

Transport Committee

13 June 2019

Present: Councillors L Robinson, G Friel,
M Uddin, J Wiseman, J Dodd, S Foulkes, P Hayes,
H Howard, A Lavelle, P McKinley, N Nicholas,
M O'Mara OBE, G Philbin, J Stockton, H Thompson,
J Williams, F Wynn, P Cleary, A Jones, N Killen,
K McGlashan and L Mooney

1. **Appointment of Chair**

The Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement, Louise Outram opened the meeting and invited nominations for the appointment of Chair of the Transport Committee for the ensuing year.

Councillor Gordon Friel and seconded by Councillor John Wiseman nominated Councillor Liam Robinson as the Chair of the Transport Committee for 2019/20.

Resolved that Councillor Liam Robinson be appointed Chair of the Transport Committee for 2019/20.

2. **Appointment of Deputy Chair**

The Chair, Councillor Liam Robinson invited nominations for the appointment of Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee for the ensuing year.

Councillor Liam Robinson and seconded by Councillor John Wiseman nominated Councillor Gordon Friel as the Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee for 2019/20.

Resolved that Councillor Gordon Friel be appointed Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee for 2019/20.

3. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Pritchard.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interests were submitted.

5. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Transport Committee held on 4th April 2019, be approved as a correct record.

Councillor John Stockton raised concern regarding the style in which the minutes were recorded and requested that it be recorded in the previous style of Councillors being named to reflect accountability and transparency.

Louise Outram informed the Committee that the style of the minutes were recorded to be consistent with the Combined Authority and as the Transport Committee was a committee of the Combined Authority it was important that the same approach be adopted for it to be consistent.

Councillor Ken McGlashan informed the Committee that when issues are raised with local Councillors, those views are then represented by Councillors at the meetings like the Transport Committee. The minutes then reflect those views being represented by those Councillors and recorded, so that it can be fed back to those residents for completion.

The Chair informed the Committee that the concerns raised would be fed back to the Combined Authority for consideration.

6. **Combined Authority Constitution, Committee Terms of Reference and Membership 2019/20**

The Committee considered the Combined Authority Constitution, Committee Terms of Reference and Membership 2019/20 report which was presented by Louise Outram, Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement.

Councillor Pat Cleary enquired about including cycling and active travel as one of the Lead Member responsibilities.

The Chair, Councillor Liam Robinson informed the Committee that rather than creating a new Lead Member responsibility it would be better to include it as part of the Lead Member for Tunnels, Highways and Key Route Network responsibilities.

Resolved that the Transport Committee:

- a) notes the membership of the Transport Committee for 2019/20;
- b) welcomes the new Members to the Committee:

Knowsley – Councillors Ken McGlashan and Linda Mooney;

St Helens – Councillors Allan Jones, Paul Pritchard, Mancyia Uddin and John Wiseman;
Sefton – Councillor Nina Killen; and
Wirral – Councillor Pat Cleary.

- c) places on record its thanks to former members Councillors Anthony Carr, Dennis Baum, Dot Johnson, Ron Abbey, Jimmy Jackson, Susan Murphy, Geoff Pearl and Keith Roberts for their work on behalf of the Committee and their contribution to taking forward the transport agenda of the City Region;
- d) notes the responsibility for functions as set out in Part 3 of the Combined Authority Constitution and in particular those responsibilities referred to and delegated to the Transport Committee in Section E (Appendix One);
- e) notes the Meetings Standing Orders set out in Section A of Part 4 of the Constitution of the Combined Authority (Appendix Two); and
- f) notes the contents of the Code of Conduct for Members as set out in Section A Part 6 of the Constitution of the Combined Authority (Appendix Three).

7. **Cycle of Meetings and Appointments to Outside Bodies and Lead Members 2019/20**

The Committee consider the Cycle of Meetings and Appointments to Outside Bodies and Spokespersons 2019/20 report presented by Charles Yankiah, Democratic Services.

