

**AT A MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT
AUTHORITY HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE
ON FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2005**

PRESENT: Councillor J S King (Chairman)

Councillors J Akhtar, M Bower, C Greaves, K Hussain,
W Hyde, K Iqbal, J Jarosz, S Khan, T Leadley, J Lewis,
M Lyons, P McBride, G Phelps, J Prestage, D Schofield,
C Townley, G Wainwright and M Walker

106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Mulholland,
A Ozolins and K Rhodes.

107. MR B NUNN

The Chair reported on the sad death of Bill Nunn, a former Bradford Councillor and member of the Authority. He spoke at length about his time as a member of the Authority and paid tribute to his hard work and enthusiasm to improve public transport in West Yorkshire.

RESOLVED - That the Authority's deepest regret and sincerest condolences be extended to his wife and family following their sad loss.

108. METRO - "100 TOP EMPLOYERS"

The Chair congratulated Metro on being included in the Guardian's 100 Top Employers. He commented that Metro was one of only two public organisations, which had been recognised. He paid tribute to the hard work and dedication shown by the staff throughout Metro.

109. COUNCILLOR BILL HYDE

The Chair reported that Councillor Hyde was attending his last meeting as he had been elected as the next Lord Mayor of Leeds. The Chair thanked Councillor Hyde for his hard work on behalf of the Authority and wished him well during his year as first citizen of Leeds.

110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

111. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON 18 MARCH 2005

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 18 March 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

112. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PTA SEMINAR HELD ON 4 APRIL 2005

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the PTA seminar "The Northern Way" held on 4 April 2005 be noted.

113. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 14 MARCH 2005

The Authority expressed concern at the increasing number of commercial bus services, which had been withdrawn by the bus operators causing gaps in the core service network. Comment was made that the withdrawal and reduction of services often lead to pressure from users to subsidise a replacement service placing more pressure on the Authority's budget for tendered services. Members referred to a number of instances especially in the Calderdale and North Kirklees area where the bus operators had gone ahead and withdrawn services, disregarding the concerns of local councillors and the general public.

In this respect, members questioned the bus operators' complaints procedures whereby they were unable to make contact with anybody and their failure to respond to an inquiry.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Tendered Services Working Group held on 14 March 2005 be noted.

114. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT FORUM HELD ON 18 MARCH 2005

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Forum held on 18 March 2005 be noted.

115. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 4 APRIL 2005

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Local Transport Plan Steering Group held on 4 April 2005 be noted.

116. PASSENGER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Leeds Passenger Consultative Committee held on 11 April 2005 be noted.
- (b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Calderdale Passenger Consultative Committee held on 12 April 2005 be noted.
- (c) That the minutes of the meeting of the Kirklees Passenger Consultative Committee held on 13 April 2005 be noted.
- (d) That the minutes of the meeting of the Wakefield Passenger Consultative Committee held on 14 April 2005 be noted.
- (e) That the minutes of the meeting of the Bradford Passenger Consultative Committee held on 15 April 2005 be noted.

117. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP HELD ON 18 APRIL 2005

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Development and Environmental Working Group held on 18 April 2005 be noted.

118. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONCESSIONARY FARES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 20 APRIL 2005

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Concessionary Fares Working Group held on 20 April 2005 be noted.

119. CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL OPTIONS

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the feasibility and implications of providing free travel for persons over 75 and 70 years of age.

The Authority were informed that a provisional assessment had been undertaken on the cost of the proposals and that, based on existing journeys and census data, initial estimates of concessionary fare costs were £4.6m for the over 75's and £6.7m per annum if it was extended to the over 70's. However, it was stressed that these figures had to be considered with caution as they were based on a model, which had not been developed for the purpose of a zero fare. Switching to a zero fare in Scotland increased usage far greater than forecast.

It was suggested that once the outcome of the General Election was known and future intentions for free travel had been clarified, a future report would be prepared, which would consider the impact of national policy and options relating to the discretionary area of expenditure on concessionary travel.

Councillor Lyons commented that it was his recollection at the last meeting that it was agreed that this issue should be dealt with by the full Authority and not by a working group. In response, it was commented that, where possible, it was the regular procedure for an item to go to the relevant working group prior to being considered by the Authority. It was followed in this instance but a further report had also been presented to this meeting. Members were also reminded that they were entitled to attend meetings of the working groups as observers and also to receive reports of any working groups prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the further work on concessionary travel scheme options be overseen by the Authority's Concessionary Fares Working Group and that the outcome of this work be reported to a future meeting of the Authority.

120. LGA SUBSCRIPTION, SIG AND PTEG

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk updating Members on the current position between the Authority, Local Government Association, Special Interest Group and the Passenger Transport Executive Group (PTEG), which represented the interests of the 7 PTE's in the United Kingdom and Transport for London.

It was reported that concern had been expressed on the level of LGA support for transport issues and, as a result, discussions had been held with the LGA to address this matter. Members were told that Greater Manchester PTA had given notice to the LGA that they would not renew their Membership after 2005/06 unless the LGA gave greater priority to transport.

