TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUS NETWORK AND TfGM SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE, HELD ON 28 APRIL 2017 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Councillor David Chadwick - Bolton
Councillor Noel Bayley - Bury
Councillor Naeem Hassan - Manchester
Councillor Philip Burke - Rochdale
Councillor Barry Warner - Salford
Councillor Robin Garrido
Councillor Tom Grundy - Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray - Tameside
Councillor June Reilly - Trafford
Councillor Mark Aldred - Wigan (Chair)
Councillor James Grundy - Wigan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Howard Hartley - Head of Bus, TfGM
Mike Evans - TfGM
Nick Roberts - TfGM
Martin Shier - TfGM
Clair Leeming - TfGM
Alan Marr - TfGM
Steve Annette - GMCA

ALSO PRESENT:

Bill Parkinson - Arriva
Ben Jarvis - Stagecoach Manchester
Ian Humphreys - First Manchester
Nigel McKinney - Manchester Community Transport

BN/17/31 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Paul
BN/17/32 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIR’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair welcomed Members to the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting and added that it was pleasing to hear that following agreement by both Houses the Bus Bill 2017 had now received Royal Assent.

The Chair also welcomed representatives from Bus Operators and thanked them for their continued attendance.

BN/17/33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

BN/17/34 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting held on 10 March 2017 were submitted.

In relation to the Travel Safe Passenger Update, Nick Roberts reported that the anti-social behaviour figures did not include incidents of bullying. He added that this was something that was generally resolved by schools and bus operators and that it was felt that it was not a major issue on school buses. It was noted that the bus operators also have a zero tolerance to bullying. It was noted that this was something that would continue to be monitored by TfGM.

Resolved/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee, held on 10 March 2017, be agreed as a correct record.

BN/17/35 PASSENGER SHELTER UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Bus that provided an update on the number of passenger shelters installed throughout the conurbation and associated issues.

A member questioned whether the shelter request information was accurate as he was aware of a request for a new shelter in Heywood.

In relation to the request for a shelter at Newton Road, Lowton, a member questioned the accuracy of the data and the location from which the passenger board count was conducted. Howard Hartley said that officers gathered the data over a twelve hour period and agreed to provide details of the passenger numbers in future reports.

The Chair added that should further resources become available then due consideration would be given to installing additional shelters.
Resolved/-

To note the contents of the report and endorse:

i) The outcome of the latest patronage surveys and, for those stops that achieve the required patronage levels and progress with public consultations; and

ii) Officers’ recommendations in relation to an appeal submitted in respect of a stop on Devonshire Road, Bolton.

BN/17/36 DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of Head of Bus that provided an update on the performance of the demand responsive Local Link services.

Nick Roberts introduced the report and provided members with a comprehensive update, adding that going forward the aim was to move towards providing a traditional local bus service and for this service to be more integrated with other bus service provision.

There was a general discussion on the service and members recognised and acknowledged that some of the local link services were not cost effective due to under usage, and suggested that working with members to promote the service would be useful to encourage increased patronage. Members also suggested that it was important to advertise and promote new services and that it would be useful if they were provided with publicity information to promote within their constituencies.

Resolved/-

1. To note the contents of the report.

2. To note the Demand Responsive Transport Update report would now be incorporated into the Subsidised Bus Network Performance report.

3. To endorse the proposed changes to the existing Partington, Hindley and Ramsbottom and Tottington Local Link Services.

BN/17/37 METROSHUTTLE PERFORMANCE 2016

The Committee considered a report of Head of Bus that provided an update of the performance of the Manchester, Stockport and Bolton Metroshuttle services in 2016 (January 2016 to December 2016).

A member felt that the Bolton Metroshuttle bus stops were not very obvious and suggested that if they were painted in a more distinctive colour, it could
have a positive impact in helping to promote the service and increase patronage. In response Howard Hartley said that work was ongoing in terms of promoting and advertising the service and that consideration would be given to the suggestion made.

A member also suggested that publicity material should be displayed in train, tram and bus stations as well as other media channels. A member also suggested that consideration ought to be given to reviewing the colour used to distinguish routes on maps/publicity material.

Resolved/-

1. To note the contents of the report.

**BN/17/38  PASSENGER INFORMATION PROVISION**

The Committee considered a report of Head of Bus that provided an update on the provision of passenger information in Greater Manchester, during the period September 2016 to March 2017.

There was a general discussion regarding information production and provision of timetable leaflets, bus stop information and network maps. A member asked if it was possible for the bus timetable leaflet to be reduced to wallet size, similar to that of the metrolink timetable. Howard Hartley said the size of the timetable leaflets was currently designed to complement the timetable racks located at various locations across GM, however producing smaller timetable guides was something that TfGM could look into moving forward.

Resolved/-

1. To note the contents of the report.

**BN/17/39  REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES**

The Committee considered a report of Head of Bus that provided an update on the current position of the 2016/17 subsidised bus service budget.

Resolved/-

1. To note the contents of the report.