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Title: Impact of COVID-19 on London's transport network

### **Executive Summary**

The Transport Committee meeting on 15 June 2020 was used to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London's transport network with the Deputy Mayor for Transport and senior officers at Transport for London (TfL). At the meeting, the Committee resolved:

*That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the meeting.*

Following the meeting, the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Leaders, agreed a letter to the Rail Delivery Group requesting further information as part of its investigation, as attached at Appendix 1.

### **Decision**

That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to agree a letter to the Rail Delivery Group on the impact of COVID-19 on London's transport network, as attached at Appendix 1.

### **Assembly Member**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

**Signature**

**Date**

3 September 2020



**Printed Name** Dr Alison Moore AM (Chair, Transport Committee)

## Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Notes:

1. The Lead Officer should prepare this form for signature by relevant Members of the Assembly to record any instance where the Member proposes to take action under a specific delegated authority. The purpose of the form is to record the advice received from officers, and the decision made.
2. **The 'background' section (below) should be used to include an indication as to whether the information contained in / referred to in this Form should be considered as exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). If so, the specimen Annexe (attached below) should be used. If this form does deal with exempt information, you must submit both parts of this form for approval together.**

### Background and proposed next steps:

The Transport Committee meeting on 15 June 2020 was used to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London's transport network with the Deputy Mayor for Transport and senior officers at Transport for London (TfL). At the meeting, the Committee resolved:

*That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to agree any output from the meeting.*

Following the meeting, the Chair used this delegation to agree a letter to the Rail Delivery Group requesting further information as part of its investigation, as attached at Appendix 1.

The letter will be reported back to the next suitable meeting of the Transport Committee, currently scheduled for October 2020.

This delegation has also been used to agree a letter to the Deputy Mayor for Transport on the same topic. That letter and the use of the delegation was reported back to the Committee meeting held on 22 July 2020.

### Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision

Signed by Committee Services



Date 27/7/20

Print Name:

Laura Pelling

Tel: X. 5526

### Financial implications NOT REQUIRED

**NOTE: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.**

Signed by Finance


Date .....

Print Name

Tel: .....

### Legal implications

The Transport Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signed by Legal  Date 28 July 2020.....

Print Name Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer Tel: X 4399

**Supporting detail/List of Consultees:** Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair), Keith Prince AM, David Kurten AM, Caroline Russell AM

**Public Access to Information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

**Part 1 – Deferral**  
**Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? No**


Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

**Part 2 – Sensitive information**

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

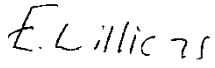
**Is there a part 2 form - No**

**Lead Officer/Author**

Signed  Date 25 August 2020

Print Name **Haley Bowcock, Senior Policy Advisor** Tel: x 4880

Job Title

Countersigned by Executive Director  Date 26 August 2020

Print Name **Ed Williams** Tel: X4399

## Chair of the Transport Committee

### **Dr Alison Moore AM**

Londonwide London Assembly Member



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4 September 2020

#### **Paul Plummer**

Chief Executive, Rail Delivery Group  
2nd Floor, 200 Aldersgate St  
London EC1A 4HD  
(By email)

Dear Paul,

#### **Impact of COVID-19 on London's Transport Network**

On 15 June 2020, the London Assembly Transport Committee held a meeting with Transport for London (TfL) to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on London's transport network. The Committee is aware of the scale and complexity of the COVID-19 crisis, and how this has affected, and continues to affect, how people live and move around the capital.

Rail Delivery Group (RDG) members play a crucial role in London's transport network, particularly at key interchanges. We commend RDG members' work to help maintain transport services during the first few months of the crisis, and for the continued efforts to keep rail staff and Londoners safe in their essential journeys.

As such, several pertinent areas arose during the Committee's June meeting that would greatly benefit from RDG's insight. This would deepen the Committee's understanding of the pandemic's impact on London's transport network, particularly given that demand on rail services is anticipated to increase considerably as lockdown restrictions continue to be eased.