RESOLVED - That the LGA subscription for 2005/06 be approved on the understanding that the LGA was given notice of this Authority's intention to withdraw from membership of the Association by 31 March 2006 if greater priority was not given to transport.

121. DISCUSSION IN THE PTA OF WORKING GROUP MINUTES

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk on the extent to which working group minutes could be discussed at meetings of the full Authority.

Members were reminded that considerable discussion had taken place at the last meeting of the Authority and that the submitted report outlined three possible options for members to consider how they would wish to change the current approach.

Option I - The current situation.

Option II - A redefining of the existing situation, which would, subject to minor revisions to the Standing Orders, enable limited discussion at the Authority, the ability to challenge minutes if required and give Members from all political parties an opportunity to develop expertise in matters covered by each working group.

Option III - A radical change to the decision making structure of the Authority which would drastically reduce the number of working groups and introduce a "lead member system".

The Chair indicated that he was impressed at the dedication and hard work shown by members on working groups and stressed the importance of the groups and that they should not be undermined as they had become the 'engine room' of Authority business.

The Authority considered that on balance Option II was the more realistic approach as it would give members an opportunity for brief discussion on issues emerging from working groups whilst giving the Chair of a Working Group the chance to provide further information and updates.

RESOLVED - That Option II, outlined in the submitted report, be approved and that appropriate amendments to Standing Orders be brought to the next meeting of the Authority.

122. THE RAILWAYS ACT 2005

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the Railways Act 2005.

It was reported that although the PTEs had received strong cross party support in both the Houses of Commons and Lords regarding removal of their automatic right to specify the level of rail service within their respective areas and to be a co-signatory to the relevant franchise, the amendments put forward by the House of Lords were finally defeated by the House of Commons and received Royal Assent on 7 April 2005.

It was reported that in view of the strong support received, the PTEs were pressing for the highest possible level of involvement within the overall terms of the Act.

RESOLVED -

- (a)** That the report be noted.
- (b)** That Metro continue to press to remain as co-signatory for the duration of the current Northern Rail franchise.
- (c)** That Metro press for a strong continued involvement in local rail services and that this be reflected in the DfT's Guidance Note.
- (d)** That further reports be brought to the Authority as and when appropriate.

123. 2ND WEST YORKSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the Development of the 2nd West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.

Comment was made that whilst good progress had been made with the Plan, there were a number of outstanding issues which had been identified through discussion with the DfT and the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber and which needed to be addressed before submission of the provisional Plan. These were demand management, simplification of the document and the provision of better linkages between objectives, strategy and interventions.

Members were extremely concerned at the comments expressed by the DfT and the Y&HGO regarding Demand Management and the fact that further work needed to be developed and incorporated into the final strategy if the Plan was to be rated above average and secure bonus funding.

In this respect, comment was made that it was critical that these issues be raised with each District at Chief Executive level. It was the Authority's view that a more robust working approach with a 'clear vision' should be developed with the Districts and that this be achieved by establishing a dedicated team to address the issues raised by the DfT and Y&HGO.

It was also mentioned that the Transport Innovation Fund was a potential source of significant funding for transport schemes from 2008/09 and that to capitalise on any allocations awarded, West Yorkshire should consider more radical and innovative schemes such as congestion charging and a dedicated bus route on the M62.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Passenger Transport Executive contact the West Yorkshire Chief Executives regarding the proposed establishment of a dedicated team to address the issues highlighted by the DfT and Government Office in order to bring about more robust proposals, which were achievable within the timescale of the LTP and to maximise West Yorkshire's potential funding allocation.
- (c) That further detailed input to public transport elements be sought through the Authority's various working groups.
- (d) That a further LTP2 seminar be held for Members in the near future.

124. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public now be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that if they were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information defined in Part 1 (Paragraphs 7 and 9) of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

125. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP - CLASS 321 RAIL VEHICLES

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed transfer of ownership of three Class 321 rail units currently on lease from the Bank of Scotland to HSBC Rail.

It was reported that following Metro's approach to the 3 major rolling stock leasing companies, HSBC Rail had offered to buy the units and provide them to Metro on an 8 year lease to the end of the franchise.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the proposed transfer of ownership of the Class 321 vehicles to HSBC rail be approved subject to the terms outlined in the submitted report.
- (b) That the net proceeds of the transaction be used to fund enhancements to the Class 321 rail units.

126. ADVERTISING BUS SHELTERS

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Authority on a revised agreement for the provision of advertising bus shelters.

It was reported that further discussions had been held with Adshel. The proposed revised agreement was based upon Metro providing shelters and advertising panels and receiving a share of the advertising revenue.

The new agreement would cover the period until 31 March 2024, with a break clause to be exercised by either party that would terminate the agreement on 31 March 2014.

Comment was made that the agreement was critical to the implementation of the LTP Strategy, which included a sustained programme to improve and rationalise the shelter stock throughout West Yorkshire.

RESOLVED - That the proposed agreement outlined in the submitted report be approved.