PRESENT:
Councillor David Chadwick Bolton
Councillor Stuart Haslam Bolton
Councillor Noel Bayley Bury
Councillor Naeem Hassan Manchester
Councillor Chris Paul Manchester
Councillor Howard Sykes Oldham
Councillor Philip Burke Rochdale
Councillor Barry Warner Salford
Councillor Syd Lloyd Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray Tameside
Councillor Rob Chilton Trafford
Councillor Mark Aldred Wigan (Chair)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Howard Hartley Head of Bus, TfGM
Mike Evans TfGM
Nick Roberts TfGM
Mark Robinson TfGM
Nicola Ward GMIST

ALSO PRESENT: (Part A items only)
Adam Clark Stagecoach Manchester
Phil Cummins Arriva Manchester
Rick Halsall Arriva Manchester
Ian Humphreys First Manchester
Brendan O’Reilly Rossendale Community Transport
Bernard Rowan GM Accessible Transport Limited

BN/15/43 APOlogIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Councillor Ahmed.
URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIR’S COMMUNICATIONS

Welcome

The Chair welcomed to Members to the Bus Network and TfGM Services sub committee meeting. The Chair also welcomed representatives from Bus Operators and thanked them for their continued attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Aldred declared an interest in relation to item 6 – Ring and Ride Update.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting held on 20 November were submitted.

Clerk’s note **At the meeting of the TFGMC 15 January 2016, the minutes were approved subject to the following addendum

That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive of TfGM, in consultation with the Chair of TFGMC and the Vice Chair of TFGMC / Chair of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub-Committee, to vary bus station departure charges in line with current policy.**

RESOLVED/-

To agree the Minutes of the Bus Network and TfGM services Sub Committee, held on 20 November 2015 as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillors Paul and Bray to the attendance list.

BUS NETWORK PERFORMANCE – MID YEAR

A report was presented which updated members of the observed performance of the Greater Manchester bus network for 2015/16 mid-year (October 2014 – September 2015) period and compared this against the level achieved in 2014/15.

The results of the 2015/16 mid-year continue to demonstrate the high performance levels for reliability (98.2%) and mid-point punctuality (78.0%) sustained in recent years. Start point punctuality has remained stable, with performance observed at 89.1%.

The operation of the OPTIS and the implementation of the Greater Manchester Multi-operator Smart Ticketing initiative will result in a substantial amount of
detailed performance information being available which will provide a comprehensive representation of bus service performance and evidence the requirement for further investment in bus priority measures.

A member reported that the AVL system on First Buses seems to work sporadically, and although it had a good start, the teething problems are becoming more evident. It was reported that this is probably more likely to drops in signal where data has not been transferred to the app. TfGM confirmed that all operators had an aspirational target of 95% coverage. First Manchester offered to feedback to the councillor on their issues with specific routes.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report.
2. First Manchester to feedback to Councillor Bayley regarding his concerns about the AVL system.

BN/15/48 RING AND RIDE PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Councillor Barry Warner took the Chair.

The sub committee received a report in relation to the delivery of Ring and Ride services by Greater Manchester Accessible Transport LTD (GMATL).

Bernard Rowan (Managing Director of GMATL) was invited to sit at the table for this item.

Between June – November 2015 there were 448,449 trips requested, this demonstrates a 1.3% reduction of patronage compared to the six month period prior (December 2014 – May 2015). During June – November 2015 all but one of the 10 districts exceeded the 5% refusal rate target, with Manchester recording a notably high rate of 9.2%.

During this period, GMATL operated 88.3% of their expected vehicle operating hours and received 46 complaints (0.01% of trips), 47.8% of which were relating to trip refusal.

Members of the Sub-committee requested clarification as to what classification is used if a passenger is unavailable to take their trip. It was confirmed that if a passenger was unavailable or changed their mind it would be classed as a cancelation. A refusal is when a request is made, but the service is unable to undertake this trip due to lack of capacity.

Members reported incidents of vehicles not turning up or being late. It was confirmed that at the time of booking passengers are advised that there is a 10
minute lee-way as vehicles cannot always run to time. Passengers can book between 7 days in advance, and up to 1 hour before travel.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report

BN/15/49  PASSENGER SHELTER UPDATE

The Sub-committee received a report on the number of passenger shelters presently installed throughout the conurbation and associated issues.

