

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE
HELD THURSDAY, 27TH JUNE 2024 AT BOARDROOM, GMCA OFFICES**

PRESENT:

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien (in the Chair)	Bury
Councillor Alan Quinn	Bury
Councillor Josh Charters	Oldham
Councillor Phil Burke	Rochdale
Councillor Grace Baynham	Stockport
Councillor Andrew McClaren	Tameside
Councillor Aidan Williams	Trafford

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Caroline Simpson	GMCA
Melinda Edwards	GMCA
Lee Teasdale	GMCA
Sylvia Welsh	GMCA
Richard Nickson	TfGM
Martin Lax	TfGM
Steve Warrener	TfGM
Chris Barnes	TfGM
James Baldwin	TfGM

BNC/01/24 Appointment of Chair

Nominations were sought for the Chair of the Bee Network Committee for 2024/25. A nomination and seconder were received for Mayor Andy Burnham.

RESOLVED/-

That Mayor Andy Burnham be appointed as Chair of the Bee Network Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year.

BNC/02/24 Appointment of Vice-Chair

Nominations were sought for the Vice-Chair of the Bee Network Committee for 2024/25. A nomination and seconder were received for Councillor Eamonn O'Brien.

RESOLVED/-

That Councillor Eamonn O'Brien be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Bee Network Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Note: Due to the unavailability of Mayor Andy Burnham, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

BNC/03/24 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Mayor Andy Burnham (GMCA), Cllr Hamid Khurram (Bolton), Cllr Tracey Rawlins (Manchester), Mayor Paul Dennett (Salford), Cllr Tom Ross (Trafford), Cllr Paul Prescott (Wigan) and Cllr John Vickers (Wigan).

RESOLVED/-

1. That the apologies be noted.

BNC/04/24 Membership for the 2024/25 Municipal Year

The Chair welcomed all present to the Annual General Meeting of the Bee Network Committee. He welcomed Caroline Simpson to her first meeting as the Group Chief Executive for GMCA, TfGM and GMFRS, and expressed congratulations to Danny Vaughan following his appointment as the new Chief Network Officer for TfGM.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the appointment of the Mayor of Greater Manchester to the Bee Network Committee, and Councillor Tom Ross (Trafford) as the substitute member, and the appointment of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien (Bury), as the GMCA representative

and Councillor Neil Emmott (Rochdale) as the substitute member by the GMCA on 14 June 2024 be noted.

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

District	Name	Substitutes
GM Mayor	Andy Burnham (Labour)	Tom Ross (Labour)
GMCA	Eamonn O'Brien (Labour)	Neil Emmott (Labour)
Bolton	Hamid Khurram (Labour)	Sean Fielding (Labour)
Bury	Alan Quinn (Labour)	Gareth Staples- Jones (Labour)
Manchester	Tracey Rawlins (Labour)	TBC
Oldham	Josh Charters (Labour)	Chris Goodwin (Labour & Co- operative)
Rochdale	Phil Burke (Labour)	Aasim Rashid (Labour)
Salford	Paul Dennett (Labour)	Mike McCusker (Labour)
Stockport	Grace Baynham (Liberal Democrat)	Mark Roberts (Liberal Democrat)
Tameside	Laura Boyle (Labour)	Andrew McLaren (Labour)
Trafford	Aiden Williams (Labour)	Steve Adshead (Labour)
Wigan	Paul Prescott (Labour)	John Vickers (Labour)

3. That it be noted that the Mayoral Appointments were to be confirmed.
4. That the Committee welcomes new members Councillors Laura Boyle and Josh Charters.
5. That the Committee record its thanks to Councillor Warren Bray for his many years of valuable service on GM's transport committees.

6. That the Committee welcomes Caroline Simpson to her first meeting of the Committee as Group Chief Executive for GMCA, TfGM & GMFRS.
7. That the Committee record its congratulations to Danny Vaughan following his appointment as the Chief Network Officer of TfGM.

BNC/05/24 Members Code of Conduct

RESOLVED/-

1. That the GMCA Members Code of Conduct be noted.

BNC/06/24 Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

RESOLVED/-

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

BNC/07/24 Appointments to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED/-

1. That Councillors Tracy Rawlins, Phil Burke and Sean Fielding be appointed to the Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Board and that the outstanding two vacancies be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.
2. That Councillor Mike McCusker be appointed to the Green City Region Partnership.
3. That Councillor Josh Charters be appointed to the Vision Zero Advisory & Scrutiny Board

BNC/08/24 Chairs Announcements & Urgent Business

The Chair reflected that this was the first meeting held by the Combined Authority since the news had been announced of the sad passing of Sir Howard Bernstein. Sir Howard had been instrumental in the regeneration of Manchester, not least of which was the contribution to the building of the Metrolink network and support for devolution which would eventually result in the bringing back of buses under public control.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Committee acknowledges the sad passing of Sir Howard Bernstein noting the significant groundwork he laid for the many transport infrastructure improvements seen in the region in recent decades.

