

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE  
HELD THURSDAY, 27TH JULY, 2023 AT GMCA OFFICES,  
56 OXFORD STREET, M1 6EU**

**PRESENT:**

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| GM Mayor Andy Burnham (Chair) | GMCA             |
| Councillor Grace Baynham      | Stockport        |
| Councillor Warren Bray        | Tameside         |
| Councillor Phil Burke         | Rochdale Council |
| Councillor Dan Costello       | Tameside         |
| City Mayor Paul Dennett       | Salford          |
| Councillor Sean Fielding      | Bolton           |
| Councillor James Gartside     | Rochdale         |
| Councillor Hamid Khurram      | Bolton           |
| Councillor David Meller       | Mayoral          |
| Councillor Eamonn O'Brien     | Bury             |
| Councillor Alan Quinn         | Bury             |
| Councillor Tracey Rawlins     | Manchester       |
| Councillor Howard Sykes       | Oldham           |
| Councillor Elaine Taylor      | Oldham           |
| Councillor John Vickers       | Wigan            |
| Councillor Aidan Williams     | Trafford         |

**OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Councillor Noel Bayley | Bury |
|------------------------|------|

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| James Baldwin | TfGM |
| Eamonn Boylan | GMCA |
| Alex Cropper  | TfGM |
| Helen Humble  | TfGM |
| Martin Lax    | TfGM |

|               |                   |                 |                  |                 |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <u>BOLTON</u> | <u>MANCHESTER</u> | <u>ROCHDALE</u> | <u>STOCKPORT</u> | <u>TRAFFORD</u> |
| <u>BURY</u>   | <u>OLDHAM</u>     | <u>SALFORD</u>  | <u>TAMESIDE</u>  | <u>WIGAN</u>    |

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Jonathan Marsh      | TfGM |
| Rosalind O'Driscoll | TfGM |
| Stephen Rhodes      | TfGM |
| Gwynne Williams     | GMCA |

**BNC/1/23 WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors Paul Prescott (Wigan) and Hamid Khurram (Bolton).

**BNC/2/23 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA opened the meeting and invited nominations for the appointment of Chair.

The Committee agreed the appointment of the GM Mayor, Andy Burnham as Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the GM Mayor, Andy Burnham be appointed as Chair for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

**BNC/3/23 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

The nomination of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien was moved and seconded. No other nominations for vice Chair were received.

The Committee agreed the appointment of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien as Vice-Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.

**RESOLVED/-**

That Councillor Eamonn O'Brien be appointed as Vice Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.

**BNC/4/23 MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

That the membership of the Committee for the forthcoming year be noted as below:

**RESOLVED/-**

| <b>District</b>   | <b>Name</b>                         | <b>Substitutes</b>                           |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>GM Mayor</b>   | Andy Burnham (Labour)               | Tom Ross (Labour)                            |
| <b>GMCA</b>       | Eamonn O'Brien (Labour)             | Neil Emmott (Labour)                         |
| <b>Bolton</b>     | Hamid Khurram (Labour)              | Sean Fielding<br>(Labour)                    |
| <b>Bury</b>       | Alan Quinn (Labour)                 | Noel Bayley (Labour)                         |
| <b>Manchester</b> | Tracey Rawlins (Labour)             | TBC  |
| <b>Oldham</b>     | Elaine Taylor (Labour)              | Chris Goodwin<br>(Labour & Co-<br>operative) |
| <b>Rochdale</b>   | Phil Burke (Labour)                 | TBC  |
| <b>Salford</b>    | Paul Dennett (Labour)               | Mike McCusker<br>(Labour)                    |
| <b>Stockport</b>  | Grace Baynham (Liberal<br>Democrat) | Mark Roberts (Liberal<br>Democrat)           |
| <b>Tameside</b>   | Warren Bray (Labour)                | Jan Jackson (Labour)                         |
| <b>Trafford</b>   | Aidan Williams (Labour)             | Steve Adshead<br>(Labour)                    |
| <b>Wigan</b>      | Paul Prescott (Labour)              | John Vickers<br>(Labour)                     |

| <b>District</b>             | <b>Name</b>            | <b>Substitutes</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Mayoral -<br/>Oldham</b> | Howard Sykes (Lib Dem) | TBC                |

|                            |                                      |     |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Mayoral - Stockport</b> | David Meller (Labour & Co-operative) | TBC |
| <b>Mayoral - Tameside</b>  | Dan Costello (Conservative)          | TBC |
| <b>Mayoral - Rochdale</b>  | James Gartside (Conservative)        | TBC |

## **BNC/5/23 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM**

Members were reminded of their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and were requested to complete an annual declaration of interest form, which had been emailed to them by the Governance & Scrutiny Officer.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Code of Conduct be noted.
2. That members complete their Annual Declaration of Interest and return their duly filled form to the Governance & Scrutiny Officer.

