
Confidential Minutes

Agenda item 15
Drafted 29.9.09

Minutes of a meeting of the London TravelWatch Board on 29 September 2009 held at City Hall, London.

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Present

Members

David Barry; Terry Bennett; Onjali Bodrul; Kevin Davis; Gail Engert; Daniel Francis; Sharon Grant (Chair); David Leibling; Sarah Pond; Andrew Probert; Lorna Reith (Deputy Chair)

Secretariat

Tim Bellenger	Director, Research and Development
Carmel Cannon	Senior Committee Administrator
John Cartledge	Safety and Policy Advisor
Janet Cooke	Chief Executive
Mark Donoghue	Committee Administrator
Rufus Impey	Senior Policy Officer

1 Pre meeting session

Members were concerned that the Business plan had not been approved by the Executive Group before being tabled, and felt that they could not approve the budget on such a summary document. Mr Barry suggested that the process of sign-off may be improved by delegation, in this case specifically from the Board to the Executive group – at least in practice if not in legal terms. The Chair reported that there had been timing issues in this instance. Members also queried the early preparation of this plan, so far ahead of the beginning of the financial year. The Chief Executive explained that Greater London Authority budgets were agreed at this stage and so London TravelWatch was required to present its business plan for approval at the same time (in this case, on 20 October 2009).

2 Confidential minutes

The confidential minutes of 30 June 2009 were agreed and signed for the record.

3 Meeting review

Members were critical of Network Rail's presentation, because it was felt that it gave a less than full account of the current financial position surrounding the project and its implications. The Director, Research and Development pointed out that there was a clear interface between Network Rail and the DfT and that clearly there are some discussions going on about the scoping of the London Bridge projects. The Chair said it was important for London TravelWatch to have laid down a benchmark and have had assurances that we would be made aware of any changes to the projects as soon as they are available. To this end, the Chair offered to write to DfT raising concerns at the prospect of any reduction in this project.

Action: Chair

Members were concerned that the slot with Mr Ranger could have been better utilised by London TravelWatch, but the Deputy Chair pointed out that it was worthwhile his attending even if he does not reveal as much as we would like. TfL's business plan and fares rises would be discussed at the next Board meeting. Members requested that David Brown of London Buses be invited to speak to the Board in the near future, as well as perhaps the Greater London Authority Economics department.

Action : Committee Services

It was also felt that London TravelWatch should push TfL to research passengers' preferences for blockades on the Underground network.

It was agreed that the Board Briefing scheduled for 20 October would be an afternoon session only as the business plan would be presented to the London Assembly Transport Committee that morning. The briefing would begin at 13.30, with lunch, and one of the issues to be discussed would be relationships with boroughs.