

**GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
METROLINK AND RAIL NETWORKS SUB-COMMITTEE**

Date: 22 January 2021
Subject: Local Rail Station and Infrastructure Project Update
Report of: Simon Elliott, Head of Rail Programme, TfGM

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on local rail stations matters within Greater Manchester.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

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Equalities Implications: n/a

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures: n/a

Risk Management: n/a

Legal Considerations: n/a

Financial Consequences – Revenue: n/a

Financial Consequences – Capital: n/a

Number of attachments to the report: 0

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

GMTC MRN report 18th September 2020

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		N/A
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
N/A	N/A	

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 This report provides Members with a summary of the background and an update on the progress and current position in relation to the following rail infrastructure schemes and initiatives:

- Access for All;
- The Rail Station Improvement Strategy (RSIS);
- Greater Manchester Rail Station Alliance;
- Salford Central Rail Station;
- Rail Station Based Park and Ride (Walkden, Mills Hill, Swinton & Bromley Cross);
- Rail Industry Projects;
- Cycle Facilities at Rail Stations; and
- Northern Station Investment Fund (SIF)

2. ACCESS FOR ALL

All Major Schemes

2.1 Following the successful submissions to DfT for Access for All (AfA) main programme funding, supported by a GMCA funding contribution, to provide step free access via lifts for Daisy Hill, Irlam and Walkden stations, TfGM and the rail industry Alliance partners have been progressing the development of the schemes.

2.2 Scheme options have now been sufficiently developed in outline and as such the next stage is to develop these to detailed design.

2.3 It is planned that TfGM will deliver the improvements at Daisy Hill and Irlam, and Network Rail will deliver the proposed improvements at Walkden due to the levels of complexity on their infrastructure.

2.4 Further development and design activities are planned for the first quarter of 2021 with a forecast delivery on site of Q4 2022.

Access for All Mid-Tier

2.5 Following the successful submissions to the DfT for AfA Mid-Tier funding, supported by a GMCA funding contribution, for 22 stations, TfGM and the rail industry Alliance partners have been progressing the development of the schemes. A summary of the stations and improvements proposed is provided in the table below.

Package 1 – Minor Interventions		Package 2 -Customer Information Systems (CIS)		Package 3 – Harrington Hump and Ramp	
Station	Intervention	Station	Intervention	Station	Intervention
Bramhall	Handrails	Belle Vue	CIS	Bredbury	Ramp
Bromley Cross	Handrails	Chassen Rd	CIS	Rose Hill	Harrington Hump
Davenport	Handrails	Fairfield	CIS		
Westhoughton	Handrails	Farnworth	CIS		
Romiley	Resting Points (seats)	Humphrey Park	CIS		
Heaton Chapel	Resting Points	Kearsley	CIS		
Lostock	Resting Points	Middlewood	CIS		
		Moorside	CIS		
		Moses Gate	CIS		
		Ryder Brow	CIS		
		Trafford Park	CIS		
		Heald Green	Induction Loops		
		Altrincham	Induction Loops		

2.6 TfGM is delivering these enhancements and further development and design activities are planned for early 2021 with delivery of all packages anticipated by 2022.

3. RAIL STATION IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY (RSIS)

3.1 The Rail Station Improvement Strategy (RSIS) was established to improve existing passenger security and information systems at smaller rail stations across Greater Manchester, as funding became available.

3.2 To date 71 stations have received one or more of; help points, CCTV, real time information screens and public announcement systems with Induction Loops.

3.3 There are a further five stations, funded through the Local Growth Fund which are currently being developed with works anticipated to be completed on site in summer 2021. The table below provides the stations and the associated scope.

Station	CIS	PA	Help Points	Induction Loops	CCTV
Horwich Parkway		✓		✓	
Hyde Central	✓				
Patricroft		✓	✓	✓	
Woodley		✓	✓	✓	
Swinton			✓	✓	✓

4. GREATER MANCHESTER RAIL STATION ALLIANCE

4.1 In late 2017, the Secretary of State, responding to the Devolution agenda, endorsed an Alliance approach for rail stations in Greater Manchester (GM). This included a focus on fostering a 'one team' approach at rail stations to achieve the broad range of improvements required to meet the needs of a 21st century railway, under the Greater Manchester Stations Alliance (the Alliance).

