

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

AGENDA ITEM NO: **7**

SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Report of the Passenger Transport Executive

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1. To provide an update on the latest developments on governance issues.

2. INFORMATION

Transport Governance Review

- 2.1 At its meeting in June 2009, this Committee noted the recommendations from the Transport Governance Review undertaken by Atkins Consultants on behalf of Leeds City Region partners.
- 2.2 The Committee noted that there was strong support amongst partners for a wider city region Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) but this longer term option required the agreement of North Yorkshire County Council and City of York to progress. Instead a more incremental set of reforms has been agreed by the City Region Leaders Board as a first stage:-
 - A stronger West Yorkshire ITA, and;
 - Strengthened partnership arrangements for the City Region
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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, Multi Area Agreement and Forerunner Proposition (see below).

- 2.5 Due to the nature and complexity of the statutory and parliamentary processes involved, it is expected that the earliest the reforms could be implemented is at the end of 2011.
- 2.6 The City Region Chief Executives Group have identified a Project Director to progress the significant workstreams required to submit a Governance Scheme to the Secretary of State. The Project Director will report to a City Region Chief Executive Governance Project Board comprising of senior representatives from across city region partner authorities, including Metro.
- 2.7 Further updates will be provided at future meetings of this Committee.

City Region Forerunner Pilot

- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 The Committee noted that this pilot status could provide new strategy making responsibilities in areas such as economic development, housing, skills and transport for example and that Joint Investment Boards could be created to ensure that funding is directed into key city region priorities.
- 2.10 Leeds City Region partners, including Metro, are currently preparing a transport proposition to be agreed with Government.
- 2.11 Further updates will be provided at future meetings of this Committee.

3. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. None directly arising out of this report.

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. None directly arising out of this report.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None directly arising out of this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. That the report be noted.

Director General
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive