

MDA No.: 1539

Title: Transport in Outer London

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the Transport Committee meeting on 5 September 2023 the Committee resolved that:

Authority be delegated to the Chairman, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the meeting.

1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chairman agreed the Committee's letter to the Secretary of State for Transport on transport in outer London, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Decision

2.1 **That the Chairman, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, agrees the Committee's letter to the Secretary of State for Transport on transport in outer London, 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:



Printed Name: Keith Prince AM, Chairman of the Transport Committee

Date: 18 January 2024

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The terms of reference for this investigation were agreed by the Chairman, in consultation with relevant party Lead Group Members and the Deputy Chair, under the standing authority granted to Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees. Officers confirm that the letter and its recommendations fall within these terms of reference.
- 3.2 The exercise of delegated authority approving the letter will be formally noted at the Transport Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): P. Goodchild

Printed Name: Paul Goodchild, Principal Committee Manager

Date: 17 January 2024

Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

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


Signature (Finance): Not Required

Printed Name:

Date:

Legal Implications:

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

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Rory McKenna, Monitoring Officer

Date: 18.01.24

Email: rory.mckenna@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- *Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM*
- *Elly Baker AM*
- *Sian Berry AM*

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 **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

If yes, until what date:

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


Signature: R. Clarke

Printed Name: Richard Clarke

Job Title: Senior Policy Advisor – Transport and Environment

Date: 17 January 2024

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen, Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 17 January 2024

LONDON ASSEMBLY

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Keith Prince AM
Chairman of the Transport Committee

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

(Sent by email)

22 January 2024

Dear Mark,

I am writing to share the findings of the London Assembly Transport Committee's investigation into Transport in Outer London. The Committee are writing to the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, with recommendations on a number of issues, but there are four areas that we want to write to the Government about, as these are more directly within your control.

The Committee held two meetings on this topic, in July and September 2023. The first meeting focused on the strategic challenges of improving transport in Outer London, and included the following guests:

- Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor for Transport and Deputy Chair of Transport for London (TfL),
- Geoff Hobbs, Director of Public Transport Service Planning, TfL,
- Councillor Barry Lewis, Chair, Environment and Sustainable Transport Committee, London Borough of Sutton,
- Neil Stubbings, Executive Director for Place, London Borough of Havering,
- Alex Smith, Heads of Campaigns, London TravelWatch,

- Madeleine Stewart, Policy and Public Affairs Lead, Transport for All,¹ and
- Josh Cottell, Head of Research, Centre for London.

The meeting in July 2023 also explored the experience of disabled travellers, including the potential impact of proposals from the Rail Delivery Group to close ticket offices. The second meeting in September 2023 explored the issues affecting travellers in Outer London further, with a particular focus on metro rail services, and included the following guests:

- Councillor Deirdre Costigan, Acting Chair, Transport and Environment Committee, London Councils (also Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Ealing Council)
- Councillor Nicholas Bennet JP, Executive Member for Transport, Highways and Road Safety, London Borough of Bromley,
- Geoff Hobbs, Director of Public Transport Service Planning, TfL,
- Angie Doll, Chief Operating Officer, Govia Thameslink Railway,
- Claire Mann, Managing Director, South Western Railway, and
- Steve White, Managing Director, Southeastern.

For information I attach a copy of the letter to the Mayor.

The findings I wanted to highlight to you relate to:

- Integration of contactless travel outside London and reforms to pricing
- Plans for ticket offices
- Devolution of suburban rail services
- The need for long-term capital funding

1. Integration of contactless travel outside London and reforms to pricing

The Committee heard in September 2023 from senior representatives from some of the train operating companies that cover London. Angie Doll, Chief Operating Officer of Govia Thameslink, outlined the Department for Transport (DfT)-funded project to upgrade and install barcode readers on 40 of the TfL-managed stations where there is an interface with Govia Thameslink services.² Geoff Hobbs, Director of Public Transport Service Planning at TfL told the Committee about the project to expand contactless readers to 53 stations across the wider southeast of England in the immediate Home Counties.³ These were due to go live in December 2023, but while single-leg travel has been introduced (including a new evening peak), the contactless service is yet to go live – and it has been reported that this has been delayed to spring 2024 at the earliest.⁴ **The Committee welcomes these moves to better integrate travel between London and the surrounding areas, which include the introduction of single-leg pricing on some routes. The Committee considers that there is the potential for further reform of rail pricing and integration with TfL systems across a wider area, and that new contactless services should be introduced as soon as possible.**

¹ Madeleine Stewart has since left this role

² London Assembly, [London Assembly Transport Committee Meeting \(part 2\)](#), 5 September 2023, p.6

³ London Assembly, [London Assembly Transport Committee Meeting \(part 2\)](#), 5 September 2023, p.17;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/53-train-stations-to-benefit-from-tap-in-tap-out-rollout>

⁴ Evening Standard , [Rail commuters warned of new peak-hour fares as Contactless plan is delayed](#) 2 December 2023

2. Plans for ticket offices and need to ensure all are fully staffed

As part of the investigation, the Committee heard from London TravelWatch and Transport for All in July 2023 about their concerns that the proposed ticket office closures would have on passengers.⁵ As a result, the Committee responded to the London TravelWatch consultation on ticket office closures stating that the proposals should not proceed unless measures were taken to ensure that stations remain accessible to all, including any ticket machines continuing to be fully accessible to disabled passengers with a full range of impairments, and that more thorough consultation and equalities impact assessments be carried out.⁶ We were therefore pleased when the decision was announced not to proceed with the planned closures, and that there are plans to consult on a draft National Rail Accessibility Strategy this year.⁷ During our meeting in September, the Managing Director of Southeastern, Steve White said that, pending the outcome of consultation on the future of ticket offices, they had “not been recruiting people to fill ticket office vacancies.”⁸ **The Committee considers that staff at stations including rail ticket offices are important to assisting with passenger journeys, and that all should be fully staffed.**

3. Devolution of suburban rail services

As discussed, the Committee welcome the changes to ticketing arrangements around suburban rail services which cover Outer London and surrounding areas. The Committee consider in principle that greater devolution and metroisation⁹ of rail services would benefit passengers, particularly in Outer London and those travelling between London and surrounding areas. **The Committee considers it to be a good moment for the Government and TfL to look again at the case for further devolution of rail services.**

4. The need for long-term capital funding

In its investigation, the Committee heard that there is a need for new strategic infrastructure projects in Outer London, including those that support housing projects and improved access to jobs and other services. Some of these include Beam Park Station, the Docklands Light Railway extension to Thamesmead, and the West London Orbital railway, as well as potentially exploring new tram services.

The Committee welcomes the additional £235 million in funding provided to boroughs to resurface roads over the next 11 years.¹⁰ However, a multi-year, long-term capital funding settlement for TfL is vital to allow effective planning of new projects. While now too late for this year’s budget process, **the Committee considers that the Government should agree a multi-year funding agreement with TfL as a priority.**

⁵ [London Assembly Transport Committee Meeting](#), 13 July 2023

⁶ [Ticket Office Closures Letter | London City Hall](#)

⁷ DfT, [Transport Secretary responds to Passenger Bodies on Ticket Office Consultation](#) 31 Oct 2023

⁸ London Assembly, [London Assembly Transport Committee Meeting \(part 2\)](#), 5 September 2023, p19

⁹ <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/developing-the-rail-network>

¹⁰ Department for Transport, [Government invests £235 million to upgrade and repair roads across London](#), 20 December 2023

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Keith Prince AM

Chairman of the Transport Committee