4.2 In response, the Alliance members worked together to define a new framework for working at rail stations. This work culminated in the signing of the Alliance Agreement on 4th April 2019. The parties also agreed terms of an agreement covering specific activities in the field of Regeneration and Development; Community and Station Improvements; and Accessibility (the Accessibility workstream is covered in Section 2 of this report).

Regeneration and Development Update

4.3 Over the past 6 months, the Alliance members have been progressing a portfolio of regeneration and development opportunities with the active Local Authorities, namely Trafford, Stockport and Rochdale.

4.4 The works have focussed around feasibility and due diligence to establish investable opportunities with around 10 sites currently working through the Alliance's established process to de-risk the propositions.

4.5 The Alliance is now in the final stages of approvals with the Trafford and Stockport sites. This will enable the group to take the sites to market and appoint a development partner - most likely under a portfolio approach but with individual site disposals. Where the Local Authority is a landowner, a land promotion agreement with London and Continental Railways (LCR) will be in place. In most cases, this will also cover assets where LCR will acquire the necessary 3rd party land to maximise the development opportunities. The Alliance and the Local Authorities will identify an appropriate partner in the coming months. This will include both Build to Rent developers and Registered Social Landlords, the latter being able to access Homes England affordable housing grant.

4.6 The relationship with Homes England will be critical in delivering the sites with some financial support required on all the Alliance opportunities to assist with viability on these challenging sites. Via the GMCA, strong local links are being progressed, and LCR and Network Rail bring all the Alliance work onto a national collaboration board on which Homes England sits.

4.7 In Rochdale work is also progressing under similar governance arrangements on the Town Centre opportunity and several stations within the Rochdale/ Castleton Station corridor. While the sites will follow a similar de-risking process, Rochdale MBC is leading Strategic Planning Documents in both Rochdale Town Centre and Castleton.

- 4.8 We are undertaking early engagement with all necessary parts of Network Rail to ensure smooth passage through the clearance process and ensuring that the benefits for the passenger are maximised.
- 4.9 The Alliance is in the final stages of Task Agreements with Bolton MBC. We remain in contact with Tameside, Wigan, Salford, Oldham about how we can assist Regeneration and Development activities around their rail stations.

Community and Station Improvements

- 4.10 Over the past few months, the Alliance has been progressing a number of initiatives, but the pace at which these have been progressed has been impacted by COVID. The Alliance is working throughout Greater Manchester to identify a series of community, regeneration and development opportunities. The group have identified several potential station area projects which present the opportunity to provide new and improved community assets to the locality.
- 4.11 The stations that have been identified as part of the initial tranche are; Altrincham, Heaton Chapel, Trafford Park and Broadbottom. TfGM continue to work closely with Network Rail, Northern and LCR, looking to bring back the spaces at these stations into use for the community, social enterprise or for commercial use.

5. RAIL BASED PARK AND RIDE

Mills Hill Park and Ride

- 5.1 The Mills Hill Park and Ride project will deliver an enhanced Park and Ride facility at Mills Hill rail station, on the site of the existing car park, to complement Network Rail's Access for All scheme.
- 5.2 Network Rail is nearing completion of their scheme to deliver a step-free, unobstructed access route to both platforms at the station by means of ramps and lifts from the station entrances and an unobstructed access route to the station entrance by means of a Puffin signal-controlled crossing on Middleton Road. The Network Rail programme shows an estimated completion in early 2021.
- 5.3 The Mills Hill Park and Ride project will deliver the following:
- An increase in parking spaces from 24 to 63 parking bays (including 3 blue badge holder parking bays and 2 motorbike parking spaces);
 - Re-surfacing for a smoother drive and new designated walking routes within the car park;
 - Improved drainage;

- Passive provision for the introduction of Electric Vehicle charging points at a future date;
- New CCTV and lighting for a safer and more attractive environment; and
- Removal of widespread vegetation in the area to enhance the car park and provide additional security in general.

