

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4.

AT A MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON FRIDAY 23 JUNE 2006

PRESENT: Councillor J S King (Chair)

Councillors D Blackburn, D Congreve, R Downes, C Greaves,
K Hussain, W S Hyde, J Jarosz, S Khan, M Lyons, P McBride,
G Phelps, K Rhodes, D Schofield, M Slater, E Smaje, C Smith,
T Swift, C Townsley, G Wainwright and M Walker

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Two nominations were proposed and seconded for the position of Chairman of the Authority.

RESOLVED - That Councillor J S King be appointed Chairman of the Authority.

2. COUNCILLOR ANNIE SMITH

The Chairman and Councillor Lyons spoke on the very sad death of Annie Smith who was a member of the Authority from 1993-2000. During her time on the Authority she held many important positions including District Spokesperson for Kirklees and Chair of the Social Services Liaison Group and Tendered Services Working Group. Particular mention was made of her tireless work during her time as Chair of Tendered Services visiting parish councils and local communities when the Authority's tendered services policy was being reviewed and a value for money exercise carried out.

3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Two nominations were proposed and seconded for the position of Deputy Chairman of the Authority.

RESOLVED - That Councillor R Downes be appointed Deputy Chairman of the Authority.

4. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors D Congreve, M Slater, E Smaje, C Smith and T Swift to their first meeting and welcomed back Councillors W S Hyde and C Townsley.

In welcoming new members, he also paid tribute to Councillors J Akhtar, M Bower, K Iqbal, J Lewis, C Townley and P Wadsworth. He expressed appreciation for the hard work they had undertaken and dedication on behalf of the Authority and gave them the Authority's best wishes for the future.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A Wallace.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk on the notifications received from the constituent councils of their appointments to the Authority.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

8. APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT COUNCILS' SPOKESPERSONS

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk on the Appointment of District Spokespersons for 2006/07 in accordance with Section 41 of the Local Government Act.

Councillor Lyons commented on the basis on which the appointment of District Spokespersons had been made. He stated that it was the Labour Group's view that appointments should be made to reflect the political composition of the respective councils and, therefore, in addition to Wakefield Spokesperson being a Labour member his party should also fulfil that role for Bradford and Leeds.

In response, Councillor King stated that whilst the Labour Group was in office they had not adopted this approach. The Clerk confirmed that there was no requirement under Section 41 of the Act for the appointment of Spokespersons to be made according to political balance.

RESOLVED - That until the next annual meeting the following Members be nominated to answer questions within their constituent councils on the discharge of the functions of the Authority.

Councillor C Greaves	-	Bradford
Councillor G Wainwright	-	Calderdale
Councillor K Hussain	-	Kirklees
Councillor D Schofield	-	Leeds
Councillor G Phelps	-	Wakefield

9. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk on the Appointments to Committees for 2006/07. On a point of clarification, the Clerk indicated that committee places overall had been allocated to reflect the political balance of the Authority and that this had so far as reasonably possible been reflected on individual committees.

The Chairman then went on to read out the Chairs of the respective Working Groups for the forthcoming year.

Councillor McBride proposed that the remit of the Local Transport Plan Steering Group should be extended to include policy and legislative changes from Central Government, Europe and Regional Issues. He particularly made reference to The Northern Way, City Region and Regional Spatial Strategy.

In response the Director General indicated that many of the issues raised had been incorporated into the terms of reference of the newly established Audit and Governance Committee. The Committee would not only provide a continuous review of central government, regional and european proposals and legislation, but would also cover important matters such as accounting, auditing and general governance matters.

Whilst welcoming the Audit and Governance Committee, the Authority stressed that the Local Transport Plan Steering Group forged a very important link between the Districts and the PTA. It was essential that these arrangements should continue by extending its remit to consider Central Government, European and Regional matters, which were critical to the long term development and growth of the West Yorkshire public transport network.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the Committee Structure and Terms of Reference for 2006/07 be approved.
- (b) That the position of Chair and appointments to the Working Groups be approved.
- (c) That approval be given for Councillor McBride, the Chair and the Clerk to the Authority to review the terms of reference of the Local Transport Plan Steering Group and make any amendments, if necessary, to reflect these discussions.

10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk on the Appointment of Representatives to outside bodies.

Comment was made that there was no requirement under the Act for these appointments to be made according to political balance.

RESOLVED - That the appointments to the following outside bodies be approved:

Local Government Association General Assembly/Urban Commission	-	Chair
Association of Councillors General Management Committee	-	Chair
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly Regional Transport Forum	-	Chair
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly Regional Planning and Infrastructure Commission	-	Deputy Chair
PTA Special Interest Group	-	Chair Deputy Chair Shadow Chair
Leeds Transport Strategy Review Group	-	Chair or Deputy Chair Chair of Bus Working Group
Regional Transport Board	-	Chair
Regional Planning Board	-	Deputy Chair

11. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk on the proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2006/07.

RESOLVED - That the Calendar of Meetings for 2006/07 be approved.

12. AUTHORITY REGULATIONS

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk informing members of the general regulations they had previously approved for the conduct of the Authority's affairs.

It was reported that the Authority had a number of regulatory documents that had been set up to control its affairs, which were published on an annual basis in the Authority's Year Book and on the WYPTA website.

- (i) Standing Orders
- (ii) Code of Conduct for Members
- (iii) Financial Regulations
- (iv) Members' Allowance Scheme

RESOLVED - That the documents be approved.