The Chair, Councillor Liam Robinson informed the Committee of the following Labour appointments:

Lead Members:

- Councillor Steve Foulkes – Lead Member for Finance and Organisational Development;
- Councillor Gordon Friel – Lead Member for Rail and Freight;
- Councillor Patrick McKinley – Lead Member for Customer and Smart Ticketing;
- Councillor Ken McGlashan – Lead Member for Ferries and Visitor Economy;
- Councillor Nathalie Nicholas – Lead Member for Tunnels, Highways, Key Route Network and Active Travel; and
- Councillor John Stockton – Lead Member for Bus.

Outside Bodies:

- North West Employers – Councillor Patrick McKinley
- Mersey Ferries (Observer) – Councillor Ken McGlashan

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- Travelsafe Board – Councillor John Stockton (Chair) and Councillor Margi O'Mara (Vice Chair)
- Beatles Story Board (Observers) – Councillor Jerry Williams and Councillors Ged Philbin
- West Coast 250 – Councillor Gordon Friel
- Rail North Committee (substitute) – Councillor Gordon Friel
- Transport for the North Scrutiny – Councillor Patrick McKinley (Member) and Councillor Nathalie Nicholas (Alternate)

Resolved that the Transport Committee:

- a) notes the dates and time of the Transport Committee meetings for the forthcoming year and agree that attendance at the briefing sessions on transport related matters be an approved duty;
- b) appoints the following members to the appropriate Outside Bodies:
 - North West Employers – Councillor Patrick McKinley
 - Mersey Ferries (Observer) – Councillor Ken McGlashan
 - Travelsafe Board – Councillor John Stockton (Chair) and Councillor Margi O'Mara (Vice Chair)
 - Beatles Story Board (Observers) – Councillor Jerry Williams and Councillors Ged Philbin
 - West Coast 250 – Councillor Gordon Friel
 - Rail North Committee (substitute) – Councillor Gordon Friel
 - Transport for the North Scrutiny – Councillor Patrick McKinley (Member) and Councillor Nathalie Nicholas (Alternate)
- c) appoints the following Spokespersons for each of the Local Authorities to answer any questions at Council Meetings for the forthcoming year:
 - Councillor Liam Robinson – Liverpool City Council
 - Councillor Gordon Friel – Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Councillor Steve Foulkes – Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Councillor Ken McGlashan – Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Councillor John Wiseman – St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Councillor Ged Philbin – Halton Borough Council
- d) notes the continuing appointment by the Combined Authority of the Chair of the Transport Committee, Councillor Liam Robinson to:
 - Transport for the North (TfN) Partnership Board (Substitute Member)
 - Rail North Committee Member
 - Association of Rail North Authority Leaders
 - Director of Rail North Ltd
 - European Structural and Investment Fund Committee

- e) notes the appointment of the Chair of the Transport Committee, Councillor Liam Robinson as a co-opted member of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, holding the Transport and Air Quality portfolio on behalf of the City Region.

8. **Bus Station Departure Charges**

The Committee considered the Bus Station Departure Charges report presented by Gary Evans, Head of Customer Delivery, he provided some background to the report and highlighted its purpose.

Members raised the following concerns:

- Would the departure charges be applied to all stations in the future;
- Why were there no comments received from smaller operators in relation to the proposed changes;
- Can a discount be offered to the smaller operators or money drawn down from Government to assist the smaller operators;
- How were the charges identified in the report at paragraph 3.4 and 3.5 derived; and
- Should there be a greater difference between the standard rate and the green rate.

Gary Evans responded to the Committee as follows: -

- The departure charges will be applied to all stations in the future;
- No comments were received from smaller operators was a factual statement as none had been received; and
- The charges identified in the report at paragraph 3.4 and 3.5 were the historic rates that have been charges since the facilities have been in operation and are reviewed annually. Paragraph 3.11 are the proposed revised rates which identify a greater discount against the standard rates.