5.4 Construction works are due to commence in early 2021 following the completion of Network Rail Access for All works and are planned to be delivered by spring 2021.

Walkden Park and Ride

5.5 The Walkden Park and Ride scheme is being delivered as part of the Salford Bolton Network Improvements programme and is funded through the Central Government Local Growth Deal.

5.6 The scheme will provide a Park and Ride facility on the site of the former Salford City Council Environmental Services depot, off Chestnut Avenue. The facility will provide in excess of 100 car parking spaces, including spaces for blue badge holders and electric vehicle charging points, cycle parking facilities, new street lighting and CCTV.

5.7 A planning application for the scheme has been submitted to Salford City Council and is currently under consideration. It is envisaged that planning permission will be granted in early 2021. It is anticipated that the main construction works for the scheme will be issued for tender in spring 2021 with an anticipated start on site date of summer 2021, subject to securing all the necessary powers and consents.

Swinton Park and Ride

5.8 Salford Council, using Local Growth Deal 3 funds are investigating the suitability of sites close to Swinton Station to develop a Park and Ride facility.

Bromley Cross Park and Ride

5.9 Bolton Council is planning to support the funding of a new Park and Ride facility at Bromley Cross rail station to enhance a local planning application (Lidl) proposal. Lidl's planning application includes the provision for a local Park and Ride facility at the bottom of the B6391 located off Darwen Road. Bolton Council is proposing to contribute £0.2 million to the Lidl development for the Park and Ride facility with the remaining capital funding being met by the broader Lidl development. Bolton Council Officers are currently finalising the business case for submission to the Transport Strategy Group for approval in early 2021.

5.10 A planning application for the scheme has been submitted by Lidl to Bolton Council and is currently under consideration. It is expected that planning permission will be granted in early 2021. Subject the outcome of the application, Lidl is expected to be on-site later this year.

5.11 Once the facility is built the Park and Ride land will be leased to Bolton Council from Lidl, and any ongoing management and maintenance will be Bolton Council's responsibility.

6. SALFORD CENTRAL RAIL STATION

6.1 The Salford Central additional platforms scheme is included within the list of prioritised schemes as part of the Local Transport Body devolved majors funding which is part of Local Growth Deal 1.

6.2 A phased approach has been adopted to deliver platform enhancements at Salford Central station as follows:

- Phase 1 – Platforms 1 and 2 - Network Rail's renewal scheme to raise the platforms and canopies to address the stepping distances between the trains and platforms; and
- Phase 2 – Platforms 3- 5 – TfGM's scheme to development and reinstate Platforms 3, 4 and 5 to allow more and longer trains to stop at the station.

6.3 Phase 1 - Network Rail Platforms 1 and 2 Renewal Scheme. Network Rail has funding in Control Period 6 (2019-2024) for platform and canopy renewals on platforms 1 and 2 to address the stepping distance issue between the platforms and trains. Network Rail advise that they currently plan to deliver this scheme in summer 2022.

6.4 Phase 2 – Platforms 3- 5 – TfGM's Platforms 3, 4 and 5. TfGM continue to progress (GRIP 4 Single Option Development) the outline design development for the additional platforms, and to date a number of activities have been completed including: outline designs for the concourse and platforms and surveys (structural, drainage, topographical, environmental/ecological etc). Subject to receiving necessary rail industry approvals it is planned to complete GRIP 4 in summer 2021, with a view to entering into a Design and Build contract to allow construction to commence in 2022/23.

7. Rail Industry Projects

7.1 As part of its platform extension plans, work has recently been completed by Network Rail on extending the bay platform at Wigan North Western. Platform 3 will now be able to accommodate four car trains and help operationally with train movements from Springs Branch depot. Further platform extensions have been announced for Hyde Central and Hyde North stations; again, these will enable operation of four car Class 156 trains (slightly longer than the 20m Class 150 currently in use).

7.2 Northern is continuing with its rolling programme of station improvements across the Region, with work completed at Bolton and Cheadle Hulme stations recently. Further stations will receive new and improved LED lighting. Staff facilities at Manchester Victoria have also been refreshed and improved during the Covid pandemic.

