

**AT A MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT
AUTHORITY HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE
ON FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2007**

PRESENT: Councillor R Downes (Chair)

Councillors T Brice, C Campbell, A Carter, D Congreve,
C Greaves, K Hussain, J Jarosz, B Jennings, S Khan, S King,
T Leadley, M Lyons, G Phelps, K Rhodes, M Slater, T Swift,
G Wainwright and M Walker

64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P McBride, D Sheard and A Wallace.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C Campbell, A Carter, J Jarosz and T Leadley declared personal interests in Agenda Item 12, Pudsey Bus Station, and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor K Hussain declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5, Taxi Liaison Group, and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

**66. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON
21 SEPTEMBER 2007**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 21 September 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair.

**67. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TAXI LIAISON GROUP HELD ON
17 SEPTEMBER 2007**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Taxi Liaison Group held on 17 September 2007 be noted.

**68. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT
PLANNING LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2007**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Transport Planning Liaison Group held on 18 September 2007 be noted.

69. MINUTES OF THE SEMINAR ON THE DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT BILL HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Seminar on the Draft Local Transport Bill held on 19 September 2007 be approved.

70. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BUS WORKING GROUP HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER AND 8 OCTOBER 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings of the Bus Working Group held on 19 September and 8 October 2007 be noted.

71. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Local Transport Plan Steering Group held on 24 September 2007 be noted.

72. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2007

Councillor Lyons reiterated the comments he made at the meeting. He told the Authority that whilst he had no objections to the proposals in principle, he was of the opinion that as Shadow Chair he should have been made aware of the proposed changes prior to the issue being considered by the Audit and Governance Committee and as a consequence he did not have the opportunity to consider them in detail nor consult his Group on such an important matter.

(Given the nature of discussions it was necessary to exclude the press and public under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a Local Government Act 1972.)

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 28 September 2007 be noted.

73. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

RESOLVED -

(a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Leeds Passenger Consultative Committee held on 8 October 2007 be noted.

(b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Calderdale Passenger Consultative Committee held on 9 October 2007 be noted.

- (c) That the minutes of the meeting of the Kirklees Passenger Consultative Committee held on 10 October 2007 be noted.
- (d) That the minutes of the meeting of the Wakefield Passenger Consultative Committee held on 11 October 2007 be noted.
- (e) That the minutes of the meeting of the Bradford Passenger Consultative Committee held on 12 October 2007 be noted.

74. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 15 OCTOBER AND 5 NOVEMBER 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings of the Tendered Services Working Group held on 15 October and 5 November 2007 be noted.

75. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GROUP HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Business Improvement Group held on 16 October 2007 be noted.

76. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Development and Environment Working Group held on 17 October 2007 be noted.

77. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONCESSIONARY FARES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Concessionary Fares Working Group held on 19 October 2007 be noted.

78. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RAIL WORKING GROUP HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2007

The Chair of the Working Group informed the Authority that Northern Rail were attending the next meeting. He invited any member who had any issue that they would like raising to get in touch with him directly or through the PTA office.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Rail Working Group held on 30 October 2007 be noted.

79. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the release of expenditure with regard to the following schemes:

Pudsey Bus Station

It was reported that since the last meeting a planning application had been submitted in October and the required Traffic Regulation was now being progressed. Subject to obtaining the necessary Statutory Approvals, it was anticipated that work on the new bus station would commence in 2008 and take approximately 9 months to be completed. Members were informed that the estimated total cost of the scheme was £3.1m. Leeds City Council would be contributing £700,000 towards highways related works and the remaining cost of £2.4m would be funded from Metro's share of the Local Transport Plan allocation.

St George's Square, Huddersfield

The Authority were informed that as part of the project led by Kirklees Council, Metro were proposing to fund new bus shelters and real time information at a cost of £181,000, which were being funded from existing budgets. It was also proposed that Metro would make a further fixed contribution of £119,000 to the elements of the scheme benefiting public transport passengers by means of an adjustment to the LTP allocations.

NGT Development

It was reported that following endorsement from the Regional Transport Board and commitment of £150m, Metro had now been working with Leeds City Council on a detailed programme for the production of the full Major Scheme Business Case as required by the Department for Transport. Members were informed that the work involved was expected to take around 12 months and at an additional cost of £750,000 in 2007/08 to be funded through a combination of capital, including Metro's share of the Local Transport Plan allocation, and revenue funding to achieve the best use of overall resources available.

The Chair referred to the recently published Audit Report on the decision to cancel the Supertram scheme. He commented that there were some very serious concerns at the report's apparent implication that First Group were instrumental in promoting an alternative bus scheme, which was part of the reason for cancelling the scheme.

The Director General made reference to the public money and officer time, which had been wasted after Department for Transport officials had required Metro and Leeds City Council to carry on working on funding options for Supertram even though it now appeared that they had already concluded that a bus based option offered a better solution.

He also told the meeting that the Authority had been vindicated in that the report confirmed that the benefits of Leeds Supertram in relation to costs exceeded the Department's own criteria for transport schemes. He stressed that the scheme had proven to be more cost effective than others, which had been approved and were being implemented in Nottingham, Edinburgh and Manchester.

Mr Preston further commented that whilst it was important the Authority proceed with the expenditure to develop a Business Case, it was essential that discussions take place with the Department of Transport.

RESOLVED - That the release of the expenditure as outlined in paragraph 2 of the submitted report, be approved.

Scheme	£
Pudsey Bus Station	3,100,000
New Generation Transport (NGT (Business Case))	750,000

80. YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the development of Metro's Young People's Strategy.

It was reported that the strategy was designed to enable all young people to have full access to leisure, work and educational opportunities. The age range would include people in their early 20s and consideration would be given to three main issues - services, fares/ticketing and communications.

Members were advised that consultation would take place with young people and stakeholders including district Children's Services, Youth Councils, Local Strategic Partnerships and bus and rail operators. They stressed the importance of involving a wide range of young people in the consultation process to ensure that a varied cross section of views were gathered.

A timetable for the development of the Strategy was attached for Members' information.

It was also commented that information and marketing would be focused around key times in young people's lives, starting at primary school, moving to secondary school and then to college or work. Both website and other marketing materials would be aimed to assist young people at those key points in their lives.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

81. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY ISSUES

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Authority providing an update on a number of policy issues at national and regional level including Regional Spatial Strategy, Integrated Regional Framework, Rail Strategy, Local Area Agreements/Multi Area Agreements, Local Transport Bill/Transport Governance Review.

Regional Spatial Strategy

It was reported that the Secretary of State had recently issued changes to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy. Following a workshop with City Region partners, Metro had now prepared a response on behalf of the City Region on the changes as they affected transport.

Integrated Regional Framework

It was reported that the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly had issued a draft Integrated Regional Framework. The Authority were informed that the Framework had seven landmark issues, including transport, which aimed to secure consensus and support delivery by the region working together. A response had been prepared by Metro on behalf of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Partnership. A brief summary highlighting the key issues in the response was attached for Members' information.

Rail Strategy

It was reported that Network Rail had published its Strategic Business Plan for the operation of, maintaining, renewing and enhancing the rail network for the five years from 2009/10 to 2013/14. The plan was the principal submission to the Office of Rail Regulator's periodic review of Network Rail's outputs, expenditure and access changes and how the requirements required by the Department for Transport's high level output specification would be delivered.

Consideration was given to a summary of the main points in the plan together with Metro's proposed response to the Office of Rail Regulator. Whilst welcoming the plan, which included a number of positive proposals including additional rolling stock, in principle the Authority were of the opinion that the document did not go far enough to meet the aspirations of Metro to address overcrowding on peak services and did not take into consideration the City Region's transport vision regarding electrification and tram train proposals.

Local Area Agreements/Multi Area Agreements

It was reported that the Leeds City Region Leaders' Board had agreed to seek to develop a Leeds City Region MAA, which would be led by Metro. This would cover the priority themes of transport and skills and address issues around connectivity and labour market skills and mobility.

An indicative timetable had been agreed for the preparation of the MAA to meet the intended sign off date of June 2008 set by the Government.

The Authority were informed that MAAs were a new concept introduced in the Government's White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities', which were designed to be cross boundary local area agreements bringing together key partners to tackle issues that were best addressed regional or sub regional level.

Local Transport Bill/Transport Government Review

It was reported that the revised Bill was introduced in November 2007. The new Bill now proposed renaming PTAs as Integrated Transport Authorities to better reflect the role in transport planning rather than just passenger transport.

Members were advised that the review of governance had been retained in the Bill and that Metro was leading the work on behalf of the City Region, which included an independent comprehensive review of transport governance arrangements across the City Region authorities and Metro. As part of that work, Metro had established a process for an internal review, which would ensure that Metro's views were fed into the independent review by considering the impact of the emerging options on Metro as an organisation. A seminar would be arranged for all Members of the Authority in order to give them the opportunity to shape Metro's initial input to the review. A further workshop would then be held early in the New Year with the consultants who were leading the independent review.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That further reports be brought to the Authority and relevant Working Group as appropriate.
- (c) That Metro's input to the City Region response to the Regional Spatial Strategy changes be approved.
- (d) That the proposed response to Network Rail's Strategic Plan be approved.

82. ENGLISH NATIONAL CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive providing an update on the arrangements for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme 2008 and the associated expenditure on the issue of new ITSO Smartcard passes.

Pass Issue

It was reported that over 230,000 applications for new passes had been received and that it was expected that the total would rise to 270,000 by the year end and that further publicity exercises would take place early in the New Year.

Publication of the Scheme

Members were advised that it was necessary to publish a new scheme by 1 December 2007 to take account of the arrangements that would be introduced from 1 April 2008 when the English National Concessions Scheme (ENCS) was implemented. The operators would then be consulted on the proposals and the associated reimbursement arrangements, which would be based on the current approaches to passenger surveys and grossing, the treatment of operator fares and elasticity of demand. The treatment of capacity claims would form part of the consultation as a number of services were likely to experience a significant increase in patronage.

The Department for Transport had consulted on the distribution of additional funding, which would be paid directly to Metro for a period of three years. A response had been forwarded favouring the option that provided the most funding, which was in the region of £3m per year more than the least favourable option.

It was proposed that potential changes to the discretionary concessionary travel arrangements (reflecting the national scheme, the changes to reimbursement methodologies arising from the First appeal and the financial strategy issues) be considered at the Concessionary Fares Working Group and at the budget briefing meeting discussions prior to a further report being submitted to the Authority on the revised arrangements.

RESOLVED -

- (a)** That the report be noted.
- (b)** That the arrangements set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report be endorsed for publication and consultation.
- (c)** That expenditure of £750,000 relating to the issue of ITSO Smartcard prior to March 2008 be approved.