

AGENDA ITEM NO: 12

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2005

PRESENT: Councillor S Khan (Chair)

Councillors R Downes, K Iqbal, J S King and J Lewis

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Townley.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members at the meeting.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2005 be noted.

4. VISIT TO TROLLEYBUS SYSTEMS IN SOLINGEN AND ARNHEM

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an overview of the findings of the visit to Solingen and Arnhem in August 2005 and also updated members on the current Rapid Transit projects.

Visit to Solingen and Arnhem

It was reported that a delegation of WYPTA members and Metro officers had visited Solingen, Germany and Arnhem, Holland. The purpose of the visit was to view two operational trolleybus systems to understand how the systems operated, the benefits they provided and the issues involved in implementing this type of technology.

Details of the systems visited were attached to the report and included vehicle characteristics, service frequency, electrical power supply, passenger comfort and ride quality, system priority, ticketing systems, benefits of the trolleybus system and system safety. Members had been encouraged by the options available and officers were thanked for organising the visit.

Members received a presentation which gave an overview on the various types of transport systems operating in Europe which included trolleybuses, segregated busways, optical guided bus, rubber tyred trams, tram-trains and a newly developed Translohr system.

It was noted that further research into electric trolleybus systems was being undertaken and a further report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Working Group.

Rapid Transit Projects Update

The Working Group noted the progress with Rapid Transit projects:

It was noted that the Harrogate Line/Technology Review study, which examined the scope for enhancing the Harrogate Line including the Heavy Rail upgrade options and the implementation of the proposed new station at Horsforth Woodside, was near completion. Work was also being undertaken on the scope for conversion of the line to a potential tram-train technology solution as well as the provision of a direct rail link (or alternative mode) to Leeds Bradford International Airport. A progress report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Group.

It was reported that work on the Aire Valley Employment Area, Leeds continued to define high capacity Rapid Transit solutions that could assist in opening up the site to significant employment and residential development.

Members were advised that work would commence on the Kirklees Strategic Economic Zone, A62 Corridor in the near future to assist Kirklees MC in establishing passenger transport proposals to complement the proposed regeneration/redevelopment around Huddersfield and the A62 corridor.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That further work be undertaken to answer some of the questions that arose from the visit to Germany and Holland, particularly those of a technical nature.

5. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on progress in implementing the Environment Strategy.

The Working Group noted the progress in each area of the Strategy and it was proposed that as the Strategy was almost three years old a review should be undertaken and a revised strategy developed.

RESOLVED –

- (a)** That the progress in implementing the Environment Strategy be noted.
- (b)** That a report be prepared for the next meeting of the Working Group regarding the review and updating of the Environment Strategy.