TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS AND POLICY SUB COMMITTEE, HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2018 AT THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE, MANCHESTER

Councillor Guy Harkin Bolton (in the Chair)
Councillor Rhyse Cathcart Bury
Councillor Andrew Fender Manchester
Councillor Howard Sykes Oldham
Councillor Shah Wazir Rochdale
Councillor Robin Garrido Salford
Councillor Roger Jones Salford
Councillor Annette Finnie Stockport
Councillor Doreen Dickinson Tameside
Councillor Michael Cordingley Trafford

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bob Morris Chief Operating Officer, TfGM
Chris Barnes Programme Manager, TfGM
Jenny Hollamby Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA

CPP17/29 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mohon Ali (Oldham), Councillor James Grundy (Wigan), Councillor Peter Robinson (Tameside), Councillor Eunice Smethurst (Wigan) and Councillor John Taylor (Stockport).

CPP17/30 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business introduced at the meeting.

It was advised that a Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Limited (GMATL) board meeting would take place at the rise of the sub committee.
CPP17/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the meeting.

CPP17/32 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2017

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 December 2017.

RESOLVED/-

The minutes of the Capital Projects and Policy sub committee meeting, held on 1 December 2017 be approved as a correct record.

CPP17/33 METROLINK CAPITAL UPDATE

A report was presented that provided Members with an update in relation to the Metrolink capital programme, including the work on current extensions, enhancements to the existing network and Metrolink expansion funding bid submission. The details on the individual initiatives were set out in the report.

The Programme Manager, TfGM led Members through the report. The main points referred to were:

- A Member asked when the lift at Heaton Park would be repaired to allow disabled access. Also, residents had complained about the car park at Radcliffe, where the lights were shining into people’s homes. Officers agreed to investigate the matters and report back directly to Members but to also note at the Metrolink and Rail Network sub committee.

- The Manchester Evening News had reported that Victoria station would not be open at Easter and a Member asked about Metrolink impacts. Officers present were not aware of this closure and agreed to follow it up.

- A Member was concerned about Metrolink platforms within the Oldham borough and the potential health and safety issues caused by the cold weather. The impacts of cold weather were potentially dangerous and two people had already fallen. Officers agreed to speak to the Metrolink operator and report back to the Member and also refer to the Metrolink and Rail Network sub committee.

- Officers agreed to prepare an update for Members about the recent Manchester Airport Terminal 2 bid to government.
A discussion took place about the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and Metrolink capacity. Concerns were raised that infrastructure would not be available for new housing development. Although the GM Mayor was keen to enhance the fleet, there were a number of constraints such as crossing the city centre, services through Piccadilly, pinch points and additional trams. Officers were reviewing options and a business case was being developed for more trams.

A Member asked about the park and ride facility at Radcliffe, congestion and additional car parking facilities. It was suggested that an additional Metrolink stop between Radcliffe and Bury would be the answer. It was advised that GMSF would highlight the requirement for additional stops.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

CPP17/34  RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Members received a report that gave an update on recent progress in respect of a number of rail station infrastructure schemes and initiatives in Greater Manchester.

The main points referred to were:

A Member queried the current position regarding the provision of cycle parking facilities at Greenfield. Officers responded that this station was being considered and that further work to confirm final details was on-going.

Members raised accessibility, station devolution and funding. Members were disappointed that 50% of GM stations were still not accessible for some users. It was explained that the bid for devolved power had not been accepted by government and that this was likely to impact on the level of investment in rail station accessibility. Although this had been a setback, dialogue was on going and a partnership approach had been suggested. Members recommended a more pro-active approach was needed and government should be lobbied. A report on this would be considered at a forthcoming meeting of TfGMC.

A Member asked when passenger waiting facility improvements would be made at Marple station. Officers agreed to make representations to the operator.

It was clarified that the nature of the dispute at Hindley was about access rights on Network Rail land.
A Member asked why it was necessary to wait until the completion of design work to start investigating funding opportunities for Walkden park and ride. Officers advised that, whilst the completion of design work would inform a detailed understanding of costs, the identification of potential funding opportunities was taking place in parallel with this work and discussions were already on-going with Salford officers.

A Member asked if the £30m Northern Station Investment Fund was a usual level of investment. Officers advised that this figure varied from franchise to franchise.

RESOLVED/-

1. Members noted the report and the progress which had been made on the various rail schemes and initiatives in recent months.

2. It was noted that a further report would be submitted in summer 2018.