

Transport Committee

10 January 2019

Present: Councillor L Robinson, Chair
Councillor G Friel, Deputy Chair

Councillors A Carr, J Dodd, S Foulkes, P Hayes,
H Howard, D Johnson, A Lavelle, P McKinley,
M O'Mara OBE, G Pearl, G Philbin, J Stockton,
S Murphy, C Rowe, H Thompson, J Williams and
F Wynn

74. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dennis Baum, Jimmy Jackson, Keith Roberts and Nathalie Nicholas.

75. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Steve Foulkes declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 – Minutes of the last meeting by virtue of being one of the petitioners.

76. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Transport Committee held on 13 December 2018, be approved as a correct record.

77. **Developing a Mayoral Transport Plan**

The Committee considered a report from Huw Jenkins in relation to seeking the endorsement of the Transport Committee for the approach set out for the development of a clear, concise and updated transport policy statement in the form of a non-statutory Mayoral Transport Plan.

Members enquired about the detail of the Mayoral Transport Plan and the lack of details about the Local Industrial Strategy.

Huw Jenkins informed the Committee that the details would be submitted to the meeting being held in April 2019 subject to the local elections and Purdah.

Councillor Susan Murphy requested that recommendation 2.1(c) in the report be amended to include that the Chair of the Transport Committee provided regular updates to the Transport Committee.

The Committee agreed with the amendment to recommendation 2.1(c) in the report.

The Chair commented that it was a step in the right direction to develop the Mayoral Transport Plan which was similar to London and that the progress was being done in a practical way.

RESOLVED that the Transport Committee:

- a) endorses the approach set out in the report for the development of a non-statutory Mayoral Transport Plan to clearly articulate the City Region's vision and plans for transport;
- b) endorses the proposed timescales for its development with a view to the Transport Committee considering the draft document on 4 April 2019 ahead of its proposed adoption by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority on 12 April 2019 subject to the local elections and Purdah; and
- c) notes that the Chair of the Transport Committee and Metro Mayor would receive regular briefings on the development and contents of the Mayoral Transport Plan and that the Chair of the Transport Committee would provide regular updates to the Transport Committee.

78. **Merseyside Road Safety Partnership and Liverpool City Region Road Safety Strategy 2017-20**

The Committee considered a report from Sean Traynor (Head of Highways and Transportation, Knowsley MBC) and Rebecca Power (Merseyside Police) relating to an update to members on the progress made by the Merseyside Road Safety Partnership pursuant to casualty reduction in accordance with the vision set out in the Liverpool City Region Road Safety Strategy 2017-2020.

Members enquired about the smart pedestrian crossing designs and being able to see the "crossing lights" while crossing and the speed of the light change.

Sean Traynor informed the Committee that new traffic sign regulations were introduced in 2016 and there is no obligation to do things in a particular way. However, gold standard crossings are being adopted across the region.

Councillor John Stockton enquired about why Halton BC was being excluded from Road Safety Partnership meetings?

Sean Traynor informed the Committee that it was previously based upon the financial contributions between Cheshire and Merseyside, however, the issues have since been resolved and Halton BC are now invited to attend the Road Safety Partnership meetings.

Members enquired about reporting structures for cyclists relating to potholes on the roads and taxi drivers being in the media for drug use and suggested that the drug use could also be medication being used to stay awake and work longer hours.

Sean Traynor informed the Committee that the new website was recently launched and could facilitate any reports relating to near misses and potholes for both drivers and cyclists. He also stated that in relation to the taxi drivers, that although the figures are shocking relating to drug use, it is not prescribed medication. Collisions involving taxis have found that drivers were resorting to recreational drug use to extend working days and hours. He informed the Committee that initiatives were being looked at with licensing authorities and the police to do testing when issuing and renewing licences.

Members enquired if there was any information available about partnership working with schools and Local Authorities relating to road safety etc.

Sean Traynor informed the Committee that a strategy had been developed at Knowsley MBC and this would be shared with the Committee in due course.

Members commented about the national legislation relating to road safety and that there had been major breakthroughs to have legislation and enforcement relating to mobiles phones, seatbelts and drink-driving, however, more needed to be done to lobby the Government about helmets for cyclists and "close passing" when cycling.

Sean Traynor informed the Committee that the Road Safety Partnership was looking at endorsing a strategy and supporting national initiatives related to helmets and "close passing".

The Chair stated that some examples should be taken from specific US States that had "close passing" and wearing of helmet laws and that some consideration should be given to creating local by-laws and lobbying Government for national legislation. He also commented that in relation to taxi drivers and drug use that there is a small minority doing this illegal practice and that a stronger approach was needed to randomly test bus, train and taxi drivers.

Sean Traynor informed the Committee that steps were being explored with local licensing authorities, but it needed to be a more City Region approach.

The Chair thanked Sean Traynor and Rebecca Power for the detailed report and for their attendance.

RESOLVED that the Transport Committee notes the contents of the report and the Action Plan Updates in Appendix 1.

79. **Liverpool City Region Smart Ticketing Programme Update**

The Committee considered a report from Paul Hart that provided an update to members on the current development of the Liverpool City Region Smart Ticketing Platform including recent progress and future developments.

