

Cardiff Capital Region
Regional Transport Authority Meeting
 10.00am on 3 March 2022
 Remote Meeting using Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present

Members

Cllr Huw David (Chair)
 Cllr Dai Davies
 Cllr Stuart Baldwin
 Cllr James Pritchard
 Cllr Caro Wild
 Cllr Geraint Thomas
 Cllr Jane Pratt
 Cllr Roger Jeavons
 Cllr Rhys Lewis
 Cllr Peter King

Bridgend County Borough Council
 Blaenau-Gwent County Borough Council
 Bridgend County Borough Council
 Caerphilly County Borough Council
 Cardiff Council
 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
 Monmouthshire County Council
 Newport City Council
 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
 Vale of Glamorgan Council

Officers

Andrew Gregory
 Jason Dixon
 Alun Evans
 Richard Cope
 Frances O'Brien
 Kellie Beirne
 Clare Cameron
 Nicola Butler
 Katherine Painter (minutes)
 Roger Waters
 Stephen Jarrett
 Emma Reed

Cardiff Council
 Cardiff Council
 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
 Monmouthshire Council
 Monmouthshire Council
 Office of the Cardiff Capital Region
 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
 Torfaen County Borough Council
 Vale of Glamorgan Council

Observers

Stephen Rowan
 Tim Peppin

Welsh Government
 Welsh Local Government Association

Apologies

Cllr Andrew Morgan (Vice Chair)
 Cllr Ann Crimmings
 Cllr Amanda Owen

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
 Torfaen County Borough Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

- Cllr David opened the meeting and apologies were noted as above

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were given

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 September 2021 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting as moved by Cllr. Ann Crimmings and seconded by Cllr G. Thomas.

4. Metro Plus Update Local Transport Fund (LTF) BID 2022/23 (including Phase 2 Development Funding, CVL Enhancement and Metro Enhancement Fund (MEF).

Appendix 1 to this report is exempt from publication because it contains information of the kind described in paragraphs 14 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person) and 21 (public interest test) of parts 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

- (1) Roger Waters outlined the attached report.
- Cllr David reminded attendees that whilst the report is public, the Appendix contains information exempt from publication under Local Government Act 1972

The Board discussed the item:

- Officers met with Welsh Government yesterday regarding the bid. The result of the bid will be embargoed with Purdah caveats.
- Good progress on the metro enhancement framework is being made in several areas across the region and it was agreed that it will be important to come together as a CJC during the next financial year to develop RTP. City Deal funding has acted as a catalyst to enable the Metro programme to be delivered.

- (2) The motion to accept the recommendations of the report was moved by Cllr. Ann Crimmings and seconded by Cllr G. Thomas.

- (3) Cllr Pritchard queried the timescale on approval and embargo.
- Roger Waters explained that Purdah period means that projects cannot be presented to the public by Local Authorities although work could commence if funding is allocated.

5. ULEV Update To receive the Report of the Director of the Cardiff Capital Region

The Board discussed the item:

- Roger Waters explained that it was beneficial to take this work forward as a region wide programme, with information distributed to individual Local Authorities.

An update on progress was given:

- £4.8 million has been allocated to Local Authorities, details set out in section 5
 - SWARCO has been appointed to deliver taxi chargers – there will be 34 chargers across the region with the work being completed by the end of May
 - 44 Taxi vehicles have been purchased and are being used by taxi operatives
 - Initial feedback indicates that there is still work to do and a report to board has been proposed in around six months.
 - A workshop will be held on 15-16 March where Local Authorities will be advised how to download data to feed into climate change strategies at local level
 - A contract has been awarded to Connected Kerb for public charging points. They will be delivering 159 sites and this work will continue into the 22/23 financial year. Additional funding will be necessary to achieve this.
 - CCR hopes to expand beyond 159 sites and will bid to Central Government for further charging points. Up to 75% funding is available so match-funding will be needed. CCR are working with Welsh Government on this.
 - Car clubs proposal is progressing and the need for a scheme which is affordable to all was highlighted.
 - CCR are the first region to look at the challenges around decarbonising school transport and the outcomes will become a formal finalised report to be fed into the Welsh Government task force on decarbonising bus transport. Challenges such as limited mileage and the need to reduce the age of fleet were explored at the previous briefing session.
 - Key findings are set out in point 1-9 within the report. Good progress was reported across region.
 - Recommendations at point 24
- 4) Cllr Baldwin asked about barriers to the Taxi Try Before You Buy scheme. With less than 50% take-up, a better evidence base is needed to encourage people to make the initial capital outlay for more expensive vehicle. Roger Waters explained that taxi charge points are not fully up and operational, and once this work is completed by the end of the month, more positive feedback will hopefully be reported.
- (5) Cllr Baldwin discussed pioneering work on electric/hybrid approach in other parts of UK and asked what do we need to change the thinking of taxi drivers on this.
- Kellie said that there are issues around behavioural change and technology adaptation, which we need to work through. Kellie highlighted the UK Government's electric programme but

conceded that there are economic difficulties presently such as a shortage of silicone semiconductors and companies not being well capitalised. Kellie explained that we need a strategy to fund companies to facilitate their passing public procurement requirements. Kellie stressed that it will be important to consider how to enable the sector to progress. There is much work to do which will be challenging especially considering current geopolitical tensions.