## **BNC/6/23 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Consideration was given to the terms of reference and rules of procedure for the newly established Committee.

It was noted that the Bee Network Committee was a joint committee of the ten Greater Manchester district councils ('the Constituent Councils'), the GMCA and the Mayor, that brought together the principal transport decision-makers in Greater Manchester, allowing a holistic, integrated view of transport to be taken.

The role of the newly established Committee was outlined as below:

- a) Decision-Making – Determining changes to transport network operations as set out in Part 2, and the draw down of funding to invest in transport infrastructure and operations.

- b) Performance Monitoring – Oversight of the performance and financial sustainability of the transport network, holding transport operators and TfGM to account.
- c) Policy Development – Developing transport policy to support the delivery of the Local Transport Plan and the Greater Manchester Strategy, within the parameters of the budgets set by GMCA.
- d) Local Coordination – Facilitating coordination between the Constituent Councils to support effective highways management and infrastructure delivery.

The establishment of the Bee Network Committee was welcomed as it was seen as a crucial step to improving the network through better coordination over the delivery of Greater Manchester's Local Transport Plan. It was strongly felt that an efficient network would put GM in a better position to lobby Government to agree a future funding position.

The revised Committee model would also allow members the opportunity to closely monitor the performance of the Bee Network. The work of the Committee will also be supported by Task & Finish groups that will be commissioned as and when required.

As appropriate, the Active Travel and Transport Commissioner would attend these meetings to keep members updated on the progress of various schemes.

In seeing local accountability as crucial to the delivery of the Bee Network, it was reported that a similar model had been replicated by a few local authorities. It was therefore felt that it would be beneficial for districts to replicate the Bee Network Committee model at a local level to ensure better coordination of services.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure be noted.

## **BNC/7/23 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That Councillors Tracy Rawlins, Phil Burke, David Meller, Sean Fielding and Dan Costello be appointed to the Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Board.
2. That Mike McCusker be appointed to the Green City Region Partnership.

## **BNC/8/23 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Mayor, Andy Burnham, provided an update on the legal action taken by the four Metro Mayors regarding ticket office closures. It was envisaged that the closure of ticketing offices would have a huge impact on passengers, disproportionately impacting the disabled and most vulnerable residents in GM.

The Mayor indicated that there would be costs implications to the GMCA as a result of his decision to move forward with legal action, however he was willing for his office to bear the costs to ensure that the ticket offices remained open.

Following a robust discussion on the implications to residents and in noting the position of GM Local Authorities to oppose the closure of ticket offices it was felt that it would be appropriate for the Committee to pass a motion indicating their support to the Mayor in his decision to call on the Rail Delivery Group to halt the closures of ticket offices and to hold a full consultation in line with the requirements of the Railway Act 2025.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the update on the Mayor's position in relation to the closure of ticket offices be noted.
2. That the following motion be passed by the Bee Network Committee:

*The Committee resolves to support the action of the Mayor of Greater Manchester and other Mayors in opposing the current proposal to close ticket offices in rail*

*stations. We call on the Rail Delivery Group to halt the current process and undertake a full consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Railways Act, 2005.*

## **BNC/9/23    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **RESOLVED/-**

That it be noted that Councillor Phil Burke declared an interest in items 14 & 17 as an employee of Metrolink.

## **BNC/10/23    GREATER MANCHESTER BUS STRATEGY:    BETTER BUSES FOR THE BEE NETWORK**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the draft Greater Manchester Bus Strategy, to which the Committee's endorsement was sought. Included within the report was also details on how the bus network would support the creation of the integrated Bee Network.

It was noted that the priorities and ambitions that were set out within the Bus Strategy would require additional funding to be delivered.

Members thanked officers for the report and welcomed the opportunity to receive regular updates on progress towards the targets set out in the Bus Strategy in order to monitor delivery of its aims.

It was felt that GM had an opportunity to support local policies through advertisement on buses therefore it was agreed that the advertisement policy would be brought to a future meeting.

Whilst cashless ticketing was seen as an effective way of improving punctuality of services, it was felt that this could potentially be an issue amongst the elderly. In response, it was explained that work was being done to explore options for expanding the contactless pay-as-you-go system however there still would be an option for passenger to purchase a ticket using cash.

In discussing the issues resulting in delays on the network, it was highlighted that congestion due to road works was a contributing factor. The Mayor welcomed the suggestion on considering shorter routes including park and ride schemes and highlighted that alongside considering shorter routes there was an opportunity for local authorities to improve the co-ordination of roadworks to ensure disruption are kept to a minimal.