#### *Ensuring safety across London's transport network*

We are aware that the RDG has helped the rail industry implement a range of measures to ensure the safety of the network during COVID-19, and welcome this. At the June meeting, the Committee was informed that the RDG is "taking a lead... to ensure that we have consistency across the rail industry and make sure that we follow Public Health England

(PHE) advice and also apply it in a practical way so that we can maintain those essential, safety-critical roles.”<sup>1</sup>

The requirement for passengers to wear face coverings on public transport became mandatory on 15 June 2020 and is being enforced on all transport services, and compliance is being enforced by British Transport Police. Passengers who refuse to wear a face covering can be fined up to £100 for noncompliance. Passengers can also be barred from travelling. With the recent change in guidance, and with expected rises in passenger numbers, the Committee is concerned about the safety risks posed to frontline workers monitoring compliance. **It would be helpful for the Committee if you could provide any details from your membership that operate in London relating to:**

- **The current levels of compliance in the wearing of face masks, and how this has changed since they were made mandatory on 15 June;**
- **How they are currently ensuring passenger compliance, and their plans to maintain this as passenger numbers increase; and,**
- **Any measures to ensure the safety of workers monitoring compliance.**

We are conscious that BAME members of society in particular, as well as men and older people, are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The report from Public Health England released on 16 June 2020, *Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups*, for instance, highlighted the disproportionate mortality rate among black and Asian men. In Deputy Mayor for Transport, Heidi Alexander’s opening remarks to the Committee on 15 June 2020, she drew our attention to those frontline transport workers across the TfL network and rail network who have lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2</sup> TfL staff have been required by the Mayor of London to conduct self-report risk assessments to help those who are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. **The Committee would welcome information about any measures that RDG members are taking to ensure the safety of BAME colleagues.**

#### *Managing key transport interchanges*

Despite the safety practices implemented across London’s transport network, we recognise that interchange stations can pose difficulties with inconsistencies in messaging and safety measures between TfL and other railway operating companies. On 15 June 2020 the Committee was informed that there has been frequent communication and collaboration with The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport, as well as senior representatives at Network Rail and National Rail members of the RDG to discuss TfL and Department for Transport (DfT) matters during the pandemic.<sup>3</sup> **Considering the large number of interchange stations across the capital, the Committee would value any information you can provide about:**

- **Any measures your members have put in place to ensure continuity of messaging and to guarantee that safety remains high across all interchanges;**

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<sup>1</sup> London Assembly Transport Committee (15 June 2020), *Item 9 – Impact of COVID-19 on London’s Transport Network*, <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/b19239/Draft%20Minutes%20-%20Appendix%201%20-%20COVID-19%20and%20Londons%20Transport%20Network%20Monday%2015-Jun-2020%2014.00%20Tran.pdf?T=9>, pg. 29.

<sup>2</sup> London Assembly Transport Committee (15 June 2020), *Item 9 – Impact of COVID-19 on London’s Transport Network*, pg.1.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, pg.6.

- Any innovations that your members have introduced to help passengers use the train network safely at this time;
- How consideration is given to the safety and access needs of passengers with disabilities and sensory impairments, including, but not limited to, signage, messaging and direct assistance measures in the context of social distancing; and,
- What work your members have undertaken with Network Rail to help manage demand and passenger flow in ways that maintain social distancing.

There are additional measures that could be considered by DfT, TfL and train operating companies to assist passengers to choose alternative routes with greater carriage space to help ensure social distancing as passenger numbers increase over the coming weeks and months. For instance, as the Committee identified during its investigation into improving the accessibility of public transport in London,<sup>4</sup> raising awareness of the availability of Thameslink would open up a significant part of the transport network for everyone, in particular for disabled and older passengers. This could be achieved by TfL adding Thameslink to the Tube Map. Also, DfT could consider incorporating the Southeastern High Speed route between St Pancras International and Stratford International in the Travelcard zonal system. As pointed out by London TravelWatch, this would mean a lower fare for passengers wanting to travel on the route from Stratford to central and West London, and so could help ease the pressure on the Central and Jubilee lines.

The Committee appreciates any support you can give to our ongoing investigation. **We would appreciate a response by 30 September 2020.** Please contact Haley Bowcock ([haley.bowcock@london.gov.uk](mailto:haley.bowcock@london.gov.uk)), Senior Policy Adviser, if you have any questions about the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Dr Alison Moore AM**  
Chair, Transport Committee

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<sup>4</sup> London Assembly Transport Committee, 2020: [From Step-Free to Stress-Free: Accessible and inclusive transport in London](#)