

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED
TRANSPORT AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Keith Whitmore (In the Chair)

Councillors Dylan Butt, Stuart Corris, Jim Dawson, Doreen Dickinson, John Dillon, Peter Evans, Andrew Fender, Alan Godson, Roland Griffin, Lynne Holland, Richard Knowles, Ian Macdonald, Eddie McCulley, Brian Rigby, David Sandiford, Peter Scott, Val Stevens, Barry Theckston, David White, David Wilkinson, Michael Winstanley and Craig Wright

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mark Aldred, David Chadwick, Yvonne Creswell, Peter Davison, David Jones, Colin Shaw, Eunice Smethurst, Mike Smith, Barry Warner and Alan Whitehead

ITA/9/57 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair announced that he had agreed to the submission of details of a conference 'Local Transport Act – one year on' to enable the Authority to determine whether there should be GMITA representation at the conference which was to be held before the Authority next met.

ITA/9/58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Knowles declared a personal interest in the business reported at Minute ITA/9/71 as a work colleague of one of the potential appointees to the position of Independent Member of the Standards Committee.

ITA/9/59 MINUTES

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Authority held on 16 October 2009 be approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Eunice Smethurst in the list of attendees.

ITA/9/60 AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit Committee meeting held on 16 October 2009 were submitted. In response to a question, it was noted that details of the proposed Risk Management Strategy would be submitted to the February meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit Committee meeting held on 16 October 2009 be received.

ITA/9/61 CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Capital Projects Committee held on 6 November 2009 were submitted.

The Chair of the committee stressed the importance of maintaining the pressure on government to resolve the issue of overcrowding on rail lines in Greater Manchester, particularly those on which diesel units operated. He added that the announcement regarding the electrification of lines was to be welcomed but this was some way off. The government had been set to order 200 units in July mainly for service in the north, but had pulled out of that order and subsequently refused to commit to diesel rail cars. He urged that further written representations be made to government regarding the concerns about the lack of commitment to supply new diesel rail cars.

The Chair of the Authority said that meetings with Greater Manchester MPs had taken place and Tony Lloyd MP had met with Lord Adonis to discuss the issue. A further letter had been sent to Lord Adonis and a further meeting between Tony Lloyd and Lord Adonis was to be held. The Chair assured members that the matter was being actively pursued.

The Chair of the Capital Projects Committee acknowledged the above but said the public's perception was that electrification would resolve the issue of overcrowding when that was not the case.

Another member said that following electrification, class 185 units, which were very reliable, would become redundant. In his view, the units should be retained for use on lines that would not to be electrified, such as the Calder Valley Line.

The Interim Bus and Rail Director reported back on the latest in a series of meetings with DfT officials, their consultants and Northern Rail. The whole basis of previous modelling was being reviewed. It was encouraging to note that that work was starting to support the argument with officials about their projections for growth and their understanding of the drivers of growth. There was a real need to get meaningful outputs within the timescales available. He assured members that the points referred to by members had been robustly made with the DfT. While a meaningful piece of work was expected on CP4 phase 2, DfT officials acknowledged that there were still issues to be addressed.

The barriers to DfT were value for money, affordability and what could actually be delivered. On the first point, work had been done to strengthen value for money over and above the case DfT had before it. On the second point, the announcement regarding electrification and the commitment to 1300 new

vehicles nationally was an indication of affordability. On the latter point, it was not clear what plans were in place to deliver rolling stock. Every effort was being made to shift the position.

Another member raised the issue of buses reversing off stands at certain bus stations, for example Rochdale Transport Interchange and asked whether in future it would be possible to consider other ways for buses to exit from bus stations.

In response, the Interim Bus and Rail Director said there was no absolute policy with regard to drive through or drive/in reverse out for buses using bus stations. Historically the Authority had favoured drive through bus stations. The importance of creating a better environment for passengers had to be recognised. He agreed to discuss the issue further with the member following the meeting.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Capital Projects Committee held on 6 November 2009 be received.
2. That a joint letter, to be signed by the 3 party leaders, be forwarded to the DfT reinforcing the case for diesel rail units to relieve the problems of overcrowding on services.

ITA/9/62 BUS NETWORK AND PTE SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Bus Network and PTE Services Committee held on 13 November 2009 were submitted. The Interim Rail and Bus Director thanked members who had attended the recent bus shelters visit.

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Bus Network and PTE Services Committee held on 13 November 2009 be received.

ITA/9/63 POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 20 November 2009 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 20 November 2009 be received.

