MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS AND POLICY SUB COMMITTEE, HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2018 AT THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE MANCHESTER

Councillor Guy Harkin Bolton (in the Chair)
Councillor Rishi Shori Bury Council
Councillor Angeliki Stogia Manchester
Councillor Howard Sykes Oldham
Councillor Roger Jones Salford
Councillor Robin Garrido Salford
Councillor Kate Butler Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray Tameside
Councillor Doreen Dickinson Tameside
Councillor Michael Cordingley Trafford
Councillor Mark Aldred Wigan
Councillor Eunice Smethurst Wigan
Councillor James Grundy Wigan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Barnes Programme Manager, TfGM
Alex Cropper Head of Projects Group, TfGM
Bob Morris Chief Operating Officer, TfGM
Steve Annette Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA

CPP/18/18 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Annette Finnie (Stockport)

CPP/18/19 CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair and members congratulated officers for recent successes in achieving awards for the Oxford Road Corridor scheme project and City Region Transport.

CPP/18/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

CPP/18/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2018

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 October 2018.
In relation to minute reference CPP18/17 – ‘Approach to GM Minimum Standards for taxi and Private Hire’, a member asked if officers were in a position to provide an update. In response TfGM said that they would endeavour to find out and report back in due course.

RESOLVED/-

The minutes of the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee meeting, held 12 October 2018 be approved as a correct record.

CPP/18/22 BUS PRIORITY UPDATE

Members received a report which provided an update on recent progress in respect of the Salford – Bolton Network Improvement Programme and Bus Priority Programme.

A member made reference to the success of the bus priority and bus rapid transit infrastructure, and made reference in particular to the scheme at Stockport, and suggested that each of the other authorities should be looking to replicate such schemes.

There followed a general discussion around the various transportation options previously discussed and considered across the conurbation and the merits of those schemes. A member added that there were many areas across GM that could benefit from the introduction of a bus priority scheme if funding was made available, and it was suggested that this was something that could be incorporated within the GM spatial framework.

The Chair commented that any significant improvement in transport infrastructure would always involve a massive amount of disruption and that this would always be highly unpopular at the time of it happening until system improvements were introduced. He suggested that Leaders attention should be drawn to the enormous success and the benefits which could be attributed to the introduction of the Leigh Guided Bus Way, and suggested that they should be encouraged to consider whether similar investment within their respective districts could radically improve those bus service which are currently provided.

RESOLVED/-

That the report and progress which had been made on the Bus Priority schemes in recent months be noted.

CPP/18/23 INTERCHANGE UPDATE

Members considered a report which provided an update on recent progress made in respect of the new bus station facility at Wigan, and the future transport facilities being developed and delivered in Stockport, Tameside, Bury and Pendleton. The report provided an overview of the progress made since the last update and the work scheduled to be undertaken over the coming months.
A member was pleased to see that all the signage had now been installed and the snagging issues resolved along the Altrincham line.

A member commented that the Stockport Interchange Local Growth Deal scheme had been a huge success of partnership working between Stockport Council, TFGM, GMCA, Homes England and the Environment Agency and it was suggested that the scheme could be used as an exemplar for any future projects.

A member commented that he wished to place on record his appreciation for all the efforts that had resulted in the successful completion of the new bus station in Wigan town centre, adding that the project was completed ahead of schedule and within budget.

There followed a general discussion regarding the role and responsibilities of members on this sub-committee. A member commented that she felt that it would be a more effective use of members’ and officers’ time if this sub-committee had a detailed work programme that it could consider and develop, thereby enabling members to become more connected and engaged to broader TfGM projects and it was suggested that members should be more sighted on policy matters and so had a role in developing capital projects going forward.

It was suggested that members ought to consider what items they would like to see presented for discussion at future meetings and going forward it was suggested that a small group of members should meet with officers from TfGM to develop a work programme which would then be considered by this committee at future meetings.

TfGM commented that the last TfGMC received a report detailing an update on TfGM 2040 strategy and added that much of the information members were seeking was contained within that document, which also included a five year delivery plan, details of which would be published in January 2019. In respect of capital projects which this committee reviews, it was reported that in terms of actual capital projects, in terms of size and scale, there was very little compared to what there was three or four years ago.

It was reported that most of the projects were now being delivered through the local authorities themselves in some cases in partnership with other agencies. It was reported that any schemes that come through TfGM’s capital programme are presented to this committee.

A member commented that one of the responsibilities of members of this committee was to feedback to their respective local authorities on passenger matters and capital project matters that are being considered by TFGMC and TfGM and that it was also important to feedback what residents were saying, and suggested that the TfGM 2040 strategy should be discussed at the next meeting.

A member commented that a meeting had taken place with officers from Wigan council and members had been provided with details of major projects that were being developed with TfGM, however it was important that these did not lose traction.
RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the report and the achievements made in progressing these schemes since the last Interchange Update to this sub-committee in July 2018, be noted.

2. That the work scheduled to be undertaken to continue to develop the schemes over the coming months, in conjunction with stakeholders, be noted.