

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING
GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 2007

PRESENT: Councillor S Khan (Chair)

Councillors K Hussain, J Jarosz and J S King

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Smaje.

14. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

15. MINUTES

Further to minute 11, FTR on Route 4 in Leeds, it was reported that the Passenger Transport Authority had recommended at its meeting held on 17 November 2006 that resolution (a) be amended to read "noted".

RESOLVED – That, subject to the amendment outlined above, the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2006 be approved.

16. FTR ON ROUTE 4 IN LEEDS

The Working Group considered a progress report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the introduction of the 'ftr' vehicle on Route 4 in Leeds.

It was reported that there were currently 11 vehicles employed on the route with full implementation scheduled for June 2007 and it was intended to arrange a formal launch for the service during the Summer.

Members were advised that following initial concerns regarding ticketing and fares collection, Customer Service Hosts had been introduced on to the service until a suitable solution was found. It was reported that there could be opportunities for Smartcards to be introduced in West Yorkshire in the future due to the changes to the Concessionary Travel Scheme in April 2008 and the possible extension of the Yorcard project.

It was reported that First were to introduce revised running times to improve service performance and were to consider with Metro and Leeds City Council further sources of delay which had been identified.

It was requested that consideration be given for the service to continue on Galloway Lane, Pudsey and turn round at the roundabout at Thornbury Barracks. This would provide a valuable evening link which is currently not available for people wishing to travel to Bradford.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

17. LEEDS BUS RAPID TRANSIT - UPDATE OF ACTIVITY

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on progress on various aspects of the Leeds Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme.

It was reported that the BRT Initial Business Case had been submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Regional Transport Board (RTB). Feedback would be provided by the DfT at a meeting to be held in June and it was envisaged that the RTB would consider their response at their next meeting.

Members noted that tenders had been invited for consultants to develop individual project briefs for detailed packages of technical work and were advised of the Gateway Review process which would assist in progressing the project to the next stage of the appraisal. It was reported that a review to assess the strategic need for the project (a stage 0 Gateway Review) would be undertaken between 3 – 5 July 2007.

Members were advised of work that was being carried out to define a suitable brand identity for BRT. It was suggested that the brand name should not be “future proofed” to allow for extension of the scheme to other areas of West Yorkshire in the future.

The Working Group noted that a study had been undertaken to investigate the potential for providing a bus-based Park and Ride scheme at Stourton prior to the implementation of the full BRT system. The study had indicated that although there was a case for developing the scheme, the capital cost would be in excess of £9 million and the earliest it could be operational would be 2011. Further work would be undertaken on the feasibility study and the implications for the Leeds BRT proposals.

Members welcomed the approach and progress with the scheme to date but stressed the importance of lobbying to ensure the scheme received adequate support and funding. The need to present an affordable way forward to the Regional Transport Board was noted, as was the need to work with them for a funding allocation to deliver the Leeds City Region Transport Vision and associated more local LTP major schemes over the period to 2025.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

18. A65 QUALITY BUS CORRIDOR – KIRKSTALL ROAD

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members of the progress and forthcoming programme of actions.

It was reported that Leeds City Council (LCC), in partnership with Metro and the bus operators, had developed a Local Transport Plan (LTP) major scheme with extensive bus priority measures for the A65. The scheme had been awarded DfT major scheme programme entry and Metro and LCC were working closely on the detailed plans in preparation for obtaining the necessary planning conditions and receiving full approval from the DfT.

Members noted the details of the scheme, which was scheduled for completion by 2011 and further progress reports would be prepared for future meetings of the Working Group.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

19. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive seeking approval to the revised Environment Strategy.

Members had been circulated with a copy of the revised Environment Strategy which focussed on the environmental impact of Metro's activities and the opportunities to influence others. It was reported that the use of solar power was to be investigated further and members were asked for their views and comments prior to the Strategy's submission to the Authority in July.

RESOLVED - That the Authority be recommended to approve the Environment Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report.