Members commented about the Apprentice Ticket and the efforts of the Metro Mayor to reduce the barriers for young people to travel and work in the City Region and enquired if there were any data about the “take up” and how was it being advertised and whether consideration was being given to pre-loaded Walrus cards to make it easier for customers to travel across multi-modes.

Paul Hart informed the Committee that the “take up” had been slow to date mainly due to the launch being in the middle of the apprentice year. However, once the system is embedded, then there will be a bit more opportunity to advertise and would provide the Committee with an update at a future meeting. He also stated that various opportunities were being looked at to promote travel across the City Region and make it easier for customers to move across the region. Discussions were being held with organisations about costs and impact.

Councillor Patrick McKinley commented that in order for Apprenticeships to be aware of the reduction in travel costs and the schemes available for travel across the City Region it would be best to include the information in the apprentice’s induction programme and to inform all providers of the schemes and reduced travel costs.

RESOLVED that the Transport Committee noted the contents of the report.

80. **Williams Rail Review**

The Committee considered a report from Tom Carbery (Rail Development Advisor) that described the “Williams Rail Review” and advised that proposed responses to it were being collated and also sought delegated authority to approve the final response to the “Call for Evidence” on behalf of the Combined Authority.

The Chair commented that the timescales for the review were unreasonable and was proving difficult for the officers to collate the evidence and respond by 18th January 2019, but it seemed as though the Government had their minds made up regarding the rail review.

Members commented that it is an amazing vision for a world class railway, but the Government have appointed a British Airways former Chair who knows nothing about the railway. Members thanked the Officers for bringing it to the attention of the Committee, despite the views of the Government and despite Northern Rail hiking the prices up despite the poor performance.

The following amendment was circulated to the Committee and proposed by Councillor Gordon Friel and seconded by Councillor Liam Robinson, to insert at the end of recommendations (a) and (b): -

- c) Recognise that public ownership and operation is a model shown to work should be implemented across the UK Rail Network.
- d) That the ROSCO (Rolling Stock Leasing Company) model is significantly more costly and a publicly owned system, similar to the publicly owned model being used to procure the new Merseyrail Rolling Stock, should be introduced across the UK Rail Network.

In accordance to Standing Order 14.4, Councillor Susan Murphy proposed a recorded vote, seconded by Councillor Gordon Friel.

Councillor Christopher Rowe commented that the amendment was interesting, but lacked detail and understanding of the financial issues being discussed and that he did not have enough information to make an informed decision and to vote for the proposed amendment.

Members commented that they were happy to support the proposed amendment and that information and feedback from local residents was enough to make an informed decision and support the amendment.

A vote was taken on the Amendment, when there appeared: -

FOR THE AMENDMENT

Councillor Liam Robinson
Councillor Gordon Friel
Councillor Anthony Carr

Councillor Steve Foulkes
Councillor Harry Howard
Councillor Dot Johnson
Councillor Anthony Lavelle
Councillor Patrick McKinley
Councillor Margi O'Mara
OBE
Councillor Ged Philbin
Councillor John Stockton
Councillor Susan Murphy
Councillor Helen Thompson
Councillor Jerry Williams

**AGAINST THE
AMENDMENT**

Councillor Paul Hayes

ABSTENTIONS

Councillor John Dodd
Councillor Geoff Pearl
Councillor Christopher
Rowe
Councillor Frances Wynn

For the Amendment – 14

Against the Amendment – 1

Abstentions - 4

The Amendment was approved.

A vote was then taken on the following Substantive recommendation and it was approved by a majority: -

RESOLVED that the Transport Committee:

- a) notes the contents of the report;
- b) delegate authority to submit the final City Region consultation response to the Director of Integrated Transport and the Director of Policy and Strategic Commissioning, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Transport Committee;
- c) recognise that public ownership and operation is a model shown to work should be implemented across the UK Rail Network; and
- d) notes that the ROSCO (Rolling Stock Leasing Company) model is significantly more costly and a publicly owned system, similar to the publicly owned model being used to procure the new Merseyrail Rolling Stock, should be introduced across the UK Rail Network.

The Chair informed the Committee that once the full response was collated and agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair that it would be circulated to the Committee.

81. **Public Question Time**

The Committee received two public questions from Mr Andrew Wennell who was in attendance and was provided an opportunity to ask his questions to the Committee as follows: -

Question 1

Most people start their journey by bus but are unable to purchase Saveaways on the bus or online at home. So need to go to a local shop or the train station which could also require a bus journey. Is this going to be possible to make it easier for the public?

The Chair thanked Me Wennell for submitting his question and for attending the meeting and informed him that a formal response would be provided within 10 working days.

Question 2

What is going to be the end result of this? It has been going on for months. Always on a Saturday, well if they want to cause maximum disruption do it during the week. What's the news in relation to this?

The Chair thanked Me Wennell for submitting his question and for attending the meeting and informed him that a formal response would be provided within 10 working days.

82. **Petitions and Statements**

No petitions or statements were submitted for this meeting.

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

There was no other urgent business.

CHAIR

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