Local coordination was seen as essential to delivering an efficient service across the network, it was therefore welcomed that the Mayor recommends to GM Local Authorities to replicate the Bee Network Committee model at a district level to ensure better control and coordination over deployment of services.

In response to members concerns around the lack of connectivity in certain areas of GM, it was highlighted that GM had a better opportunity through bus franchising to manage the network to increase useability alongside the focus being around connecting people to places. It was added that the strategy sets an ambition for buses to run at least every 12 minutes on key orbital and radial routes. It also aims for 90% of the entire Greater Manchester population to be within 400m of a 30-minute frequency bus or Metrolink service on weekdays. Where this was not possible, alternate options to provide connectivity as part of the Bee Network would be put in place.

Safety on the network alongside reliability and affordability were key themes emerging from the discussion that took place with the suggestion that these themes should be incorporated into future campaigns. In noting that safety was a prerequisite to successfully increasing patronage on the network, the Mayor requested that a standing invite be extended to GMP colleagues to attend the Bee Network Committee to be able to address any concerns. In addition, it was also agreed that the Customer Growth Strategy would be brought to a future meeting to allow members the opportunity to input into that piece of work.

It was reported that the Local Transport Plan that sets out GM's long-term ambition for transport was due to be refreshed, members were assured that prior to a draft being submitted to DfT, the plan would be brought to a future meeting for consideration by members.

In an effort to improve reliability, the Mayor assured members that renewed arrangements for workforce engagement were in place. In addition to retaining existing drivers, a further driver hire campaign had been launched to ensure services were adequately staffed. Franchising was also seen as an opportunity to link to the GM skills agenda, to allow school leavers to consider public transport jobs as a career pathway.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the draft Greater Manchester Bus Strategy be noted.
2. That it be noted that the Bee Network Committee suggests that the GMCA recommends to GM Local Authorities to replicate the Bee Network Committee model at a district level to ensure better control and coordination over deployment of services across the Bee Network.
3. That a further report on advertising policy on buses be received at a future meeting.
4. In noting that safety was a prerequisite to successfully increasing patronage on the network, it was agreed that a standing invite should be extended to GMP colleagues to all future meetings of the Committee.
5. That a further report on the Customer Growth Strategy be received at a future meeting.
6. That prior to submission to DfT, the Local Transport Plan be received by the Committee.
7. That it be noted that the Bee Network Committee would receive regular updates on progress towards targets set out within the Bus Strategy.

Consideration was given to a report that sought approval over the funding of a number of CRSTS and Active Travel schemes in order to support the continued development and delivery of the Greater Manchester Transport Capital Programme.

Members were advised that the Transport Capital Programme would be reviewed on a bi-annual basis and that regular reports would be brought to future meetings.

In response to Councillor Meller's request for further details on the Greek Street Bridge / Stockholm Road Bridge scheme, it was agreed that officers would pick this following the meeting.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That it be noted that the Greek Street Bridge / Stockholm Road Bridge scheme has achieved Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) approval and that approval be given to the total draw-down for this scheme of £6.0m (comprising, £4.1m from the Tram-Train Package and £1.9m from Stockport Council's Strategic Maintenance Package);

2. That the draw-down of CRSTS funding be agreed as follows:

- City Centre Bus and S4A Connectivity Programme (Radials) – £3.28m to progress individual Outline Business Cases for a number of radial corridors, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC in due course;
  - Oldham Mumps Corridor Improvements – £0.68m to develop the scheme to Final Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage;
  - Stockport Station – £1.35m to continue to progress design and development activity to a single preferred option, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC in due course;
  - Salford Quays Northern Access – an additional £0.19m to develop the scheme to Full Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage;
  - Bury – Rochdale Quality Bus Transit - £0.96m to continue to develop the scheme to Outline Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage;

- Wigan – Leigh Quality Bus Transit - £0.56m to continue to develop the scheme to Outline Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage;
- Wigan – Bolton Quality Bus Transit – £0.43m to continue to develop the scheme to Outline Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage;
- Access for All Programme – £0.27m to complete development of four AfA schemes to Full Business Case and further study work to support the Rail Strategy. Noting a further update will be brought to the BNC upon completion of the procurement exercise; and
- Bury Interchange - £2.72m to facilitate the completion of the Outline Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage.

3. That the draw-down of Active Travel funding be agreed as follows:

- £2.55m to enable full delivery of the Bury Radcliffe Central Phase 1 scheme;
- £2.45m to enable full delivery of the GM Average Safety Cameras scheme;
- £0.75m to enable development of the ATF3, Manchester Alan Turing Way scheme; and
- £0.24m to enable development of the ATF4, GM-wide Signal Junction Upgrades scheme.

4. That further details on the Greek Street Bridge / Stockholm Road consultation be shared with Councillor Meller.

5. That it be noted that the Transport Capital Programme would be reviewed on a bi-annual basis and that regular reports would be received by the Bee Network Committee.

## **BNC/12/23 TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH - STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLAN 2**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the Transport for the North's draft Strategic Transport Plan 2 which had been published for public consultation. The report summarised the draft plan, and the key feedback areas for inclusion in Greater Manchester's response to the consultation. Referenced within the

report was a number of consultations being carried out by National Highways and the Department for Transport which TfGM were currently responding to.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That TfN's draft Strategic Transport Plan be noted.
2. That the key points for inclusion in Greater Manchester's response be noted and endorsed.
3. That the Bee Network Committee agrees to delegate the approval of the final consultation response to the Chief Executive of TfGM and GMCA.
4. That it be noted that TfGM officers were responding to a number of relevant consultations being carried out by National Highways and the Department for Transport.

#### **BNC/13/23 BEE NETWORK FARES AND PRODUCTS**

Consideration was given to a report that set out the proposed introduction of fares and products that would be available to customers travelling from 24th September 2023.

The Mayor stated that Greater Manchester's move to bus franchising provided the mechanism to delivering transformational change in bus service delivery for an integrated 'London-style' transport system with flexible products, which would transform the way people travel across the city region.

Members raised that despite the fares cap a few operators have continued to increase prices. The Mayor advised that this was a voluntary arrangement however this issue would be regularly monitored and for the very small proportion of customers' journeys where differences do continue to exist, TfGM would seek to review and recompense users where appropriate. Members suggested that any compensation scheme should be made as simple and accessible to all residents.

With regards to the issue raised around the variation in the cost of products offered by Go-NorthWest operators, it was agreed that officers would look into the matter and a response would be provided to Councillor Bailey following the meeting.

It was requested that TfGM continue to provide concessionary support for all groups, leaving no groups or communities disadvantaged and consider the development of product for carers. Officers agreed to look into the development of a report on the feasibility of delivering a Bus Companion Pass.

The Mayor advised that conversations with the Credit Union were ongoing to ensure that less affluent residents still had access to the same discounted products, for example annual and monthly tickets which required an upfront payment.

In response to a member's request for details on the Salford Corridor discounted products, officers advised that details would be shared with City Mayor Dennett following the meeting.

Concerns were raised around the lack of functionality around ticketing systems placed at train stations, as there was no option for passengers to purchase a multi-modal ticket. Officers noted the issue raised and agreed to respond to Councillor Fielding following the meeting.

## **RESOLVED/-**

1. That it be noted, and approval be given to the proposed range of fares and products that will be available to customers travelling on franchised bus services from 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
2. That the recommendations or feedback from the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.
3. That further details on the Salford Corridor discounted products be shared with City Mayor Dennett.

4. That the issue raised around the variation in the cost of products offered by Go-NorthWest operators would be reviewed and a response would be provided to Councillor Bailey.
5. That the issue of not being able to purchase a multi-modal ticket at train station would be reviewed and a response would be provided to Councillor Fielding.
6. That in response to Councillor Rawlins' request, officers would look into the development of a report on the feasibility of delivering a Bus Companion Pass.

### **BNC/14/23 METROLINK CONTRACT EXTENSION - PART A**

Consideration was given to a report that sought approval to trigger the extension option within the Metrolink Operations and Maintenance Agreement (MOMA) with Keolis Amey Metrolink Ltd (KAM) to extend the contract until 25 July 2027.

Members welcomed the report, as well as the approach undertaken through the 'Contract Review' exercise with KAM, which focused on opportunities for efficiencies and net revenue improvements.

In noting members concerns around the absence of Metrolink in certain areas of GM, the Mayor assured members that he was committed to exploring new ways to expand the Metrolink network and the development of potential 'tram-train' services were being considered. Officers added that the Fixed Track Strategy would be brought to a future meeting.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That approval be given to the proposed terms of extension to the Metrolink Operations and Maintenance Agreement (MOMA) with Keolis Amey Metrolink Ltd (KAM) from 21 July 2024 to 25 July 2027.

3. That it be noted that a detailed report on the Fixed Track Strategy (linked to development of tram-train services) would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **BNC/15/23 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

#### **RESOLVED/-**

That the dates and times of future meetings would be confirmed following the meeting.

### **BNC/16/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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 on business on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **BNC/17/23 METROLINK EXTENSION CONTRACT - PART B**

#### **RESOLVED/-**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**Clerk's Note:** This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Item 14 above refers).