

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING
GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2007**

PRESENT: Councillor P McBride (Chair)

Councillors B Jennings and S King

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Hussain and S Khan.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2007 be approved.

4. FTR ON ROUTE 4 IN LEEDS

The Working Group considered a progress report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the introduction of the 'ftr' partnership on Route 4 in Leeds between Metro, Leeds City Council and First Leeds.

It was reported that 15 vehicles were employed on the route and the total fleet of 17 allowed for 2 spares. The infrastructure improvements were substantially complete with real time passenger information displays being installed at bus stops on a phased basis.

It was noted that although initial concerns regarding ticketing/fares collection had been addressed, the dwell time at stops due to slow door cycles remained an issue.

First had advised that, based on an initial assessment, patronage had grown on route 4 as a result of the scheme. However Metro would undertake further detailed analysis once more comprehensive data was available and would continue to monitor the service on a regular basis.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

5. NEW GENERATION TRANSPORT (NGT) IN LEEDS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive and were given a short presentation which provided an update on progress on various aspects of the New Generation Transport (NGT) project.

Members were advised that the high-quality, bus-based alternative to the Supertram scheme was being referred to as 'NGT' (New Generation Transport).

The Regional Transport Board (RTB) had endorsed the NGT scheme in June 2007 and allocated £150 million from the current Regional Funding Allocation (RFA). The Department for Transport (DfT) had provided formal feedback on the Initial Business Case and although broadly content, they had requested further work to be undertaken on certain issues that were highlighted in paragraph 2.4 of the submitted report. An independent Gateway Review had been carried out in July 2007 by the 4ps organisation. The issues raised in the review were similar to those in the DfT's response to the Initial Business Case and work to address these was ongoing.

The Working Group were advised of the technical advisers who had been appointed to the project who would assist in the development of a robust project programme and resource plan. It was noted that a Communications Plan had been drawn up to ensure that a consistent message was promoted and to set out a plan for future communications activity.

Officers were thanked for the helpful presentation. It was noted that a more detailed project timescale and progress report would be provided to a future meeting of the Working Group.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6. CITY REGION TRANSPORT VISION

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on the implementation of the City Region Transport Vision. Members were also given a presentation covering the key points from their recent visit to Germany and France.

It was noted that one of the core propositions of the vision was to develop a Tram-Train network for the city region and representatives of the PTA and Metro had recently viewed the Tram-Trains in Karlsruhe, Germany and modern trolleybuses in Lyon, France. The Working Group was given a short presentation summarising the key points arising from the visits and how they could inform delivery of the vision.

Members commented that the systems viewed were excellent and the visit had been extremely useful and informative. They asked that their thanks be formally recorded and passed to the officers involved in arranging and

accompanying them on the visit. It was suggested that in order to promote and publicise the benefits of rapid transit systems and integrated transport schemes for the City Region, it would be beneficial to arrange a further visit with representatives from the business community and the press.

With regard to the City Region Transport Vision, members were given an overview on the current position. It was reported that an implementation programme had been developed which indicated where feasibility work was required to ensure that schemes were at an appropriate state of readiness. A copy of the short term action plan was attached at Appendix A to the submitted report and it was requested that an additional column be added to provide further funding information for each proposal.

Members raised the issue of a perceived lack of awareness amongst the Districts regarding the Vision and stressed the importance of ensuring that all stakeholders were fully briefed. It was suggested that presentations on the Vision be made to appropriate Committees/Panels within the District Councils in order to raise awareness. Comment was also made that it was essential for the Vision to be portrayed as serving the whole City Region. A progress report would be prepared for a future meeting of the Working Group.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That officers be thanked for arranging and accompanying members on the visits to Karlsruhe and Lyon.