ITA/9/64 RAIL AND METROLINK NETWORKS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Rail and Metrolink Networks Committee were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Rail and Metrolink Networks Committee meeting held on 4 December 2009 be received.
2. That a report be submitted to the January 2010 meeting of the Committee regarding the aspirations for improvements to the December 2010 rail timetable

ITA/9/65 CITY REGION PILOT AND GOVERNANCE

A report was submitted on progress on matters concerning the City Region Pilot and associated governance arrangements including the passage of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and actions taken by the AGMA Executive Board in November on the next steps regarding the framework for future AGMA governance including transport. The report also outlined the progress going forward.

The Clerk reported back on the debate that had taken place at the AGMA Executive Committee meeting held earlier in the day. 8 of the constituent councils had supported the proposals, with none against, and had expressed a clear commitment to examine the issues in greater detail.

AGMA Executive was scheduled to meet again at the end of February 2010 and, based on the outcome of further consultation, would determine whether it wished to proceed and how. Following that, a submission would be made to the Secretary for Communities and the Secretary of State for Transport in March 2010.

The Chair read to the meeting a proposed revised set of recommendations to those contained in the report before the Authority. The Clerk sought clarification that the proposed amendments would enable the Authority to be part of the proposed review. The Chair confirmed that the Authority would participate in the review.

In response to a question about when the final document containing the actual constitution would be available, the Clerk advised the Authority that the consultation document was now being written and would be available early in the New Year.

RESOLVED/-

1. That it be noted that the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act) had now received Royal Assent.

2. That the resolutions of the AGMA Executive Board on 27 November 2009 be noted.
3. That it be noted that the AGMA Executive Board on 18 December 2009 approved a report on a City Region Governance which includes proposals to remove the statutory transport powers from GMITA and to create a Combined Authority and a Joint Committee which would have delegated powers, the final arrangements of which are to be agreed but would ensure that the Joint Transport Committee will have powers which are similar to those which the GMITA currently enjoys.
4. That the provisional timetable and next steps in the governance review process be noted, including the submission of any draft scheme to the Authority in February 2010 and a final scheme which takes account of the outcome of the consultation on the draft scheme in March 2010.
5. That it be noted that a Consultation exercise on those proposals will now commence in which the Authority would take part, following the consultations in the Autumn in which the majority of respondents preferred transport powers remaining with the GMITA and only one council approving a Combined Authority.
6. That it be noted that the Government still has to decide how the Manchester City Region can assume greater transport influence and responsibilities comparable to the powers now held by Transport for London.
7. That it be agreed that the GMITA will respond to these proposals in the New Year and will organise an early session in January for GMITA members to discuss and formulate a response.

**ITA/9/66 GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT FUND –
ACCELERATED PACKAGE DELIVERY PROGRAMME AND
FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE**

A report was submitted for the purpose of presenting an update on the development of the Greater Manchester Transport Fund (GMTF) Accelerated Package schemes. The report also gave an overview of the financial strategy and outlined the borrowing requirements for GMTF in 2010/11.

The Chief Executive informed the Authority that the Chorlton and East Didsbury Metrolink package was still being assessed by the DfT. An announcement on the outcome of that assessment was not expected until the New Year. The DfT was happy with the case made with the exception of the bid for 2 additional trams. As a result of financial pressures on the DfT it was unlikely that they would provide funding for the two additional trams.

The attention of members was drawn to the reference in the report to the Trafford Depot. The budget for the full Trafford Depot was allocated on a proportional basis across all the Metrolink lines included within the Transport

Fund including the Accelerated Package extensions to Ashton and East Didsbury and the extensions to Oldham Town Centre, Rochdale Town Centre and the Airport. Rather than build the Depot on a piecemeal basis it was proposed that the full capacity depot be built now, resulting in an anticipated saving of approximately £0.7 million compared to a phased construction.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the progress to date on the GMTF Accelerated Package be noted.
2. That the content of the report and the progress made to date on developing the schemes within the Accelerated Package be noted and approval be given for the entering into of a number of the contractual agreements for the Metrolink Phase 3B Accelerated Schemes, as set out in the report, which are expected to be concluded, within approved budgets, before the end of 2009;
3. That the overarching financial strategy for the GMTF, as set out in the report submitted and the report to the Authority in July 2009, be noted and, in particular, the overall level of capital financing costs to be met by the GMITA, which will need to be explicitly approved as part of the Authority's Prudential Indicators
4. That approval be given for the release of the budget and associated borrowings for the construction of the Trafford Depot included within the budgets for the Airport line and the Oldham and Rochdale Town Centre extensions of £12.9 million, excluding risk provisions, contingency and procurement costs, to enable these works to progress in line with the timescales set out in the report submitted.
5. That it be agreed that the Authority can borrow up to an additional £140 million in 2010/11 (including borrowings associated with the Trafford Depot) and that interest costs of circa £4.9 million will be incurred in 2010/11 in respect of existing and additional borrowings for the development and delivery of public transport projects within the GMTF, which will be funded by the application of ring fenced levy contributions referred to in the report submitted.

ITA/9/67 DfT GREEN BUS FUND BID SUBMISSION

A final update on GMPTE's submission to DfT's Green Bus Fund and the results of the competition was submitted.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the success of the GMPTE in being awarded £3.16 million from DfT's Green Bus Fund to support the purchase of 66 low-carbon vehicles, which will require capital investment of up to an estimated £9.08 million by

GMPTTE, plus £1.17 million from SEMMMS Minor and Wigan TIF, be welcomed.

2. That the successful bids submitted by three local bus operators, with the support of the GMPTTE, which will result in 48 further low-carbon vehicles deployed on key bus corridors in Greater Manchester, contributing to the enhancements under the Transport Fund Accelerated Package, also be welcomed.
3. That it be noted that further reports will be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee once more detailed implementation plans have been initiated.

ITA/9/68 BETTER RAIL STATIONS

A report on the independent review of rail stations and subsequent Department for Transport consultation was submitted.

Several Members questioned the consistency of the statistics detailed in the Appendix to the report. It was noted that officers shared some of the frustration expressed by members about the figures which had been derived from a number of sources. The figures focussed on peak travel and there had been debate about patronage figures compared with travel sales figures. The Interim Bus and rail Director said he would investigate further and report back to the Rail and Metrolink Networks Committee. A member stressed the importance of challenging in particular the figures for Victoria and Piccadilly rail stations. There was a need to make sure an accurate footfall figure was available for Victoria Station to assist the business case.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the report be noted;
2. That authority for agreeing a final response to the Department for Transport consultation be delegated to the Clerk and Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Leader of the Opposition.
3. That authority to approve any proposed GMITA bid be delegated to the Clerk to the Authority and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and the Leader of the Opposition.
4. That a report focussing on footfall data at rail stations be submitted to the Rail and Metrolink Networks Committee.

ITA/9/69 PROPOSED RESPONSE TO DfT CONSULTATION ON LOCAL AUTHORITY SPECIAL GRANT FUNDING IN 2010/11 FOR THE NATIONAL BUS CONCESSION IN ENGLAND

A report setting out a proposed response to the Department for Transport consultation was submitted.

RESOLVED/-

That the consultation be noted and the proposed response approved.

ITA/9/70 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

A report seeking the views of members on what action, if any, should be taken in respect of members' allowances in the light of the recent pay award to public sector employees was submitted.

RESOLVED/-

That no action be taken to up-rate Members' Allowances for 2009/10.

ITA/9/71 STANDARDS COMMITTEE: INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Standards Committee Recruitment Panel held on 15 December 2009 to interview candidates for the vacant positions of Independent Member were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

That the recommendations of the Panel be approved as follows:

- a) approve the appointment of the following as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for the terms shown:

- Alan Edgeworth (3 years)
 - Dawn Leake (4 years)
 - Christine Rice (4 years)

- b) confirm that Dawn Leake should continue to act as Chair of the Standards Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in June 2010.

ITA/9/72 CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

1. That Councillor David Sandiford be appointed to represent the Authority at the 'Great Transport Debate' conference to be held in London on 17 February 2010.
2. That Councillor David White be appointed to represent the Authority at the 'Local Transport Act – One Year On' conference to be held in London on 12 January 2010.

ITA/9/73 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.

ITA/9/73 RAIL BUDGET SUMMARY AND FUNDING OF SUNDAY RAIL SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report setting out the forecast costs and funding sources for rail related activities and providing an up-date on current performance against budget and on the current status of local rail service developments.

A member said that he would like confirmation that Moorside Station would be included in the proposed Sunday services on the Atherton line. The Interim Bus and Rail Director agreed to find out and respond direct to the member.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the current budget position be noted
2. That the current status of service development priorities be noted.
3. That, in the light of the consequences for other subsidised services, support be given for the Atherton Line Sunday service for one year from May 2010 and that a review be undertaken in November 2010 to determine whether to continue to support the service beyond May 2011;
4. That it be noted that additional funding has not been forthcoming from other stakeholders for the winter Sunday service enhancement on the Hope Valley Line; and
5. That officers be requested to continue dialogue with stakeholders in relation to funding for the Hope Valley winter Sunday service and to update members on progress during early 2010.

ITA/9/74 PROPERTY DISPOSALS

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval to a number of property disposals. In response to a question the Interim Bus and Rail Director agreed to check on the arrangements for bus crew toilet facilities at Wythenshawe Bus Station and to respond direct to the member concerned.

RESOLVED/-

That approval be given for the following property disposals:

- a) Land adjacent to Old Trafford Metrolink stop
- b) Land at Wythenshawe Bus Station
- c) Land adjoining the Jolly Carter Public House, Manchester Road, Droylsden