The Chair, Councillor Liam Robinson informed the Committee that funding is applied for from the Government and is granted as part of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) to fund improvement to vehicle engines and emissions as well as to purchase green, electric, gas, hybrid and hydrogen vehicles. These grant applications have always been offered to the operators and some have benefitted from the funding including the smaller operators.

Resolved that the Transport Committee: -

- a) notes the contents of the report and understands the details associated with Bus Station Departure and Layover Charges;
- b) approves the revised charging structure proposed for Bus Station Departure charges with a view to resolving the current inconsistencies and encouraging low emission vehicles; and

- c) approves the charges and associated discounts as set out in the report at sections 3.9 and 3.11.

9. **A Combined Authority Transport Plan**

The Committee considered the Combined Authority Transport Plan presented by Huw Jenkins, Lead Officer, Transport Policy. He provided some background to the report and highlighted the involvement and engagement of the Transport Committee in previous versions of the plan presented to the Committee.

Councillor Gordon Friel proposed the following amendment to the Combined Authority Transport Plan, to insert in paragraph 2.1.3 of Appendix 2 the words “along with changes to the old infrastructure to facilitate this” after the words “from 2019/20 onwards” in the 7th line.

The Committee agreed the amendment.

Councillor Harry Howard proposed the following amendments to the Combined Authority Transport Plan:

- to replace the word “make” in paragraph 4.4 (3) of the report with the words “with the objective of making”
- to insert the word “Halton” in paragraph 2.1.4 of Appendix 2 following the words “central Wirral”

The Committee agreed the amendment.

Councillor Harry Howard also proposed the following be taken into account when finalising the Combined Authority Transport Plan prior to submission to the Combined Authority for consideration, that:

- paragraph 2.1.1 (a) of Appendix 2, the words “wider ticketing” be elaborated for the public to understand its meaning.
- paragraph 2.1.4 of Appendix 2, where reference is made to areas of the City Region e.g. Daresbury and Parkside that the local authority areas be identified as well.
- paragraph 6.3.12 of Appendix 2, the words “upgrading almost all of the Merseyrail station platforms to allow for step free access” be made clearer in relation to “level access” being upgraded across all stations.

Councillor John Stockton proposed the following also be taken into account when finalising the Combined Authority Transport Plan prior to submission to the Combined Authority for consideration, that:

- an action plan could be inserted into Appendix 2 highlighting the various plans/projects relating to the priorities over the four year period;

- if the listing of the various projects/plans were too long then hyperlinks could be used as a reference;
- the document seemed to be very Liverpool City Centre focussed, with little on delivery in the districts, can this be addressed;
- there is also nothing in the document relating to the Northern Powerhouse cities and towns cross border travel, could that also be looked into; and
- there needs to be a reference to the connections to supporting arts and cultural venues.

Councillor Anthony Lavelle enquired if paragraph 6.3.5 of Appendix 2, could reflect a bit more vision and ambition relating to delivering new and retrofitted low emission buses, including electric, hybrid and biomethane powered vehicles and devolved bus powers going forward.

Huw Jenkins informed the Committee that the report and Appendix 2 recognises the short term ambition and highlights the ongoing work and the potential devolved powers to the City Region and what it means. However, the broad ambition is reflective of Appendix 2 which can't reflect or reference the potential devolved bus powers, but the wording can be strengthened.

Councillor Frances Wynne enquired about expanding the Arriva Click provisions and if discussions took place with the bus operators regarding punctuality.

Huw Jenkins informed the Committee that those issues were referred to in Appendix 2 under the heading Key Route Network with improving journey times and reliability across key routes which aim to be accomplished with the assistance of bus partners.

Councillor Steve Foulkes reminded the Committee that the report and Appendix 2 is an overarching strategic document that aims to address the key issues. However, if specific "promises" could be qualified for the public in terms of the language used e.g. paragraph 6.3.12 relating to "step free access", which is being offered directly at stations only which is under the control of Merseytravel.

