

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL FUNDING WORKING GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
TUESDAY 29 JANUARY 2008**

PRESENT: Councillor K Rhodes (Chair)
Councillors C Campbell, C Greaves, T Swift and M Walker

Observers: Councillors S King and P McBride

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G Phelps

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

Further to minute 12, Developer Contributions to Public Transport, it was reported that a seminar had been held for members of the District Councils' Planning Committees.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 1 March 2007 be approved.

4. EUROPEAN INTERREG FUNDING

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on future opportunities for European Union (EU) Interreg funding.

Members were advised that new Interreg IVB programmes had been approved for both North Sea and North West Europe Regions and West Yorkshire formed part of both regions.

North Sea Region (NSR)

It was noted that the NSR programme was scheduled for 2007-2013 and Metro had been seeking partners for a project that would develop ideas and techniques for network planning, meeting low demand needs and developing marketing techniques. Metro's initial ideas had attracted support from potential partners in Germany, Denmark and Belgium and interest registered from North Yorkshire County Council and Southend/Essex. It was noted that

further development was required and it was proposed to make a formal application in September 2008.

North West Europe (NWE)

It was reported that there was less explicit reference to public transport in the priorities of the NWE Operational Programme and less opportunity for Metro. Nevertheless, the programme would continue to be monitored for opportunities.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That Metro continues to work with partners in developing a public transport project application to the North Sea Interreg IVB programme.
- (c) That opportunities for funding through the North West Europe Interreg IVB programme be kept under review.

5. OBJECTIVE 2 EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on opportunities for Objective 2 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding.

It was reported that the new round of EU Structural Fund programmes would run from 2007 – 2013 and the Yorkshire and Humber region would benefit from ERDF funding. The new ERDF programme for Yorkshire and Humber was being managed by Yorkshire Forward and members were advised that three of the five priorities were relevant to the whole region, and these were detailed in paragraph 2.7 of the submitted report. It was noted that there could be opportunities such as bus services or the role of Community Transport to link people to jobs/training. Members discussed the piloting of bus routes between deprived communities and employment sites. Metro would investigate the possibility of developing a bid and a report would be prepared for a future meeting.

The timetable for ERDF applications had not yet been agreed but it was anticipated that the first full call would take place in April 2008. Yorkshire Forward would launch the programme in advance with guidance for possible submissions.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. TRAVEL FOR WORK PROJECT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on progress with the implementation of the travel for work project.

It was reported that work continued in strengthening the travel plan network. There were 145 companies undertaking travel planning in West Yorkshire which equated to approximately 20% of all employees. Members were advised of ongoing activities. These included initial work on a carbon calculator, close working with Job Centre Plus and supporting a major West Yorkshire car share conference to coincide with the opening of the HOV lane on the M606 motorway. It was noted that work continued with District Councils, universities, colleges and health authorities to encourage them to introduce travel plans.

Members were advised that Metro were investigating ways in which to enhance the travel plan project. These included the possibility of introducing a transferable MetroCard for companies and the issue of "taster" tickets, although discussions had yet to be concluded with operators. Consideration was also being given to the introduction of a salary sacrifice scheme for the purchase of bus season tickets.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.