

**AT A MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT
AUTHORITY HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE
ON FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2006**

PRESENT: Councillor J S King (Chair)

Councillors D Blackburn, D Congreve, R Downes, C Greaves,
K Hussain, B Hyde, J Jarosz, S Khan, M Lyons, P McBride,
G Phelps, D Schofield, M Slater, T Swift, C Townsley,
G Wainwright and M Walker

36. BRITAIN'S TOP 100 EMPLOYERS

Members were advised that Metro had been included in The Guardian's 100 Top Employers in the UK. Independent researchers and a panel of advisors from the Corporate Research Foundation (CRF) rated Metro 15th in their nationwide search for the best examples of Human Resources management, making it the highest placed public sector organisation. Members congratulated officers on their achievement, which recognised their dedication and hard work.

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Rhodes, E Smaje, C Smith and A Wallace.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor K Hussain declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7, Social Services Liaison Group, Minute 5, AccessBus Update and Agenda Item 10, Taxi Liaison Group minutes and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillors R Downes, B Hyde and S Khan declared personal interests in Agenda Item 6, Tendered Services Working Group, Minute 15, Service 737 Bradford – Leeds Bradford International Airport and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

**39. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON
28 JULY 2006**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 28 July 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

40. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2006

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Appointed Members held on 8 August 2006 be approved.

41. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2006

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Tendered Services Working Group held on 24 August 2006 be noted.

42. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2006

Further to minute 4, Travel Training Update, it was reported that Metro had previously written to District Councils advising them of the assistance the Travel Training team could give to their authorities but only Leeds and Bradford had responded positively. Further information would be sent to the District Councils to encourage participation in the wider roll out of the scheme.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Social Services Liaison Group held on 4 September 2006 be noted.

43. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT PLANNING LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2006

Further to minute 5, Decriminalised Parking Enforcement, it was reported that Calderdale MBC would be implementing a scheme in November whereby their traffic wardens would be provided with electric scooters to patrol the areas for decriminalised parking. Metro had brokered an agreement with bus operators for Kirklees wardens to travel free on buses when on duty. Comment was made that the Authority had previously approved expenditure for additional policing in problem areas and that other enforcement exercises throughout West Yorkshire, similar to the one carried on The Headrow in Leeds, were currently being considered.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Highways & Transport Planning Liaison Group held on 5 September 2006 be noted.

44. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2006

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Development & Environment Working Group held on 8 September 2006 be noted.

45. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TAXI LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2006

Concern was expressed regarding the amount of illegal taxis picking passengers up and private hire drivers plying for hire and requested that a report be prepared for a future meeting of the Taxi Liaison Group.

RESOLVED -

- (a)** That the minutes of the meeting of the Taxi Liaison Group held on 11 September 2006 be noted.
- (b)** That a report be submitted to the Taxi Liaison Group on illegal taxis and private hire drivers plying for hire.

46. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONCESSIONARY FARES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2006

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Concessionary Fares Working Group held on 11 September 2006 be noted.

47. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2006

Further to minute 10, Education and Inspections Bill, members were advised that each Local Education Authority would explore the new rules for Home to School transport, but it was possible that an application from West Yorkshire for Pathfinder Authorities would be welcomed due to the unique partnership arrangements in the county and the innovative approach to school travel.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Education Liaison Group held on 12 September 2006 be noted.

48. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACILITIES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2006

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Facilities Working Group held on 13 September 2006 be noted.

49. MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BUS AND TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUPS HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2006

Councillor Congreve welcomed the Best Value Review of Accessible Transport but was disappointed that it could be 2015 before all buses were low floor accessible. He made reference to the fact that in certain areas, such as Holbeck where car ownership was low, there was only one bus per hour

that was low floor accessible making it extremely difficult for passengers with pushchairs or wheelchair users.

Further comment was made that many complaints were received regarding low floor vehicles not pulling up to the kerb properly. It was recognised that sometimes this was because of illegally parked vehicles, but in other cases it was due to the drivers. It was reported that this issue and other driver behaviour complaints were a major area of concern that had been raised regularly at meetings with operators.

Members were reminded of the WYTESA initiative, which was an alliance with the transport sector. The main aim of the scheme was to look at the current recruitment and retention policy by identifying learning and training requirements in order to ensure the provision of a skilled workforce to meet both the current and future needs of the public transport sector. Comment was made that a progress report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the minutes of the joint meeting of the Bus and Tendered Services Working Group held on 14 September 2006 be noted.
- (b) That a progress report on WYTESA be prepared for the next meeting of the Authority.

50. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUS WORKING GROUP HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2006

Further to minute 5, Reliability and Punctuality of Bus Services, members welcomed the introduction of the realtime information system equipment that had been used to monitor punctuality, as it provided a much larger and more accurate sample, of the major bus operators' services.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Bus Working Group held on 14 September 2006 be noted.

51. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed release of capital expenditure with regard to:-

- bus information displays technology refresh;
- Ilkley and Garforth Rail Station access;
- Aire Valley (Leeds) shelter project.

It was reported that the £200,000 cost for the proposed technology refresh of bus station electronic display systems would be funded from the Local Transport Plan settlement and would replace servers and software at 8 West Yorkshire bus stations.

It was noted that Metro had been successful in obtaining funding from the DfT's 'Access for All' initiative and that schemes for improved, step free access at Ilkley and Garforth Rail Stations had been developed. The proposed schemes were estimated to cost £359,000, with 50% to be funded from Metro's share of the Local Transport Plan allocation and 50% by the DfT.

Members were advised that SRB funding had been secured for the provision of 25 new bus shelters and associated kerbing works in the Aire Valley employment area. It was noted that the shelter element of the scheme would cost £240,000 and would be funded entirely by SRB funding on the proviso that the money was spent by the end of December 2006.

RESOLVED - That expenditure for the schemes as set out in section 2 of the submitted report be approved.

52. TRANSPORT STRATEGY UPDATE

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on progress on the development of a City Region Transport Vision, the Local Transport Plan and Bus Strategy.

Regional Transport Board

Members welcomed the Chairman of the Authority's position on the Regional Transport Board, but raised their concern regarding the constitution and the overall Funding Allocation Process. They requested that a progress report on the role and performance of the Regional Transport Board in relation to the City Region Strategy be prepared for a future meeting of the Authority.

Transport Vision and City Region Development Plan

It was reported that Metro had been leading work on the development of the long-term vision for transport across the City Region. The Transport Vision would form a key part of the City Region Development Programme, which was being developed as part of the Northern Way Strategy and the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Authority were informed that further consultation would be taking place with key stakeholders prior to finalisation of the Vision by September 2006 and launch in November 2006, which would then be fed into the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Chairman reported that transport was emerging as one of the key priority issues in the CRDP and that he and the Deputy Chair would shortly be

meeting the leaders of the City Region, as it represented a key opportunity for joint action and strategic thinking necessary to deliver the levels of investment required to deliver a high quality integrated transport system for the region.

Bus Strategy

The Authority were given an update on the next steps in the implementation of the Bus Strategy and that the key areas of work to be undertaken were as follows:-

- Local Area Reviews/Quality Partnerships;
- Development of a potential Bus Quality Contract application to the Secretary of State for Transport;
- Implementing the recommendations of the Best Value Review of Accessible Transport;
- Potential scope for expanding AccessBus provision and provision of higher quality transport for pupils with special education needs.

It was reported that a seminar on the Bus Strategy, including potential roles of partnership and Quality Contract approaches and on the City Region/Transport Vision, would be held in October.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a seminar be arranged for all members regarding the finalised Transport Vision and the next steps in implementing the bus strategy.

53. CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME UPDATE

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on the concessionary travel scheme following the introduction of free travel for the over 60s and certain categories of disabled people following its implementation on 1 April 2006. The report also provided details of the proposals for a national free travel scheme to be introduced in 2008.

It was reported that the results for the first quarter had shown a 20% increase in bus travel, which was broadly in line with the predicted passenger levels. As a consequence, it was not proposed to make any revisions to the budget, although further consideration would be given when the results of the second quarter (July to September) had been analysed.

Members noted the position regarding First Group's appeal against the reimbursement arrangements and that the DfT had advised that a decision

could be expected by the end of October 2006. In this respect, it was reported that Metro had submitted comprehensive evidence to justify their approach and budget estimates. The Authority expressed concern that there would be far-reaching budget implications for the Authority if the decision was made in favour of First.

Information was provided on the proposals for a national free off-peak travel scheme on buses for men and women over 60 and disabled people covering the whole of England. The Authority were informed that there was still very little detailed information on its implementation, particularly whether operator reimbursement would be managed locally or nationally. The Authority pointed out that it was imperative that the new arrangement should be fully funded and that the PTA's should not be out of pocket and, therefore, have to increase council taxes or cut services.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Authority support lobbying for the revenue risks of post 2008 arrangements to lie with central Government.