

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 16 DECEMBER 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO: 10

SUBJECT: METROCARDS FOR MEMBERS

Report of the Clerk and Chief Financial Officer

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1. To propose the reintroduction of Metrocards to Members.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1. Members will be aware that the Authority has sought for some time to be able to reinstate Metrocards for Members. Up until 2003 Metrocards for use on Authority business were available to any member of the Authority who wished for one. As a result of a Public Interest report by the external Auditor for Nottingham City Council (December 2002) the PTA auditor approached the Clerk (April 2003). The Clerk made a strong case for the retention of the cards by members but she was emphatic that she considered the issue of cards to PTA members to be illegal and that unless they were withdrawn she would issue a Public Interest report.
- 2.2. Whilst all efforts were made to retain the cards it was not possible to do so and they were withdrawn in May 2003 and have not subsequently been reissued.
- 2.3. Recent discussions with the current Auditor have suggested that the position on this has now changed. There is a recognition that in their role as ambassadors of public transport it is important that Members have the opportunity to utilise buses and trains in the county and that the information learned on such journeys can assist in formulating transport policy and understanding the issues faced by their constituents.
- 2.4. It is proposed therefore that Members be offered the opportunity to be provided with a Metrocard. They must consider if they would find a countywide Metrocard beneficial to their role on the Passenger Transport Authority and if so to make an application to the Deputy Clerk.
- 2.5. Further benefit would be gained from these Metrocards if Members were to provide feedback as 'mystery shoppers' in relation to the

journeys they undertake. It is proposed that a supply of comment cards along the lines of that provided in Appendix A be provided along with any Metrocard issued. Any completed comments cards should be forwarded to the Director Passenger Services.

- 2.6. Members who receive a Metrocard will not be able to submit expense claims for travel within the county on public transport after 9.30am. They should also note that occasional private use of the Metrocard is permitted. The Members Allowances Scheme will be amended to reflect this.

3. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. Each Metrocard issued will cost the Authority £262. The cost of this can be met from existing budgets.

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. None directly arising from this report.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None directly arising from this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. That Metrocards for Members be reintroduced from 1 April 2009.
- 6.2. That the Members Allowances Scheme be amended as set out in the report.

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority