

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY / DISTRICT COUNCILS

**MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT PLANNING LIAISON GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS
ON TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2006**

PRESENT: Councillor M Slater (Chair)

Councillors	C Greaves	-	WYPTA
	T Swift	-	WYPTA
	M Walker	-	WYPTA
	R Owens	-	Bradford MDC
	T McElroy	-	Calderdale MBC
	A Blackburn	-	Leeds CC

Officers in Attendance:

T Lawrence	-	Kirklees MC
A Hall	-	Leeds CC
M Jefford	-	Leeds CC
P Roberts	-	Metro
P Joyce	-	Metro
J Burton	-	Metro
S Naylor	-	WYPTA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Downes (WYPTA) and E Smaje (WYPTA).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors A Blackburn, C Greaves and T McElroy declared a personal interest in Item 6 - Planning Policies Update (Development Control).

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2006 be approved.

4. PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIPS

The Liaison Group received a presentation on the approach being adopted by Metro and the West Yorkshire District Councils for the introduction of Performance Improvement Partnerships (PIPs) across the county. The Group were updated on the background to PIPs nationally. PIPs were intended to encourage a participative joint approach to the identification of

problems/solutions between Metro, the districts and operators. The focus of PIPs in West Yorkshire would be on punctuality and reliability.

It was reported that Metro was in the process of formulating a PIP agreement between each District Council, Metro and bus operators in West Yorkshire, with a view to discussing the role of each of the partners together with the targets/action plan for implementation. The Group was advised that it was envisaged that the first PIP would be launched with Kirklees MC and First Huddersfield at the end of October 2006, with a view to introducing all PIPs by 31 March 2007.

Members welcomed the initiative, but were concerned that focus might be concentrated on the main bus corridors. Members, therefore, emphasised the need to improve the rural routes as well.

RESOLVED - That the approach adopted by Metro to introduce Performance Improvement Partnerships across West Yorkshire be noted.

5. DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on progress by the District Councils towards to the introduction of decriminalised parking enforcement (DPE).

It was reported that illegal parking at bus stops continued to be a problem, which was undermining the investment by Metro and the District Councils to improve access for all at the stops by providing raised kerbs. Although bus clearways and static abuse of bus lanes were not subject to Traffic Regulation Orders, they could be enforced by a Council with DPE powers.

Members also received an update on progress with DPE from each of the five Districts. Members were updated and received a presentation on progress of the scheme in Leeds. It was reported that the Leeds scheme had been effective in reducing the scale and impact of parking abuse including its effect on bus boarding and traffic circulation.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the District Councils continued to work together to seek efficiencies and consistency in the way the decriminalised enforcement powers were developed and applied.

6. PLANNING POLICIES UPDATE

The Liaison Group considered a progress report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the Regional Spatial Strategy, Regional Funding Allocations and Development Control.

Regional Spatial Strategy

Members were advised on the need to emphasise a number of key issues related to integrating land use developments and public transport at the forthcoming RSS Examination in Public.

Regional Funding Allocations

The Group were advised of the schemes, which would be included within a Government funded ten year spending programme for major transport schemes in the region. Schemes included Yorcard, A65 Kirkstall Road Quality Bus Corridor and Kirklees Highways Strengthening and Bridge Maintenance. It was reported that a decision on the funding bid for additional platform capacity at Wakefield Westgate rail station was still awaited and that the Leeds Bus Rapid Transit Scheme had been included in the programme as an 'indicative scheme' for the period 2009/10 to 2015/6.

The lack of 'headroom' (that is the spare funding that could be allocated to new major schemes, which may come forward) was raised as an issue.

The DfT was undertaking a consultation on the Regional Funding Allocation process and views on how the processes/subsequent decisions might be improved were requested by 31 October 2006. The West Yorkshire LTP Partnership would be submitting a response to the consultation via the LTP Steering Group.

The potential to raise additional funds locally, through S106 for example, was raised.

Development Control

The Group was advised that Metro was actively engaged with each District in the development of the five West Yorkshire Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) and was seeking to raise the profile of transport requirement in order to ensure that new developments were served by good quality transport/links.

Members asked for a report to be brought to the next meeting to provide a position statement on the development of the LDFs in each District and the approach towards securing funds for public transport.

The success of a number of development sites offering free MetroCards to new residents, particularly in the Bradford area, were highlighted to Members. It was also reported that work was underway to develop a standard policy approach across all West Yorkshire authorities to include residential MetroCards/travel information parks based on the size of the proposed development. The approach was welcomed and it was agreed that it was not appropriate to have a minimum threshold size for this initiative. It was also agreed that there could be grounds for a single exemption, for example in Leeds City Centre, where other benefits could be sought through S106.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted