TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUS NETWORK AND TfGM SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE, HELD ON 7 JULY 2017 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Councillor Guy Hawkin* Bolton
Councillor Noel Bayley Bury
Councillor Andrew Fender Manchester
Councillor Chris Paul Manchester
Councillor Howard Sykes Oldham
Councillor Patricia Sullivan Rochdale
Councillor Barry Warner Salford
Councillor Robin Garrido Salford
Councillor Tom Grundy Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray Tameside
Councillor Rob Chilton Trafford
Councillor Mark Aldred Wigan (Chair)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Howard Hartley Head of Bus, TfGM
Mike Evans TfGM
Nick Roberts TfGM
Martin Shier TfGM
Steve Gilholme TfGM
Donna Parker GMCA

ALSO PRESENT:

Alistair Nuttall Arriva
Ben Jarvis Stagecoach Manchester
Adam Clark Stagecoach Manchester
Ian Humphreys First Manchester
Nigel McKinney Manchester Community Transport
Bob Dunn Diamond
Brendan O’Reilly Rosso

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BN/18/01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Phil Burke (Rochdale), David Chadwick (Bolton) and Naeem Hassan (Manchester).

BN/18/02 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIR’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair welcomed to Members to the first Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting of the 2017/18 Municipal Year. Particular welcomes were extended to Councillors Rob Chilton and Patricia Sullivan who were each attending their first meeting as a Member of this Sub-Committee.

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

The Head of Bus took the opportunity to thank all Bus Operators for providing transport on the night of the Manchester Attack which assisted in removing people from the scene and taking them to local hospitals.

There were no items of urgent business received.

BN/18/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

BN/18/04 MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUB COMMITTEE 2017/18

Resolved/-

That it be noted that TfGMC, at its meeting on 16 June 2017, appointed the following Membership of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee for 2017/18 (13 Members - 9 Lab, 3 Con, 1 LD):-

Cllr Mark Aldred Lab (Wigan)(Chair)
Cllr Noel Bayley Lab (Bury)
Cllr Warren Bray Lab (Tameside)
Cllr Phil Burke Lab (Rochdale)
Cllr David Chadwick Lab (Bolton)
Cllr Rob Chilton Con (Trafford)
Cllr Robin Garrido Con (Salford)
Cllr Tom Grundy Lab (Stockport)
Cllr Naeem Hassan Lab (Manchester)
Cllr Chris Paul Lab (Manchester)
Cllr Patricia Sullivan Con (Rochdale)
Cllr Howard Sykes LD (Oldham)
Cllr Barry Warner Lab (Salford) (Deputy Chair)
Substitutes:

Cllr Azra Ali       Lab   (Manchester)
Cllr Mohon Ali      Lab   (Oldham)
Cllr Christine Corris LD (Stockport)
Cllr Andrew Fender  Lab   (Manchester)
Cllr Annette Finnie Con  (Stockport)
Cllr Guy Harkin     Lab   (Bolton)
Cllr June Reilly    Con   (Trafford)

BN/18/05   TERMS OF REFERENCE 2017/18

Resolved/-

That it be noted that TfGMC at its meeting on 16 June 2017, agreed the following Terms of Reference for Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee:-

The Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee, in accordance with the Committee’s policies for integrated public transport:

1. Considers all matters relating to the operation and service performance of the bus network in Greater Manchester, including commercially registered and subsidised services; bus stations and bus stops; passenger information services; contract monitoring; vehicle standards; and passenger safety for the subsidised bus network.

2. Considers the operation, performance and development of the TfGMC accessible transport provision.

3. Monitors:
   - the detailed performance of the tendered bus network;
   - the detailed operation and performance of the accessible transport services provided by the Committee and GMCA;
   - commercial bus services which make use of TfGM facilities such as bus stations, concessionary fares and Section 106 (1) grants to bus operators;

4. **Under delegated authority**, reviews closely and approves all proposed changes to the subsidised bus network and ensures that the cost of the subsidised general services is kept within the appropriate budget or any cash limit set by GMCA.

5. **Under delegated authority**, approves any operational proposals relating to the Executive’s provision of bus station, stop/shelter and passenger information services
6. Discharges the above within GMCA’s capital and revenue budgets, set by GMCA.

BN/18/06 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2017/18

Resolved/-

That it be noted that at its meeting on 16 June 2017, TfGMC approved the following programme of Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meetings for 2017/18:

- Friday 7 July 2017
- Friday 6 October 2017
- Friday 17 November 2017
- Friday 19 January 2018
- Friday 9 March 2018
- Friday 20 April 2018

It was also noted that meetings were to commence at 10.30 am

BN/18/07 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting held on 28 April 2017 were submitted.

Resolved/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee, held on 28 April 2017, be agreed as a correct record.

BN/18/08 BUS NETWORK PERFORMANCE 2016/17

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Bus which advised of the observed performance of Greater Manchester bus network in 2016/17 and compare it against the level achieved in 2015/16. The report presented network bus performance statistics for the Greater Manchester region and tracked performance against Code of Conduct (CoC) and Traffic Commissioner targets.

Members were advised that the results for the 2016/17 period continued to highlight the high service performance standards achieved by the Greater Manchester bus network despite the challenging operating conditions. Both network reliability (98.1%) and mid-point punctuality (78.6%) performance had improved and exceed the CoC minimum standards. Start-point punctuality had stabilised at 89.0%, just short of the CoC threshold (90%). The environmental standards of the Greater Manchester bus fleet had continued to improve with the proportion of Euro IV or above standing at 85.4% (2016/17) and hybrid vehicles at 16.1%. The proportion of the fleet that was classified as Euro VI had increased significantly to 18.1% and was principally...
supported by the continued investment in the fleet by Stagecoach Manchester.

Following a discussion on the content of the report a Member raised his concern regarding the slight increase in mid-point punctuality in the Salford area and requested further information on the 'hot stop' areas. A Member also made reference to the TfGM proactive works in partnership with the bus operators and highway authorities to identify performance issues and drive operational improvements on both commercial and tendered services and requested that the traffic light signal sequence around Trinity Way, Great Clowes Street and Blackfriars was reviewed due to the fact that the current sequence was causing traffic congestion. In response, TfGM Officers advised that they would raise the matter regarding the traffic signals with Signal Control also a ‘Bolton and Salford Network Improvement Scheme’ was being implemented to address a number of traffic congestion issues and further information on the scheme would be provided outside the meeting.

A Member referred to the ‘Network Performance 2016/17’ detailed in paragraph 2.4 of the report and requested that further information on the age of vehicles and driver safety was included in future reports.

Resolved/-

1. To note the challenging operational conditions resulting from major infrastructure works, planned events and unplanned roadworks.

2. To note the high environmental standards of the bus fleet within Greater Manchester.

3. Further information relating to the age of vehicles and driver safety be included in future ‘Network Performance 2016/17’ information.

BN/18/09 SUBSIDISED BUS NETWORK PERFORMANCE 2016/17

Consideration was given to report of the Head of Bus which detailed the performance of the subsidised bus network in 2016/17 from 1st April 2016 to March 2017 and drawing comparison with the levels achieved in 2015/16.

Resolved/-

1. To note the subsidised bus network patronage for 2016/17 had increased to 20.5million and represented 10.2% of the Greater Manchester bus market.

2. To note the high operational performance and environmental standards of the subsidised bus network.

BN/18/10 STAFF COVERAGE AT TfGM BUS STATIONS AND INTERCHANGES ON SUNDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS
Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Bus which advised on the changes in staffing arrangements at TfGM bus stations and interchanges on Sunday and Bank Holidays.

The report advised that Hyde bus station was categorised as a Grade 2 and was currently staffed between 07:00 – 21:00 Monday to Saturday and unstaffed on Sundays. To eliminate lone working, hours of staff coverage were to be reduced however presence would be maintained across the busiest times of the day. Subsequently, the hours of staff coverage would be amended to 07:00 - 19:00 Monday – Friday and 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday.

The report also informed Members of changes in staffing times at Grade 1 categorised bus stations/interchanges from 07:00 – 18:00 to 10:00 – 17:00 on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

There was a general discussion regarding the facilities available at TfGM bus stations and interchanges to both the public and bus drivers when they were unstaffed. In response, the Head of Bus advised that at newer bus stations digital access was available for the staff. This would be extended to older bus stations prior to the implementation of change.

Resolved/-

1. To note the amended hours of staff coverage on Sundays and Bank Holidays at TfGM bus stations and interchanges.

2 To note the changes of staff coverage at Hyde Bus Station.

3 To note that the changes detailed within the will come into effect on Sunday 16 July 2017.

BN/18/11 FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE BUS NETWORK

Consideration was given to a report which advised of forthcoming changes to the bus network.

Members were advised that at its annual meeting on 16 June 2017, the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee agreed that the Bus Networks and TfGM Services Sub-Committee was to consider all matters relating to the operation and service performance of the bus network in Greater Manchester. Acting under delegated authority, the Sub-Committee was tasked to review closely and approve all proposed changes to the subsidised bus network and ensure that the cost of the subsidised general services was kept within the appropriate budget or any cash limits

The following queries were raised by Members:-

- A Members raised his concern on the proposed change to Service 34 and 34X. He advised that the Worsley/Boothstown area already had a very limited bus service due to traffic congestion on Leigh Road and to
reduce a very limited bus service would not resolve the issue. In response, the Bus Operator Stagecoach advised that the 34X Bus Service would continue to travel through Boothstown and the proposed changes would only be implement at peak-time. These concerns would be addressed by the ‘Bolton and Salford Bus Improvement Scheme’.

- A Member requested clarity on the change to Service 22 with regard to splitting the Service into two separate services to be run from two separate bus operators and how this change would affect the bus fare. In response, Officers from TfGM advised that the change to the service would affect very few passengers and this would promote the use of the GM Travelcard.

- A Member raised his concern that Service 484 and 485 did not turn up in the evening. In response, Bus Operator Rosso advised that he would address the concern raised accordingly.

- A Member referred to the recommendation to withdraw two evening journeys on Service 442 with effect from 30 October 2017. In response, Bus Operator Rosso advised that the current timetable was being reviewed to improve the current services available on Bury New Road.

The Head of Bus advised that the deadline date for September’s registration was today and requested Bus Operators to advise on any proposed changes to the commercial network. In response, the Bus Operators advised that they were not in a position to report any changes to date as this information remained commercially confidential. In light of this, a precautionary request was made to grant delegated authority to consider any potential changes to the bus network, which may require a decision before the next committee.

Resolved/-

1. To note the comment raised and approve the changes to the commercial network and the proposals not to replace the de-registered commercial services as set out in Annex A of the report.

2. To note the comment raised and approve the actions in respect of the de-registered commercial services set out in Annex B of the report.

3. To note the comment raised and approve changes to existing general subsidised services set out in Annex C of the report.

4. That it be agreed that the consideration of any future changes to the bus network which may be required before the next scheduled meeting of this Sub Committee, be delegated to the Chief Executive of TfGM, in consultation with the Chair of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee.

BN/18/12 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved/-
To agree that, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

BN/18/13 FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE BUS NETWORK

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Bus which provided commercial information relating to changes that had taken place to the bus network since the last TfGMC Bus Network and TfGM Services Subcommittee meeting, or were proposed. In addition, to report on consequential action taken, or proposed, by Transport for Greater Manchester.

Resolved/-

To approve the proposals detailed in paragraph 1 of the report.

BN/18/14 SUBSIDED BUS SERVICE PERFORMANCE – PART B SUPPLEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Bus which provided supplementary information on the performance of individual operators of subsidised bus contractors between April 2016 and March 2017.

Resolved/-

To note the contents of the report and comments raised.

BN/18/15 SUPPLIER RATING UPDATE – QUARTER 4 2016/17

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Bus which provided an update on the most recent Supplier Ratings results.

Resolved/-

To note the contents of the report and comments raised.

BN/18/16 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES BUDGET

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Head of Bus which provided an update regarding the outturn on the 2016/17 subsidised services budget and current position on the 2017/18 budget.

Resolved/-

To note the contents of the report and comments raised.