

**AT A MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT
AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2011**

PRESENT: Councillor C Greaves (Chair)

Councillors Y Crewe, R Downes, E Firth, B Hyde,
J Lewis and R Pearson

Observers: Councillor L Smaje (WYITA)
Councillor D Robinson (Bradford MC)

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Hawkesworth and M Lyons.

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

74. CHAIR'S REMARKS

High Speed Rail

The ITA Executive Board reiterated their support for the planned high speed rail link between London and the North East ahead of the Government's formal consultation launch. In supporting the scheme, they welcomed the backing of many of the country's key business leaders and the independent research which highlighted that by reducing journey times between London and Leeds to just 80 minutes, it would generate substantial growth to the local economy.

Whilst recognising the benefits of the scheme, the ITA Executive Board stressed that HSR should not be at the expense of the current funding for the infrastructure enhancements on the East Coast Mainline, Transpennine and other local rail lines which were desperately needed in the interim/short term.

Leeds FreeCityBus

It was reported that at its budget meeting on 23 February 2011, Leeds City Council had withdrawn its funding for Leeds FreeCityBus.

The ITA Executive Board commented that the FreeCityBus scheme had provided a very valuable service and that ways of retaining the service should be explored. It was suggested that if necessary consideration should be given to the possibility of introducing a small charge or investigating other alternative funding sources to continue the service in some form. Members were advised that discussions had already commenced with the operators to continue running the service for a trial period from April whilst the impact of introducing a small fare could be assessed.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That officers be requested to investigate the retention of the service including the possibility of introducing a small charge.
- (b) That the discussions with the operators be continued.

75. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ITA EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the ITA Executive Board held on 28 January 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair.

76. MINUTES OF THE ITA SEMINAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the ITA Seminar on the development of the Local Transport Plan 3 held on 26 January 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair.

77. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALDERDALE DISTRICT LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Calderdale District Liaison Committee held on 11 January 2011 be approved.

78. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KIRKLEES DISTRICT LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Kirklees District Liaison Committee held on 12 January 2011 be approved.

79. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEEDS DISTRICT LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Leeds District Liaison Committee held on 17 January 2011 be approved.

80. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WAKEFIELD DISTRICT LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Wakefield District Liaison Committee held on 20 January 2011 be approved.

81. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRADFORD DISTRICT LIAISON COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Bradford District Liaison Committee held on 21 January 2011 be approved.

82. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CALDERDALE PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Calderdale Passenger Consultative Committee held on 11 January 2011 be approved.

83. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KIRKLEES PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Kirklees Passenger Consultative Committee held on 12 January 2011 be approved.

84. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEEDS PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Leeds Passenger Consultative Committee held on 17 January 2011 be approved.

85. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WAKEFIELD PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Wakefield Passenger Consultative Committee held on 20 January 2011 be approved.

86. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRADFORD PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Bradford Passenger Consultative Committee held on 21 January 2011 be approved.

87. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2011 AND 8 FEBRUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings of the Local Transport Plan Committee held on 18 January 2011 and 8 February 2011 be approved.

88. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BUS SERVICES AND INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEES HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2011

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the joint meeting of the Bus Services and Integrated Transport Scrutiny Committees held on 2 February 2011 be noted.

89. MAJOR SCHEMES UPDATE

The ITA Executive Board considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on the status of Metro's major schemes.

Leeds Station Southern Entrance

It was reported that following acceptance of Metro's revised funding arrangement, the Department for Transport (DfT) had approved the reinstatement of the scheme. As part of that approval, a maximum capped funding contribution of £12.4m would be provided by the Department towards the estimated total scheme cost of £14.4m.

Members were advised that any additional expenditure to be incurred would have to be met by Metro. To mitigate against that, Metro was discussing a risk sharing arrangement with Network Rail on a 50:50 basis.

It was reported that construction of the scheme was expected to start in March 2013 and completed by the end of 2013/14.

Castleford Interchange

It was reported that the DfT had given notification that the scheme had been unsuccessful and would therefore not be funded through the major schemes programme. Members were advised that the DfT had stated that the Expression of Interest had been rejected for not demonstrating a sufficient cost reduction or reduced call on Central Government funding. It was explained that the scheme already had a relatively high local contribution and that tenders for construction had already been sought. Metro had now submitted a bid to the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) and the outcome of that bid was expected in the near future.

NGT and Leeds Rail Growth Package

It was reported that Metro was still awaiting a decision from the DfT on both schemes which were allocated to the DfT's Development Pool. A meeting with DfT officials was due to take place to discuss the further work that would be required on both schemes.

With regard to the NGT it was envisaged that the scheme costs could be reduced through value engineering and scope change. The potential for achieving an increased local funding contribution was also being explored.

The ITA Executive Board was advised that discussions were continuing with the DfT for NGT to be treated as a separate case and obtain approval ahead of the other major schemes given the previous commitments made by the DfT and the protracted and costly history associated with the development of a rapid transit system in Leeds. In this respect the ITA Executive Board was advised that a meeting had been sought with the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss the NGT scheme.

Proposed Development of Low Moor Rail Station

It was reported that consultants had now been appointed for the outline design works. It was anticipated that these works would be completed by February 2012 and that the station could be in operation in 2013 subject to planning permission and approval from the rail industry.

The ITA Executive Board was reminded that the majority of design and implementation works of the scheme would be funded by the West Yorkshire Strategic Programme of Schemes and from the proposed sale of ITA rolling stock and monies from the Local Transport Plan.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

90. 2011 CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEMES

The ITA Executive Board considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive seeking approval to publish Metro's reimbursement arrangements in respect of the mandatory and discretionary schemes:

- The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme providing free local off peak travel to elderly and disabled people
- The West Yorkshire Discretionary Scheme for rail travel and young people

Mandatory Scheme

The ITA Executive Board was advised that the reimbursement arrangements for the English National Concessionary Scheme were based upon the revised Department for Transport guidance.

In order to comply with the legislation and guidance Metro must publish a scheme by 3 March 2011 setting out the arrangements for reimbursing bus operators which would then take effect from 1 April 2011. The operators would then have a period of 56 days from 1 April 2011 to appeal to the Secretary of State against Metro's Concessionary Travel Scheme.

Discretionary Scheme

The ITA Executive Board was informed that the Discretionary Scheme had consolidated the existing arrangements and that it was unlikely to generate any objections or proposals for non-participation. In this respect the operators had been advised that the ITA would need to review the Discretionary Scheme as part of its overall financial strategy.

Members were advised that a further report setting out options for reducing concessionary travel expenditure on rail and young people, including the scheme to involve operators to provide a higher commercial discount would be brought to a future meeting of the ITA Executive Board.

RESOLVED –

- (a)** That the Transport Act 2000 concession reimbursement arrangements, which would take effect on 1 April 2011, be approved.
- (b)** That the Transport Act 1985 discretionary travel concession reimbursement arrangements, which would take effect on 1 April 2011, be approved.