

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 16 MARCH 2010

AGENDA ITEM NO: **11**

SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE AND FORERUNNER PILOT UPDATE

Report of the Passenger Transport Executive

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1. To provide an update on the latest developments on governance issues and progress on the city region forerunner pilot programme.

2. INFORMATION

Governance

- 2.1. At its meeting in September 2009, this Committee noted the Atkins recommendations agreed by the Leeds City Region Leaders Board for:
 - a Stronger West Yorkshire ITA, and
 - Strengthened partnership arrangements for the City Region
- 2.2. For **West Yorkshire**, Atkins proposed that the new, more focussed, ITA will develop, coordinate, and allocate funding for the implementation of the LTP3, providing a single voice for transport. Schemes will be implemented through the existing District delivery arrangements with all traffic, highway and street powers remaining with the Districts. A Power of Direction will be available to the ITA to ensure agreed LTP priorities are delivered effectively.
- 2.3. For the wider **City Region partnership**, Atkins proposed that the reforms include a politically strengthened Transport Panel with Members from all authorities, and some decision making powers devolved to it from the Leaders Board. The Transport Panel will be responsible for delivering the City Region Transport Strategy and Forerunner Pilot Programme (see below).
- 2.4. Progress is being made on both the West Yorkshire and City Region workstream packages and Metro is participating in both.
- 2.5. For West Yorkshire, the ITA has implemented its new interim arrangements for an ITA Executive Board to meet monthly and work is currently underway to review the ITA's Standing Orders. This is the subject of a separate report to this Committee. Further development of

these interim arrangements is ongoing with a view to presenting proposals to the next AGM scheduled for 25 June 2010.

- 2.6. For the city region, work is currently underway to explore the strengthening of powers in a new city region Transport Panel as a legally constituted Joint Committee.
- 2.7. Further updates will be provided at future meetings of this Committee.
- 2.8. These strengthened governance arrangements will underpin greater devolution of funding and decision making from Central Government that can be secured through the Forerunner Pilot programme described below.

City Region Forerunner Pilot

- 2.9. At its last meeting, this Committee noted that the Leeds City Region had been awarded pilot city region status to take forward new freedoms and flexibilities in the areas of housing, innovation, skills and transport along with devolved funding and decision making.
- 2.10. The City Region has now reached agreement with the Government on the pilot commitments. The full programme is available at <http://www.leedscityregion.gov.uk/news> or from the ITA office. The transport commitments are being led by Metro on behalf of city region partners.
- 2.11. The transport commitments include:-
 - **Road and Rail Protocols for the Strategic Network** – a new set of working practises is being developed for agreement with the Highways Agency and Network Rail respectively to better align priorities and working arrangements.
 - **City Region Transport Strategy** – completed and launched in November 2009.
 - **Long term consolidated funding streams** – work is ongoing with GOYH and Yorkshire Forward to develop an approach to establish a City Region Transport Fund that consolidates existing funding streams, flexible arrangements between different funding streams (e.g. housing and transport), along with innovative approaches for new funding streams.
 - **Scheme Appraisal** – for major schemes under £25m, work is ongoing to develop the required processes with DfT which will allow the City Region to internally appraise/approve its own schemes (similar to Transport for London) rather than requiring DfT approvals.

2.12. Further updates will be provided at future meeting of this Committee.

3. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1. None as a result of this report.

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1. None as a result of this report.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None as a result of this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. That the report is noted.

Director General
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive