

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE
HELD THURSDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 2024 AT BOARDROOM, GMCA OFFICES, 56
OXFORD STREET, M1 6EU**

PRESENT:

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien (in the Chair)	Bury
Councillor Howard Sykes	Oldham
Councillor David Meller	Stockport
Councillor Hamid Khurram	Bolton
Councillor Alan Quinn	Bury
Councillor Tracey Rawlins	Manchester
Councillor Grace Baynham	Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside
Councillor Aidan Williams	Trafford
Councillor Chris Goodwin	Oldham
Councillor Mike McCusker	Salford
Councillor John Vickers	Wigan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Eamonn Boylan	GMCA
Melinda Edwards	GMCA
Ninoshka Martins	GMCA
Ronald Neilson	GMP
Peter Boulton	TfGM
Anne Marie-Purcell	TfGM
Alison Chew	TfGM
Daniel Vaughan	TfGM
Nick Roberts	TfGM
Rosalind O'Driscoll	TfGM
James Baldwin	TfGM
Stephen Rhodes	TfGM
Martin Lax	TfGM

BOLTON

MANCHESTER

ROCHDALE

STOCKPORT

TRAFFORD

BURY

OLDHAM

SALFORD

TAMESIDE

WIGAN

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dave Abdy	TfGM
Kate Green	TfGM
Lucy Kennon	TfGM

BNC/68/23 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Phil Burke, Elaine Taylor, Dan Costello, James Gartside, Paul Prescott, and Paul Dennett.

BNC/69/23 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interests were received in relation to any item on the agenda.

BNC/70/23 Chair's announcements and Urgent Business

1. 'One Month to Go' event

The Chair reported that the 'One Month to Go' event took place in Bury on Monday 19 February and went on to share the following the headlines:

- Half of Greater Manchester's bus services would be under local control when phase two of bus franchising launches in Oldham, Rochdale and parts of Bury, Salford and north Manchester on 24 March.
- Bus service improvements include more frequent and earlier and later services; pre-franchise service reductions reversed, and plans being developed to improve performance on the worst performing routes.
- All-night bus pilot set to launch later this year providing 24/7 bus services for people working in the nighttime economy on the V1 and 36 routes.
- New journey planner and bus tracker function on the Bee Network app due to launch by 24 March.
- A further 30 new TravelSafe Support and Enforcement Officers were being recruited to patrol franchised bus services, bus stations and interchanges.
- 50 more new Zero Emission Buses and 84 new, best-in-class fully branded, Euro 6 Bee Network buses will be introduced into the fleet in the coming months.
- The move paves the way for a fully integrated network across Greater Manchester by January 2025 – and savings of up to 20% available for passengers' using buses and Metrolink using the Bee AnyBus + Tram ticket.

2. Business Transport Advisory Council Launch

Given that members had previously highlighted the need to engage with businesses to help inform future strategies, the Chair acknowledged the launch of the Business Transport Advisory Council (BTAC). BTAC would meet once a quarter to discuss strategic transport issues that matter to the business community in the city region and will offer guidance, challenge and advice to TfGM and GM's Transport Commissioner, Vernon Everitt. This initiative would help shape a transport system that meets the needs of businesses today but also paves the way for a more sustainable and improved network that drives further growth.

3. Feedback from meeting with Chief Constable Watson

The Chair reported that a meeting had been held with Chief Constable Watson to discuss and agree the challenges and opportunities of developing and taking forward a locally agreed approach prior to DfT publishing a refreshed Circular 01/2007 in relation to the use of speed and red-light cameras.

The issue of road policing was recognised to be critical to improving road safety and the Chair went on to share a list of targeted interventions including the doubling of strength of the traffic department and tactical vehicle interception unit which had resulted in a higher number of arrests and more importantly had seen to have a positive impact in reducing the number of road traffic collisions.

The opportunity available to work together with police community support officers to deliver speeding operation and the utilisation of temporary speed cameras as part of the wider mix of interventions was suggested. In addition to that, the use of ANPR cameras that were installed as part of the formerly planned Clean Air Zone to track down stolen vehicles and locate uninsured drivers which were often those that are involved in road offenses was highlighted as an intervention for consideration.

It was strongly felt that there was a lack of flexibility around the criteria for the establishment of speed cameras and in agreeing the next steps the Chief Constable welcomed opportunity to work together to deliver Greater Manchester's ambition for Vision Zero through the refresh of the camera handbook criteria.

4. Vision Zero – Online Feedback Survey

Last month, the Bee Network Committee and Greater Manchester Combined Authority endorsed a Vision Zero Strategy for the city-region. The online feedback survey went live on Monday 12 February and was set to run until Sunday 10 March, providing individuals and organisations an opportunity to share their personal experiences and thoughts on the region's roads. This would help inform the development of an action plan that would be brought to Committee following the period of stakeholder and public engagement on the strategy.

5. Stockport Interchange

The Chair reported that Stockport's new interchange was set to open on 17 March 2024 and therefore extended an invite to the opening event to members of the Bee Network Committee.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the update in relation to the 'One Month to Go' event that took place in Bury be noted.
2. That the launch of the Business Transport Advisory Council be noted.
3. That the update in relation to the meeting held with Chief Constable and plans to work together to deliver Greater Manchester's ambition for Vision Zero through the refresh of the camera handbook criteria be noted.
4. That it be noted that the online vision zero feedback survey went live on Monday 12 February and would run until Sunday 10 March, providing individuals and organisations an opportunity to share their personal experiences and thoughts on the region's roads and would help inform the development of an action plan that would be brought to Committee following the period of stakeholder and public engagement on the strategy.