7.3 Network Rail has advised that the passenger lift which serves platforms 13 and 14 at Manchester Piccadilly will be out of service due to replacement between 08 February – 19 May. A fixed stairlift will be available to help passengers to and from platform level, with staff available to help. Passengers will be made aware via an information campaign and will be able to pre-book assistance via their TOC or secure transport to the nearest step-free station.

8. CYCLE FACILITIES AT RAIL STATIONS

8.1 Growth Deal Two Additional Priorities Funding has been allocated to improve the cycle facilities at rail stations. As part of the Growth Deal Two Cycle and Ride project the cycle parking facilities are to be upgraded at Reddish North Station and Urmston Station. In total 18 covered cycle spaces will be provided, and highway improvements are to be made in Urmston to assist travellers access the station. The works are due to be completed in the spring of 2021.

8.2 In addition, Northern Rail and Avanti West Coast were successful in securing DfT Cycle Rail funding to improve the cycle facilities at 9 stations within Greater Manchester including at Manchester Piccadilly. In total approximately 200 spaces are to be delivered across the 8 stations and over 100 additional spaces at Manchester Piccadilly. TfGM is currently in the process of reviewing the designs and implementation is planned for summer 2021. The table below provides the stations and number of spaces.

Station	Lead delivering Operator	Number of spaces provided
Horwich Parkway	Northern	30
Bolton	Northern	100
Atherton	Northern	10
Hindley	Northern	10
Mills Hill	Northern	20
Davenport	Northern	10
Hag Fold	Northern	10
Woodsmoor	Northern	10
Manchester Piccadilly	Avanti	Approx. 100 additional spaces

9. NORTHERN STATION INVESTMENT FUND (SIF)

- 9.1 In 2016 Arriva Rail North committed approximately £30 million to enhance stations across the Northern franchise and developed a programme of works (across 2 phases) covering:
 - 9.1.1 Phase 1 - Waiting shelters, waiting rooms and toilet improvements, seating, additional ticket vending machines and customer help points, customer information screens, PA, accessibility improvements and CCTV, ticket barriers, and new parking spaces; and
 - 9.1.2 Phase 2 - Northern Connect - staffed stations (Bolton, Deansgate, Heald Green, Horwich Parkway, Manchester Oxford Road, Manchester Victoria, Rochdale, and Salford Crescent) with WiFi, and catering facilities.
- 9.2 Works progressed across the franchise, including GM stations, throughout 2016-2019, however in 2019 Arriva Rail North lost the franchise and the Northern Franchise was operated by the Operator of Last Resort (OLR).
- 9.3 The SIF programme was paused as a result of the changeover to the Operator of Last Resort and Northern Trains Ltd. were asked to develop a prospectus for investment moving forward; the “Hundred Day Plan”. Appendix A lists the GM Station enhancements that have been paused as a result.
- 9.4 The Hundred Day Plan, which is currently awaiting sign off, looks at investment in a different way with a focus on Accessibility and Security as well as information for customers but will, if approved, see a broad range of facility improvement (although not necessarily the same as the original SIF plan).

Simon Elliott

Head of Rail Programme

APPENDIX A – GM Station Enhancements paused due to OLR:

Replacement Shelters x 16

Flixton x 1
Godley x 1
Gorton x 2
Hag Fold x 2
Hall l'Th Wood x 2
Hyde North x 2
Lostock x 2
Mills Hill x 2
Trafford x 2

Waiting Shelter Refurb x 5

Chassen Road x 2
Flixton x 1
Hadfield x 1
Newton for Hyde x 1

Accessible Humps – All were subject to feasibility and not confirmed. x 7

Davenport x 2
Dinting x 1
Irlam x 1
Salford Crescent x 2
Urmston x 1

Accessible Hubs x 1

Heald Green

Customer Information Screens x4

Fairfield x2
Hall l'th Wood x2

WiFi x 8

Bolton
Deansgate
Heald Green
Horwich Parkway
Man Ox Road
Man Vic
Rochdale
Salford Crescent

CCTV x 3 sites

Ryder Brow
Chassen Road