Councillor Patrick McKinley enquired about the resilient transport network referred to in paragraph 6.4.11 Appendix 2 and whether the document could be enhanced in relation to working with the planning authorities and the National Policy and Planning Framework and how it could be adapted to assist with the resilient network.

Councillor Pat Cleary enquired if the figures referred to at paragraph 2.3.8, Appendix 2 could be expanded and explained for clarification.

Councillor Nina Killen enquired if the map referred to in paragraph 6.4.11, Appendix 2 could be widened to include the City Region.

Huw Jenkins informed the Committee that all the points raised by the Committee would be taken into account and the various references raised

would be addressed to strengthen the document, but there would be a concern that to include or list everything relating to plan, projects and priorities would be a risk that something is left out.

The Chair, Councillor Liam Robinson thanked the officers involved in the hard work to collate the Combined Authority Transport Plan having managed to capture everything from all the various documents.

Resolved that the Transport Committee:

- a) considers and endorses the draft, non-statutory Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Plan set out in Appendix Two of the report, which seeks to clearly articulate the City Region's vision, plans and priorities for transport over the next 4 years;
- b) agrees that the draft plan is presented to the Combined Authority for consideration and formal approval at its next meeting on 28th June 2019;
- c) notes that a longer-term, statutory Local Transport Plan for the city region will be developed in the context of the emerging Local Industrial Strategy, due for completion in the spring of 2020, to secure full integration between transport and connectivity priorities and the Combined Authority's wider inclusive growth remit; and
- d) amendments and proposed changes as discussed and agreed during the meeting be taken into account and implemented accordingly into the report and Appendix Two respectively.

10. **Transport Committee Work Programme for 2019/20**

The Committee considered the draft Work Programme for the Transport Committee for 2019/20 presented by Charles Yankiah, Democratic Services.

Councillor John Stockton requested that consideration be given to including the Disability and Accessibility issues in the draft Work Programme for 2019/20.

Resolved that the Transport Committee notes the draft Work Programme for the Transport Committee for 2019/20 and that Disability and Accessibility issues be included in consultation with the Chair and the relevant officers regarding the date of meeting for it to be submitted.

11. **Public Question Time**

The Committee received two questions from Mr Brace and two questions from Mr Madders MP as follows: -

In the absence of both questioners, Louise Outram, Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement read out all four questions to the Transport Committee.

Mr Brace

Question 1

How often do Merseytravel/Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (or its contractors) carry out surveys of bus stops/shelters or if surveys are carried out does it just rely on responding to reports from the public when there are problems?

The Chair thanked Mr Brace for submitting his questions and informed the Committee that a formal response would be provided within 10 working days.

Question 2

If a bus stop has been vandalised, does Merseytravel/Liverpool City Region Combined Authority report this crime to the Merseyside Police and if so does it know of anyone arrested and charged with vandalising bus stops in the last 12 months as there are certain areas on Merseyside that appear to be hotspots?

The Chair thanked Mr Brace for submitting his question and informed the Committee that a formal response would be provided within 10 working days.

Mr Madders MP

Question 1

Does the Committee consider it appropriate to increase Mersey tunnel tolls for non-Liverpool City Region residents by 50%?

The Chair thanked Mr Madders MP for submitting his questions and informed the Committee that a formal response would be provided within 10 working days.

Question 2

What assessment has the Committee undertaken of the increase in such tolls both in terms of individual hardship to public sector and low paid workers and to the regional economy?

The Chair thanked Mr Madders MP for submitting his question and informed the Committee that a formal response would be provided within 10 working days.

12. **Petitions and Statements**

No petitions or statements were submitted for this meeting.

13. **Any Other Urgent Business Approved by the Chair**

There was no urgent business.

Chair of the Transport Committee

Date