There are currently 12,496 bus stops throughout Greater Manchester, 4,432 of which are provided with a shelter. Of the 4,432 shelters, 3,556 are provided and maintained under the contract with JC Decaux and a further 848 are owned by TfGM. There are 23 active requests for additional shelters.

As part of the Regional Centre Bus Priority Package, TfGM initially proposed an ‘alighting only’ stop on Church Street, Manchester, following an appeal process it is now recommended not to install the stop as proposed. This decision has been taken due to anticipated low demand for services to run from the stop in the initial period, however this recommendation is subject to review if demand of City Centre services increases.

Resolved /-

1. To note the number of current and active requests for additional passenger shelters;
2. To note the outcomes of the latest patronage surveys and, for those stops that achieve the required patronage levels, endorse to progress with public consultation;
3. To endorse officers’ recommendations in relation to the proposal to install and ‘alighting only’ bus stop on Church Street, Manchester as part of the Regional Centre Cross City Works;
4. To note the information regarding shelter maintenance and cleaning.

BN/15/50  FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE BUS NETWORK

The sub committee received a report to inform members of the changes that have taken place to the bus network since the last meeting. Members were asked to provide guidance on proposed Transport for Greater Manchester action.

Annex A – Significant Changes to the Commercial Network. Members considered changes to services 481 and VH1. The committee was requested to note or agree changes to the commercial network and the proposals not to replace de-registered commercial services.
Annex B – Significant Changes to the Commercial Network. Members considered changes to service 511 and 81A. The committee was requested to agree that action is taken regarding the changed or deregistered services.

Annex C - Significant Changes to the Subsidised Network. Members considered changes to services 113, 362, 447, 635, 90, 91, 20, 246, 266/267, 252/260/261/262, 99, 44, 268, 194, 270, 178, 177, 70, 343/344, 389, 348, 202, 425, 406, 407, 412, 346, TD1 Broadheath Shuttle, 586, Salford Local Link, Little Lever and South Radcliffe Local Link, and Logistics North Local Link. Members thanked officers from TfGM for the high level of engagement with local authority members and the clarity of proposals included in this report.

A member questioned the details of the changes of the Logistics North Local Link, officers offered to discuss this further following the meeting.

A member further requested that the any promotional material regarding the Broadbottom Local Link be shared.

RESOLVED/-

1. TfGM to respond to Cllr Chadwick directly regarding the changes to the Logistics North Local Link.

2. TfGM to share promotional materials relating to the Broadbottom Local Link with Cllr Bray.

3. To note the changes to the commercial network and the proposals not to replace the deregistered commercial services, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

4. To approve the proposed actions in respect of the de-registered commercial services, as set out at Appendix B to the report.

5. To approve the proposed changes to the existing general subsidised services, as set out at Appendix C to the report.

BN/15/51 EXCLUSION OF 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 of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule12A, Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
BN/15/52 FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE BUS NETWORK

Members considered a paper that provided information relating to changes that have taken place to the bus network service since the last meeting. In addition to report on consequential action taken, or proposed, by TfGM in relation to services 81A, 20/246, 266/267, 252/260/261/262, 99, 268, 194, 270, 177/178, 343/344/389/406/407/421/425, 202, 70, Salford Local Link, Little Lever and South Radcliffe Local Link, and 113/362/447/635/Rossendale Local Link.

Further consideration to be given to service 268 which could potentially be required to be re-tendered.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report.
2. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee to award a re-tender for service 268 if required.

BN/15/53 SUPPLIER RATING UPDATE

A report was provided which updated the Sub-Committee on the most recent supplier ratings results.

RESOLVED/-

To note the report.

BN/15/54 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES BUDGET

A report was provided to members with regard to the current position on the 2015/16 subsidised bus services budget.

RESOLVED/-

To note the report.

BN/15/55 NEXT MEETING DATE

RESOLVED/-

To note the next meeting of the sub-committee will take place on 11 March 2016 at 2.00pm.