5. That it be noted that the Stockport Interchange was set to open on 17 March 2024 and therefore an invite to the opening event was extended to members of the Bee Network Committee.

BNC/71/23 Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2024

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the Bee Network Committee held on 25 January 2024 be approved as a correct record.

BNC/72/23 TravelSafe Update

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the extensive work done by the TravelSafe Partnership (TSP) during 2023.

Members noted the good work and suggested the same be replicated across all existing and new interchanges across the network including.

There was a strong consensus around the need for GM to develop a zero-tolerance policy against antisocial behaviour, officers noted the comments raised and advised members of the work that was currently underway with schools to where a static youth hub at Ashton interchange had been trailed during summer months– case study included in report. In addition to that as part of safer streets round 4 (joint bid with BTP) 30x VR headsets had been procured to help young people understand the impact of antisocial behaviour. Members were therefore invited to trial the VR Headset initiative that was being rolled out as part of the Travel Safe Partnership Educational Programme.

The challenges with drivers being isolated from passengers was seen as adding to the lack of perception of safety for travel during later hours. Officers explained that further campaigns had been planned to increase awareness of existing support available to staff and passengers to report via GMP LiveChat and 'Rate my Journey' feature of the Bee Network application.

As part of additional measure, it was reported that Metrolink had recruited a city centre-based team of Customer Service Representatives and from late September 30 TravelSafe Support and Enforcement Officers were to be introduced onto the network. It was requested that the number of incidents linked to homelessness be shared with Councillor Sykes following the meeting, noting that the report referenced a 337% increase. Officers explained that the significant increase in the number of reports associated with homelessness across both Metrolink and the bus network was due to increased overnight site monitoring.

It was queried whether the use of facial recognition could be used to recognise repeat offenders. Officers explained that due to rules around GDPR this would prove difficult however the sanctions used on buses was explained stating that the exclusion notices and removal of travel passes were effective deterrents and advised that plans were underway to extend this approach to Metrolink. Where young people were involved, work would be done with community safety teams and schools to enforce sanctions.

With regards to the GM Bike Hire Scheme, it was reported that a regular programme of policing activity had commenced alongside inclusion in wider Partnership operations which had seen to result in 131 bikes being recovered.

Members welcomed the work being done through operation AVRO and noted the need to for operations to be embedded correctly to understand trends and accordingly target interventions.

It was noted that there had been a rise in the number of reported incidents over the last quarter across the bus network including at interchanges and bus stations. This was as a result of successful campaigns that had encouraged reporting from bus passengers, alongside the introduction of Travel Safe and Enforcement Officers at the end of September, with an increased staff presence also attracting an increase in reporting.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the work underway to incorporate regular TravelSafe reporting, activity, and outcomes into the quarterly BNC performance report be noted.

3. That it be agreed that the number of incidents linked to homelessness be shared with Councillor Sykes following the meeting, noting that the report referenced a 337% increase.
4. That it be noted that an invitation had been extended to members of the Bee Network Committee to trial the VR Headset initiative that was being rolled out as part of the Travel Safe Partnership Educational Programme.
5. That the progress made in relation to the recently launched fare evasion plan be noted as below:
 - 50 additional, visible front line staff members, bringing the total to circa 170 across the Metrolink network.
 - Inspections were expected to increase from 4 million to 5 million tickets every year based on which Metrolink was likely to fine 100,000 fare evaders per year by March 2024, and take a further 5,000 fare evaders to court over unpaid fines.
 - New inspection devices were enabling revenue protection teams to identify persistent fare evaders.
 - Fare evasion reduced from just over 16% in July 2023 to 10.6% in January 2024.
 - Metrolink was reported to be on target to generate an additional circa £2m net revenue per year that was a key component of the Financial Sustainability Plan for 2023/24.

BNC/73/23 Transport Capital Programme

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the current position on the Greater Manchester Transport Capital Programme and considered a number of recommendations in order to support the continued development and delivery of the programme.

Officers were requested to consider the opportunity for biodiversity net gain through the review of existing bus stops.

In discussing additional interventions to improve active travel, it was noted that Red Routes and the introduction of moving traffic offenses could be utilised as part of the wider mix of initiatives to improve the perception of active travel journeys.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the current position in relation to CRSTS1 and CRSTS2 be noted.

2. That the drawdown £393.5k CRSTS funding for the Manchester: Ancoats Streets for All scheme, as approved by Chief Executive TfGM and GMCA under delegated authority be noted.

3. That the drawdown of CRSTS funding be approved as follows:
 - City Centre Bus and Streets for All Connectivity Programme: £3.66m;
 - Bus Pinch Points and Maintenance Programme: £6.9m;
 - Integrated Measures (Ticketing): £1.35m;
 - Metrolink Renewals: £21.4m; and
 - Next phase of zero emission bus (ZEB) investment: £20.8m

BNC/74/23 Dates & Times of Future Meetings

- 21 March; 10 - 12 PM; Friends Meeting House