintenance agreement as stated in the minutes. The Member concerned confirmed that this lift management information had been provided by officers.

Resolved/-

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Rail and Metrolink committee held on 17 July 2009, be approved as a correct record, subject to the amendment set out in the pre amble above.

RMN/09/16 METROLINK SERVICE PERFORMANCE

The Metrolink Director submitted a report that informed Members of those service performance and developments that had affected the Metrolink system during performance period 2 and 3 (1 June – 26 July 2009).

The report also set out the findings and recommendations of the Rail Accident Incident Branch (RAIB) report in to the tram derailment that took place at St Peter's Square on 29 June 2008. Officers explained that GMITA/GMPTE disputed these findings and that a formal response to such was to be provided.

In addition, Members requested that a report be provided to a future meeting of this committee that was to update Members on the progress in the adoption of the recommendations of the RAIB report.

Following a request from a Member, officers provided assurances that those overhead power problems experienced when the Altrincham line re-opened would not be repeated when the City Centre works were completed.

In response to an enquiry from a Member regarding what measures were in place to minimise a repeat of a tree falling on to overhead power lines, officers confirmed that track side inspections continued to take place across the network and action was taken to remove any potential problems identified.

Officers confirmed that hot weather was a contributory factor in traction failures on then Eccles line as the clearance schedules provided less time for trams to cool down.

A Member commented that the moving annual average benchmark for tram clearing was set too low.

Resolved/-

1. That the performance of Metrolink Services be noted;
2. That a report be provided to a future meeting of this committee to update Members on the progress in the adoption of the recommendations contained in the RAIB report.

RMN/09/17 LOCAL RAIL SERVICE PERFORMANCE

The Interim Bus and Rail Director, GMPTE submitted a report that informed Members of local rail service performance within Greater Manchester and the surrounding area for reporting periods 3, 4 and 5 (31 May to 22 August 2009).

With regard to the Southport – Wigan – Bolton – Manchester Victoria/Oxford Road service group, Wigan Members requested to be provided with regular updates on the progress of this service group.

Resolved/-

- 1.) That the performance of local rail services be noted.
- 2.) That Wigan ITA members be updated on the progress of the Southport – Wigan – Bolton – Manchester Victoria/Oxford Road service group

RMN/09/18 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES 2009/10

Members considered a report of the Interim Bus and Rail Director, GMPTE that

updated them on rail service provision during the 2009/10 Christmas & New Year period.

A Member requested greater clarity of the Christmas and New Year services be provided to the next meeting of this committee so that the last services during the festive period could be identified. In addition, information regarding Metrolink services was also requested.

Resolved/-

1. That the contents of the report in respect of the provision of rail services during the 2009/10 Christmas and New Year period be noted;
2. That a further report on progress be reported to the next meeting of this Committee in December 2009.

RMN/09/19 LOCAL RAIL STATIONS AND PROMOTION

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

A Member requested that for future reports, information be provided on the reasons for any service quality failure at each station.

Resolved/-

1. That the report be noted;
2. That the reasons for the failure of service quality at stations be provided in greater detail on future reports to this committee.

RMN/09/20 NORTHERN RAIL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SOUTHPORT – MANCHESTER AIRPORT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM

An update was provided on the work and progress of the Southport to Manchester Airport Quality Improvement Team (QIT), as requested at the 17 July 2009 meeting of this Committee.

In response to an enquiry from a Member regarding timescales for West Houghton to Bolton services, Northern Rail explained that work was on going with planners to ensure that the best type of units were in operation to provide a more robust service.

Northern Rail explained that work was being undertaken to identify ways in which the 10mph restrictions on trains leaving Southport may be improved.

Resolved/-

That the report be noted.

RMN/09/21 PRESENTATION – NETWORK RAIL

Stuart Middleton, Network Rail, provided a presentation that set out details of infrastructure management, safety and performance.

Resolved/-

That the presentation be received with thanks and noted.

RMN/09/22 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider the adoption of the following resolution:

That under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.

RMN/09/23 LOCAL RAIL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

The Interim Bus and Rail Director provided a report that informed Members of progress with local rail service developments.

The Chair requested that details of budget provision for rail service enhancements be brought to the next meeting of this committee.

Resolved/-

1. That the progress being made with service development priorities endorsed at the 17 July meeting and set out in the report be noted;
2. That those other service improvements set out in the report to be implemented in December 2009, be noted;
3. That officers provide an update on the progress made with regard those aspirations for implementation in the December 2010 timetable;
4. That details of budget provision for rail service enhancements be brought to the next meeting of this committee.