BNC/09/24 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED/-

1. That it be noted that Councillor Phil Burke declared a personal interest in item BNC/11/24 as an employee of Metrolink.

BNC/10/24 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21 March 2024

Councillor Grace Baynham expressed her concern about the scope of access for all funding, with particular concern highlighted about step free access to stations for residents with mobility issues. It was advised that TfGM had sought explanations from the Department for Transport on why step free access had not been prioritised. Due to the pre-election period a response had not yet been received but when an update was received it would be made available.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the minutes of the meeting of 21st March 2024 be agreed as true and correct record.
2. That Members be advised of the Department for Transport response to concerns raised around lack of step free access funding as part of Access for All.

BNC/11/24 Transport Capital Programme

Chris Barnes (Network Director Infrastructure, TfGM) presented a report that asked members to note the current position on the Greater Manchester Transport Capital Programme and consider a number of recommendations to support the continued development and delivery of the programme. Points highlighted included:

- Work to develop CRSTS1 with partners continued at pace with 55 of the original 60 strategic outline business cases now approved, and 40% of the overall allocation had now been released, which was a strong position at two years into a five-year programme.
- Progress made on the Streets for All Programme was highlighted.
- On Rapid Transit, a draw down of funding was being sought to continue to develop the proposals around the Tram-Train Pathfinder and the Next Generation Vehicles Initiative.
- It was highlighted that £13.8m of the bus franchising capital transition budget would be added to the capital programme for work on bus depots.

Comments and Questions

The Chair welcomed the progress being made and welcomed comments and questions from Members.

- It was asked if there had been any movement in terms of feasibility studies on the proposed station at Slattocks in Middleton. It was advised that the next new station being developed was at Golborne, and following this a number of options were being considered, with priorities likely to be around areas linked to new housing developments.
- Members sought further clarity on what defined a 'tram-train'. It was advised that these were light-rail units that also had the ability to run on heavy rail infrastructure, which would in turn allow for an increase in capacity and depth of fleet. It was also planned that these would have bi-modal power capabilities (electrification and also batteries where required).

- Members commented on how welcome the A56 Phase 2 developments would be to the residents of Trafford – there was a feeling that active travel plans were truly beginning to gather pace across the conurbation.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the current position in relation to CRSTS1 and CRSTS2 be noted.
2. That the CRSTS drawdowns, as approved by the Chief Executive TfGM and GMCA, under delegated authority be noted.
3. That the drawdown and reallocation of CRSTS funding and associated scheme progression be approved as follows:
 - City Centre Bus Strategy Phase 1: £1.25m;
 - Metrolink Next Generation Vehicles / Tram-Train Pathfinder: £1.547m;
 - Tameside: A560 Stockport Road / Hattersley Viaduct Refurbishment and Widening: £0.81m
 - SWANI (Sale West to Altrincham Network Improvements): Full Business Case approval and £0.18m;
 - Stockport: Hempshaw Lane: Full Business Case approval and £1.05m; and endorse the reallocation of £246k from the Stockport: A6/Manchester Road/School Lane scheme to support delivery of the scheme; and
 - Stockport: Woodley to Bredbury Parkway Improvement Scheme (formerly, Bredbury Economic Corridor Improvement (BECI) Package): Full Business Case approval and £0.83m
4. That the drawdown of Active Travel delivery funding be approved as follows:
 - Trafford A56 Phase 2: £2.07m (CRSTS funding through the MCF programme);
 - Manchester Yellow Brick Road: £1.5m (Active Travel Fund Round 4 (ATF4) funding);
 - Stockport Heatons Link Phase 2: £2.7m (ATF4 funding);
 - Stockport Ladybrook Valley Phase 2: £2.3m (ATF4 funding);
 - Stockport Romiley to Stockport: £3.4m (ATF4 funding);
 - E-Cycle Pilot: £0.5m (Revenue Grant); and

- Capability Fund Extension £1.7m (Revenue Grant).

5. That it be noted that £13.8m of the bus franchising capital transition budget has been allocated to fund and deliver ongoing renewal of depot infrastructure and associated assets and that approval for the inclusion in the Capital Programme of the forecast expenditure for renewals works that are anticipated in 2024/25 will be included in the “GMCA 2024/25 Capital Update – Quarter 1” report in July 2024.