**13. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON
21 APRIL 2006**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 21 April 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

**14. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS HELD ON
9 JUNE 2006**

Councillor Lyons commented that although the Labour Group supported the procurement of additional rolling stock, they were opposed to any increases in rail fares above inflation. The Labour Group also expressed concern about the allocation of diagrammed units and how control could be exercised to ensure they were utilised on the PTA specified routes and not used in other local areas.

In response, the Director General indicated that in order to address the overcrowding problem on West Yorkshire's rail network, and the fact that the Department for Transport's Northern rail franchise contained no provision for growth, Metro had sought alternative ways to purchase additional capacity to reduce overcrowding. He explained the reasons for the fare increases and emphasised that the Department for Transport also had the powers to increase fares and that there was a significant risk that this could happen, with the extra revenue to go straight back to the Treasury and providing no local benefits. He added that the decision taken by the Appointed Members would guarantee that the additional monies resulting from the higher rail fare increases would be channelled back into the network for the benefit of local rail passengers.

Councillor Lyons referred to the incident of alleged fraud and commented on the diligent way in which officers had protected the interests of the Authority. He congratulated them on the amount of monies they had managed to recover which he felt showed great credit.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Appointed Members held on 9 June 2006 be noted.

**15. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GROUP
HELD ON 21 APRIL 2006**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Business Improvement Group held on 21 April 2006 be noted.

**16. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RAIL WORKING GROUP HELD ON
25 APRIL 2006**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Rail Working Group held on 25 April 2006 be noted.

17. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 27 APRIL AND 25 MAY 2006

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meetings of the Local Transport Plan Steering Group held on 27 April and 25 May 2006 be noted.

18. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 31 MAY 2006

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Tendered Services Working Group held on 31 May 2006 be noted.

19. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUS WORKING GROUP HELD ON 8 JUNE 2006

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Bus Working Group held on 8 June 2006 be noted.

20. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONCESSIONARY FARES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 14 JUNE 2006

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Concessionary Fares Working Group held on 14 June 2006 be noted.

21. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Authority considered a progress report of the Passenger Transport Authority on the current situation with regard to the PTA's membership of the Local Government Association.

Members were reminded that at its meeting on 29 April 2005 they agreed to give notice to the Local Government Association of the Authority's intention to withdraw membership if greater priority was not given to public transport.

It was reported that, as a result of discussions with the LGA and Passenger Transport Executive Group regarding the future representation of PTAs within the LGA, agreement had been reached on a number of important issues which would improve the profile of transport within the Association's agenda.

These had included the attendance by the LGA at all PTA Special Interest Group meetings and the reconvening of the Transport Task Group. A new financial deal had also been achieved by which the LGA would substantially increase the rebate given to PTEG towards the Support Unit which provided administrative support to the PTA Special Interest Group.

The Authority indicated that whilst they were encouraged that positive steps had been taken they were still concerned that the LGA were unable to give guarantees that voting rights would be conferred to PTAs.

In view of members' concerns, an alternative motion was proposed and seconded recommending:

"That in the event of the LGA not confirming voting rights to the PTAs, the matter be referred back to the Authority for further consideration."

RESOLVED - That, in the event of the LGA not confirming voting rights to the PTAs, the matter be referred back to the Authority for further consideration.

22. LEEDS FREECITYBUS

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive giving an update on the performance of the Leeds FreeCityBus and the extension of the service until March 2007 to allow further negotiations with third parties to be concluded.

It was reported that the service had exceeded all expectations with current average weekly loadings of over 29,000 which was continuing to grow and that the service had achieved all its objectives, particularly with regard to modal shift and reductions in car traffic and improvements to accessibility for the mobility impaired.

The Authority was concerned at the lack of third party funding other than Leeds City Council and suggested that Metro should be actively seeking financial contributions from organisations such as colleges, universities, health trusts and the business sector who were benefiting from the service.

Members also suggested that Metro should continue to investigate the development of appropriate comparable services in West Yorkshire's other towns and cities.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That continuation of the service until March 2007 as detailed in the submitted report be noted.
- (b) That the Passenger Transport Authority adopt the principle of joint funding, value for money appraisal and monitoring and evaluation against success criteria in any future discussions regarding similar services in other towns and cities in West Yorkshire.

23. FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE AUTHORITY FOR 2004/05

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk and Chief Financial Officer on the Accounts for 2004/05 and the re-audit of the accounts.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.

- (b) That the SAS610 and Annual Audit letter be noted.
- (c) That the attached accounts be approved and signed by the Chairman and officers as required.
- (d) That the opinion from the Auditors to be issued by the end of June 2006 be recorded.

Mr I O'Connell and Mr P Lundy from District Audit were in attendance for this item.

24. FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE AUTHORITY AND EXECUTIVE FOR 2005/06

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Financial Officer and the Passenger Transport Executive on the final accounts for 2005/06, and the Treasury Management Statement.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the final accounts of the Authority for 2005/06 be approved and the signing of the accounts by the Chairman and officers be authorised.
- (b) That the revaluation of the assets be noted and that the Authority confirm that they were unaware of any reasons for impairment to have accrued.
- (c) That the final accounts of the Executive for 2005/06 be noted.
- (d) That an amendment of the revenue grant payable to the Executive to an exact figure of £111,014,992.52 for 2005/06 be approved.
- (e) That the capital grant payable to the Executive of £16,080,053.63 be approved.
- (f) That the treasury management policy and prudential decisions, as outlined in Appendix 4 of the submitted report be approved.
- (g) That the matters related to individual capital schemes in the report, including the methods of funding shown in Appendix 3, be approved.