- Cllr David highlighted local level lack of charging points as barriers and said that hopefully take-up will increase as we roll out infrastructure. It was agreed that there is a shortage of silicone semiconductors, an issue which will take several years to resolve.
- Cllr Pritchard raised the question of procurement and moving from a 100% price model. Cllr Pritchard asked about timescales and highlighted that there is a need to bring emissions down dramatically.
- Kellie explained that a standard procurement process may not be suitable in this instance and explained that colleagues in Cardiff have procured similar infrastructure, with the weighting of their approach focussing on about the end result. Kellie explained that the first three companies which CCR had worked with were not sufficiently capitalised to support longer term roll out due to high risk and that this needed to be approached as an innovation partnership rather than conventional compliant tendering process. Kellie confirmed that Clare is working with Rob and Gareth on the Challenge Fund and ULEV Fleet Project and are trialling ways to make this work.
- Cllr King raised the issue of noise and whether the public would be concerned about ULEV being noiseless. Kellie confirmed that this is an issue which the Government and DFT are looking at nationally as this potentially changes the highway code. Kellie will ask Clare for more evidence from the Knowledge Transfer Network

ACTION: Kellie to liaise with Clare for more information

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- Rob O'Dwyer confirmed that work is being done on a national level on ULEV noise safety concerns. Rob explained that we can determine our own specific requirements due to our procurement policy, which will enable us to drive what we wish to see with regards to ULEV in the region and start to change the culture.
- Cllr Pratt agreed that infrastructure will be key to developing ULEV. Cllr Pratt highlighted the work of Andy Burnham in Manchester and stressed that CCR could take examples from his work. Cllr Pratt said that Monmouthshire had trialled electric buses in last few weeks but had found challenges including charging as the range of the buses required them to charge at lunchtime. Therefore there were logistical problems, and depots to operate from were required. Cllr Pratt said that there was a need to look at a new depot to the South of the County which could cope with electric and hydrogen for the future. Cllr Pratt also highlighted issues obtaining

batteries and the subsequent need to reorder vehicles. Cllr Pratt mentioned the benefit of electric waste vehicles which included lack of pollution for operatives working on them.

- Cllr Jeavons mentioned issues around bigger vehicles and noise safety and explained that many already have reversing sensors.
- Rob O'Dwyer confirmed contact with Greater Manchester. Rob explained that the key to escalation is capitalisation opportunities for companies who provide batteries. Approaches have been made to companies to help them get schemes off ground, however there is a need to collaborate with private partners to help bring about more charging points, which will help change the culture and reliability of electric vehicles.
- Kellie said that all information around accessibility and impact was being collated through Challenge Fund work through ULEV, led by various authorities and that a comprehensive report would be available at the next RTA Meeting. Kellie said that RTA is a significant body which will develop as subcommittee with CJC and suggested that discussions and meetings with Transport for Greater Manchester and other authorities would be beneficial. Kellie suggested that some study tours could be organised after local elections. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to see different initiatives and that if colleagues are happy with this, we can explore possibilities.

6. Any Other Business

- (1) Kellie highlighted press enquiries about the announcement of the purchase of the Aberthaw site today. Kellie confirmed that plans for Aberthaw are for the site to be a green energy hub, and that part of this could be green hydrogen production.
 - (2) Cardiff Council are submitting a bid to the Levelling Up Fund regarding Cardiff Cross Rail. It was agreed that this could have a significant impact and it would be good to have a regional endorsement. Cllr Gregory gave more information on the bid and asked for endorsement. Cllr David confirmed that he would be happy to endorse and for CCRD to be identified as a partner.
- Cllr Thomas asked whether the same support would be available for the Merthyr and Caerphilly interchanges. Cllr David confirmed that all bids are of regional significance and are crucial to transport in the region. Support will be provided and framed in any way necessary.
 - Kellie said that as the Cabinet Meeting on 14th March was the last before pre-elections, it would be beneficial to submit a report to explain how all these bids fit in with Cardiff Crossrail and the need to put into a regional contract with Cardiff Cross Rail as the spine. Kellie asked for all information by end of the week in order to obtain one endorsement from Regional Cabinet.

Kellie left the meeting at 10.59

Meeting closed at 11.04

Date of Next Meeting: 10.00am-12.00pm on 14 July 22

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg