

AGENDA ITEM NO: 9

AT A MEETING OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2006

PRESENT: Councillor R Downes (Chair)

Councillor A Hawkesworth	-	Bradford MDC
Councillor R Taylor	-	Calderdale MBC
Councillor M Bolt	-	Kirklees MC
Councillor S Andrew	-	Leeds CC
Councillor P Dobson	-	Wakefield MDC
Councillor C Greaves	-	WYPTA
Councillor P McBride	-	WYPTA

Officers in Attendance:	C Hughes	-	Bradford MDC
	S Thornton	-	Bradford MDC
	D Holdstock	-	Calderdale MBC
	J English	-	Kirklees MC
	D Gilson	-	Leeds CC
	B Anderson	-	Wakefield MDC
	J Henkel	-	Metro
	D Hoggarth	-	Metro
	R Chaplin	-	WYPTA

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S King (WYPTA) and M Slater (WYPTA).

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2006 be accepted as a true record.

12. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Steering Group considered a report on the future work programme and role of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Steering Group.

Members noted the terms of reference appended to the report and noted that the role of the Steering Group would include overseeing the implementation of LTP2, monitoring progress and making recommendations to the Association of West Yorkshire Authorities (AWYA) on funding allocations. The Steering Group would also consider the development of major schemes and respond to consultations as appropriate. Subject to a successful outcome to the Transport Innovation Fund pump priming bid, the Steering Group would also oversee work on the associated studies and further bid development.

The Steering Group noted the work programme and schedule of meetings although comment was made that due to the nature of the work of the Steering Group, this may need to be altered in response to changing circumstances.

RESOLVED - That the future work programme and role of the Steering Group be noted.

13. FUNDING ALLOCATIONS 2007/08

The Steering Group considered a report on the proposed allocation of the West Yorkshire LTP integrated transport block amongst the District Councils and Metro for the financial year 2007/8 and the allocation of the maintenance block and the new LTP Road Safety Block amongst the District Councils.

It was reported that from April 2007, a new road safety grant allocation would be made within the LTP process which included funding for safety camera operations that had previously been funded separately. It was noted that the indicative road safety allocation for 2007/08 was £3.8m of which £3.4m would be required for safety camera operation. The remaining £400,000 would augment existing safety budgets within the districts.

Members discussed the element of integrated transport funding available for districts that had declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). It was reported that Leeds and Wakefield had declared AQMAs within the timescale that influenced the overall LTP funding for West Yorkshire

Since then Calderdale had also declared AQMAs and it had been proposed that the element of the West Yorkshire formula be updated to take into account the AQMA in Calderdale.

Councillor Hawkesworth advised that Bradford may also have declared an AQMA, although this was to be confirmed

Discussion focussed on whether the AQMA funding allocated in response to declarations for Leeds and Wakefield should, or should not, be re-allocated to other District Councils subsequently declaring AQMAs. The Steering Group considered that a report containing two options for 2007/08 only should be prepared for consideration by the Association of West Yorkshire Authorities.

The two options would be:

- a) To continue with the previously agreed allocation of integrated transport funding.
- b) To adjust the allocation in respect of AQMAs originally declared in Wakefield and Leeds to also cover subsequent AQMAs declared in Calderdale and Bradford (subject to confirmation).

It was further agreed that

- a) Further options would be developed for allocations from 2008/09.
- b) A letter should be sent to the DfT to lobby for additional funding for AQMAs and that alternative mechanisms for dealing with the AQMA element of the funding should be considered for future years.

RESOLVED –

- (a)** That Association of West Yorkshire Authorities be recommended to endorse the approach to the allocation of the Integrated Transport block as set out in the report and to consider two options regarding that element of funding provided for Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).
- (b)** That a letter be sent to the Department for Transport to lobby for additional funding for AQMAs that have been declared since 2005.
- (c)** That the Association of West Yorkshire Authorities be recommended to endorse the continued use of the DfT maintenance formula for the split of West Yorkshire LTP maintenance funding in 2007/08 between the District Councils as shown in Table 2 of the report.
- (d)** That the Department for Transport allocation of the new LTP Road Safety funding, as set out in Table 3 of the report, be noted.

14. REGIONAL UPDATE AND REGIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS CONSULTATION

The Steering Group considered a progress report on regional issues and a proposed West Yorkshire response to the Government's consultation on the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) process.

The meeting was updated on regional issues including the joint bid for Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) pump-priming funding and the development of a City Region Development Programme (CRDP). It was reported that the Government was proposing a Local Government White Paper to address issues affecting regional and local government and the Paper would link in to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

With regard to the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA), it was reported that the DfT had issued a consultation document seeking views on how the processes to develop advice and subsequent decisions might be further improved. The Steering Group had previously raised a number of major concerns regarding the RFA process including funding issues, processing and reviewing of schemes and membership of the Regional Transport Board. The importance of including the concerns in the response to the DfT was stressed and it would be finalised through liaison with each authority prior to its submission by 31 October 2006. It was suggested that a list of signatories should be attached to the response.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the current regional issues be noted.
- (b) That a West Yorkshire LTP Partnership response to the Government's RFA consultation be prepared based on the comments in the report and the views of the Steering Group.

15. LTP2 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Steering Group considered a report and were given a presentation on the implementation of the Performance Management Framework for the second Local Transport Plan.

Members were given a presentation on work to develop an enhanced performance management regime. Regular reporting to the Steering Group would be a key element of the regime. Consideration was given to the potential mechanisms for adjusting the programme or reallocating funding to under-performing parts of the programme. The potential for seeking independent advice to inform decision making was also discussed.

It was agreed that Members would discuss options further with their Officers and that a report would be prepared for consideration at the next meeting of the Steering Group.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the principles of the proposed performance management framework be noted.
- (b) That more detailed proposals be developed with the input of the LTP Steering Group and a report prepared for the next meeting of the Steering Group.

16. BUS STRATEGY UPDATE

The Steering Group considered a progress report and were given a presentation on the implementation of the Bus Strategy.

Members noted that LTP2 contained a revised Bus Strategy which was a statutory requirement setting out a comprehensive strategy for improving bus services over the period of the Plan.

The Steering Group were given a presentation and members were updated on Performance Improvement Partnerships, the programme of local area network reviews and the further work to implement the recommendations of the Best Value Review on accessible transport. It was noted that discussions were being held with bus operators to clarify their commitments and the Bus Strategy. It was noted that the work being undertaken could form the basis of any future application for a Bus Quality Contract.

RESOLVED - That progress on the Bus Strategy be noted.

17. LEEDS CITY REGION TRANSPORT VISION

The Steering Group considered a report and were given a presentation on the main elements of the Leeds City Region Transport Vision which had been prepared as part of the City Region Development Programme (CRDP).

It was noted that the vision would set out the interventions that were required to support economic growth in a sustainable way and although it was unconstrained by funding, an implementation plan was being developed to identify potential funding sources.

In parallel to the work on the vision, a City Region Development Programme (CRDP) was being developed to feed into the Northern Way Strategy and the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. It was reported that City Region Leaders had endorsed the transport vision and had agreed that it would form the transport component of the CRDP.

RESOLVED - That work on the development of the Leeds City Region Transport Vision be noted.

18. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members were reminded that meetings of the Steering Group had been arranged for the following dates:

Thursday 14 December 2006
Thursday 1 February 2007
Tuesday 17 April 2007

All the meetings will commence at 10.00 am in Committee Room A, Wellington House, Leeds.