

AGENDA ITEM No: 24

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE SUPERTRAM WORKING GROUP HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2005

PRESENT: Councillor D Schofield (Chair)

Councillors J Akhtar, J Jarosz, J S King, J Lewis and
G Mulholland

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W S Hyde and
M Lyons.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

10. LEEDS SUPERTRAM

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport
Executive on the progress of the Leeds Supertram.

Members were reminded that the revised submission was submitted in
November 2004 and since that time a number of positive meetings had
been held with DfT officials. A delegation involving the Chairman,
councillors, business leaders and officials had also met with the Minister
in January to seek clarification as to when a decision regarding the
funding of Supertram would be announced. Members were told that the
meeting very productive and that the Minister was very complimentary
about the range and scope of the work, which had been carried out,
especially with regard to alternative options along planned routes and cost
reductions, which had been identified particularly through the risk
transfer process. In this respect, the Minister did, however, request
further information regarding the accounting treatment, especially with
regard to balance sheet issues. This work had now been completed and
was submitted to the DfT who had confirmed that all the required
information had been provided including the fact that approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of
the work could be 'off balance sheet'.

The Working Group were also informed that further discussions had taken place with DfT representatives concerning the expiration of powers and the need to commence the formal compulsory purchase (CPO) process as soon as possible. With power to compulsory purchase expiring in March 2006, a 12 month work programme commencing in March 2005 had been planned. In order to have a chance of achieving a much tighter programme, work had started on land referencing in order to reconfirm the ownership of approximately 200 plots of land and facilitate the CPO process.

It was also commented that the programme for the process from the date of DfT approval, if given, up to the issue of the BAFO documentation to the bidding consortia had been finalised. Furthermore, wherever possible and without incurring additional costs, the Supertram team was working on as many of the relevant programme tasks as possible in order to give more flexibility should the DfT give a positive decision.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.