

## **AGENDA ITEM NO: 15**

### **WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

#### **AT A MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2005**

**PRESENT:** Councillor S Khan (Chair)

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

#### **6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

#### **7. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

#### **8. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2005 be noted.

#### **9. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> WEST YORKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive and were given a presentation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process of the 2<sup>nd</sup> West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan and the conclusions to date.

Members were advised of the background to the SEA and it was noted that an assessment had been carried out by an independent team from Leeds City Council and a draft overall Strategic Environmental Assessment produced for consultation. The document was available to members on request and was available to view on the Metro website.

It was noted that the conclusions from the report would be considered by the Local Transport Plan Steering Group before the Final Local Transport Plan was submitted for approval by the District Councils and the Authority.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **10. BUS-BASED TECHNOLOGIES : ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which gave an overview of the future importance of bus-based modes of transport and provided a summary of the modes currently available, with particular reference to their environmental performance.

It was reported that following the Government's decision not to fund Supertram, it was important that bus-based technologies for the three routes in Leeds as well as other potential corridors be investigated. Members considered a summary of bus-based modes which included the diesel and articulated buses, Ftr – diesel and future hybrid, gas powered, fuel cell and hybrid gas turbine buses, trolleybuses and other technologies such as flywheel storage and renewable carbon based fuel.

It was noted that First were to introduce an ftr vehicle in 2006 which would provide the opportunity to assess the impact on an existing bus route. Members requested that First be asked to arrange a demonstration of the new vehicle at the earliest opportunity. With regard to fuel cell and gas turbines, it was reported that trials were taking place and their outcome would be reported to a future meeting of the Working Group.

It was suggested that a visit be arranged to view a guided trolleybus system in Nancy, France which does not involve whole route segregation and also visit a nearby tram-train system.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a)** That the report be noted.
- (b)** That First be invited to arrange a demonstration of the ftr vehicle in the New Year.
- (c)** That the environmental impacts summarised in the report form part of the consideration of alternatives to the Leeds Supertram scheme and other Rapid Transit developments.