

**AT A MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT
AUTHORITY HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
FRIDAY 28 MARCH 2008**

PRESENT: Councillor R Downes (Chair)

Councillors T Brice, C Campbell, A Carter, D Congreve, C Greaves, J Jarosz, B Jennings, S Khan, J S King, T Leadley, M Lyons, P McBride, G Phelps, K Rhodes, D Sheard, T Swift, G Wainwright and M Walker

102. COUNCILLOR STANLEY KING

The Chair referred to the impending retirement of Councillor Stanley King who would not be standing for re-election. He paid tribute to his tireless dedication and commitment to public transport in West Yorkshire, not only during his time as a member of the Authority, but also as a Bradford Councillor. Councillors Greaves, Phelps and Lyons also highly praised Councillor King's work as a Councillor and PTA member and wished him well in his retirement.

Councillor King thanked members for their kind remarks. He then went on to speak about his time as a councillor and as a member of the Passenger Transport Authority of which he had been a member since its inception in 1985.

103. TONY DARBYSHIRE – DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chair referred to the impending retirement of Mr Darbyshire, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, after 16 years of distinguished service with the Passenger Transport Authority.

The Chair expressed the appreciation of the Committee and best wishes of members for a long and successful retirement.

104. DAVID PAGE – CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chair expressed appreciation of the committed and hard working service, which Mr Page had given to the Authority. He gave him his congratulations and best wishes for the future, which was unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

105. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Hussain, M Slater and A Wallace.

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

107. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2008

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 8 February 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair.

108. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS HELD ON 3 MARCH 2008

With regard to the production of concessionary passes, Members were informed that there had been some minor problems relating to data transfer, which had resulted in delays with the production of the passes. These had now been resolved and the first batch had been sent out and it was hoped that every one that had applied before February would receive their passes within the next couple of weeks. Members were advised that anyone who had not received their pass would still be able to use their existing pass across West Yorkshire until it arrived.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Appointed Members held on 3 March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair.

109. MINUTES OF THE PTA SEMINARS

RESOLVED -

(a) That the minutes of the PTA Seminar on the Review of Transport Governance held on 8 February 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(b) That the minutes of the PTA Seminar on the City Region Transport Governance Review held on 5 March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair.

(c) That the minutes of the PTA Seminar on the City Region Transport Governance Review held on 12 March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair.

110. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2008 AND 28 FEBRUARY 2008

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings of the Tendered Services Working Group held on 4 February 2008 and 28 February 2008 be noted.

111. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STAFFING WORKING GROUP HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2008

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Working Group held on 5 February 2008 be noted.

112. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT PLANNING LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2008

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Transport Planning Liaison Group held on 26 February 2008 be noted.

113. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 4 MARCH 2008

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Education Liaison Group held on 4 March 2008 be noted.

114. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RAIL WORKING GROUP HELD ON 11 MARCH 2008

The Authority expressed their ongoing frustration at the Government's refusal to provide sufficient capacity on local trains, which, in their opinion, was holding up the development of additional rail stations. In welcoming the new carriages earmarked by the Government for West Yorkshire and the City Region, the Authority commented that they were only sufficient to cope with today's passenger numbers and did not fully meet the increased demand on the rail network.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Rail Working Group held on 11 March 2008 be noted.

115. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUS WORKING GROUP HELD ON 12 MARCH 2008

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Bus Working Group held on 12 March 2008 be noted.

116. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 MARCH 2008

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 14 March 2008 be noted.

117. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 MARCH 2008

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 19 March 2008 be noted.

118. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk and Chief Financial Officer on the Members' Allowances Scheme proposed for 2008/09, which had been reviewed and endorsed by the Standards Committee on 19 March 2008.

It was reported that under the Local Authority Members' Allowances Regulations 2003, a revised scheme was required to be approved, each year, before the start of the financial year.

Comment was made that Clause II(i) of the existing scheme required that allowances should be increased from 1 April 2008 by the amount of any percentage increases, which had been approved for staff in the previous year. The nationally agreed percentage increase granted to Metro staff on 1 April 2007 was 2.5% and, therefore, the basic and Special Responsibility Allowances, including those for all independent representatives, had been increased accordingly.

Members were also informed that travelling and subsistence changes for staff had not yet been announced and that any changes, when received, would be notified to Members and would operate from 1 April 2008.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the Members' Allowances Scheme be approved from 1 April 2008.
- (b) That the scheme be amended from 1 April 2008 for any revised travelling and subsistence expenses rates subsequently issued by the Executive and their staff.

119. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

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

Bradford FreeCityBus
Rail Passenger Information System

An update was also provided on the submission of outline business cases for new schemes to the Regional Transport Board.

It was reported that proposals had been developed with Bradford Council to introduce a FreeCityBus similar to those, which had been successfully

launched in Leeds, Huddersfield and Wakefield. Capital funding was being sought to fund the provision of three buses, as well as the bus stop infrastructure works and future provision of audio visual and real time information systems. The revenue costs for the first six months would be funded by Metro and if the service was a success and continued after that period, the costs would be met by Bradford MDC and Metro less any external sponsorship.

Regional Funding Allocation

The Authority were given an update on the major scheme funding proposals submitted to the Regional Transport Board to utilise the unallocated 'headroom' within the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA).

It was reported that the Leeds City Region had submitted 16 schemes for total funding in the region of £200m. The outline business cases had been submitted to the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and had been assessed by their consultants in terms of value for money, deliverability and policy fit. Details of the outcome of the assessments had been split into 5 different bands. It was noted that 3 of the City Region schemes (East Leeds Parkway, Leeds Station Southern Access and Yorcard) had been placed in the highest priority band.

It was expected that the Yorkshire and Humber Transport Board would be making an announcement on funding allocations in the next couple of weeks.

Comment was made that, whilst it was recognised that Leeds was the economic centre for the region, there was a lack of specific funding in the other districts. In response, it was mentioned that the process agreed by the Regional Transport Board included a very short timescale for the preparation of bids and, therefore, it was important that Metro responded with high quality schemes in order to try and secure an appropriate level of the funding available. However, there would be a further opportunity to submit bids as part of a full review, which would commence in the Autumn.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the release of expenditure, as detailed in paragraph 2 of the submitted report, be approved.

Scheme	£
Bradford FreeCityBus	373,800
Rail Passenger Information System	1299,600

- (b) That the submission of outline funding bids to the Regional Transport Board be noted.

120. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair referred to the fact that this was the last meeting before the Authority's Annual Meeting and that with the forthcoming local elections and District Council's Annual Meetings it might be the last meeting to be attended by some members. He thanked members for the support they had given him during the preceding year and for their work on behalf of the Authority.