

GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: 14 August 2020
Subject: Greater Manchester Transport Committee Governance
Report of: Liz Treacy, Monitoring Officer, GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To review the governance arrangements of the Greater Manchester Transport Committee to enable Members to most effectively undertake their role and functions as set out in the Committee's Terms of Reference.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To agree to establish two sub committees to specifically look at –
 - Bus Services
 - Metrolink & Rail Services
2. To appoint a Chair for each of the sub committees.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Nicola Ward, Senior Governance Officer, GMCA
Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA

Number of attachments included in the report: 0

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Report to the GMCA to establish the GM Transport Committee (June 2019)
<https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s1255/6%20GMCA%20Transport%20Cttee.pdf>

1. BACKGROUND TO THE GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Greater Manchester (GM) Transport Committee was formally constituted by the GMCA on 28 June 2019, and has been established to strengthen governance arrangements for transport as part of the third GM Devolution Deal with Government and also in recognition of the critical role transport plays in achieving the economic, social and environmental objectives of the Greater Manchester Strategy.

As a joint committee of the GMCA, GM Districts and GM Mayor, the committee brings together the principal public transport decision making bodies and has responsibility to oversee transport services on behalf of the whole of Greater Manchester. It plays a vital role in driving the delivery of future transport strategy and policy, ensuring an effective and reliable transport system aligned to the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040. Critically, the Committee is responsible for holding bus, train and tram operators to account as well as having oversight of the highways network, the delivery of transport infrastructure and the work of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM).

As agreed by all GM Districts in January 2019, the GM Transport Committee comprises 23 members, eleven as appointed by the GM Districts, 10 appointed by the GM Mayor, a representative of the GMCA and the GM Mayor. There is also a pool of substitutes to act as members of the Committee in the absence of appointed members.

The Operating Agreement ¹ details the functions of the GMCA and constituent councils which have been directly delegated to the GM Transport Committee.

2. KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The terms of reference for the Committee specify its three key functions as –

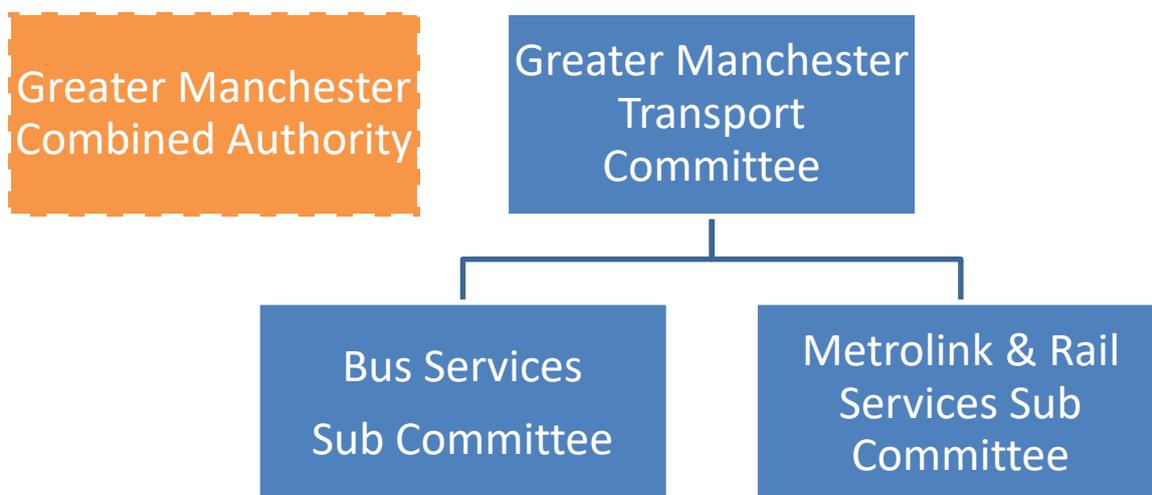
- **Holding service providers to account:** active and regular monitoring of the performance of the public transport network, including the highway network (including the operation of the GM Road Permit Scheme, road safety activities etc). This role will include holding service operators, TfGM, highways authorities and infrastructure providers to account.
- **Overseeing implementation:** oversee the delivery of agreed Local Transport Plan commitments. This includes the active oversight of the transport capital programme, and decisions over the subsidised bus service network to be made within the context of policy and budget set by the Mayor and the GMCA.
- **Policy development:** undertake policy development on specific issues, as may be directed by the Mayor and/or the GMCA.

¹ <https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s1255/6%20GMCA%20Transport%20Cttee.pdf>

3. GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

Having functioned for a year under the new arrangements, Members felt it a timely opportunity to review the governance arrangements to ensure that all role and functions of the Committee could be fulfilled.

Below is a proposed governance arrangement for the forthcoming municipal year, it includes bi-monthly meetings of the full committee, plus bi-monthly meetings of two sub committees.



The **GM Transport Committee** will focus on key strategic documents in relation to all transport policy areas, overseeing the delivery of the Transport Plan and other cross cutting areas of work.

23 Members, 11 LA appointments, 10 Mayoral Appointments, 1 GMCA appointment and GM Mayor.

The **Bus Services Sub Committee** will focus on reviewing bus service operations, holding bus operators to account and reviewing the details of the forthcoming changes bus network report.

11 Members, ensuring each LA is represented, and political balance is maintained (8 Labour, 2 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat).

The **Metrolink & Rail Services Sub Committee** will focus on the review of train and Metrolink operations, holding operators to account and being consulted on any planned changes for the networks.

11 Members, ensuring each LA is represented, and political balance is maintained (8 Labour, 2 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat).

Suggested programme of meetings

	Main Committee	Bus Network	Metrolink & Rail
August	Friday 14th		
September		Friday 4th	Friday 18th
October	Friday 9th		
November		Friday 6th	Friday 20th
December	Friday 18th		
January		Friday 8th	Friday 22nd
February	Friday 19th		
March		Friday 5th	Friday 19th

This would ensure that Members are only requested to attend one meeting per month, and that there is enough time between meetings to prepare reports, deliver on actions and contribute to the GMCA wider meeting schedule.

4. Sub Committee Terms of Reference

Bus Services Sub-Committee (Quorum 4)

In accordance with any transport policies of the GMCA and the Mayor, the Local Transport Plan and the agreed transport budget and borrowing limits:

1. Considering all matters relating to the bus network in Greater Manchester.
2. Monitoring the operation and performance of the bus network in Greater Manchester.
3. Considering the operation, performance and development of accessible transport provision.
4. Under delegated authority, reviewing and approving proposed changes to subsidised bus services.

Metrolink and Rail Services Sub Committee (Quorum 4)

In accordance with any transport policies of the GMCA and the Mayor, the Local Transport Plan and the agreed transport budget and borrowing limits:

1. Considering all matters relating to local rail and Metrolink services in Greater Manchester.
2. Monitoring the operation and performance of local rail services and Metrolink services in Greater Manchester.