

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 17 MARCH 2009

AGENDA ITEM NO: **8**

SUBJECT: CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Report of the Passenger Transport Executive

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1. To approve the Code of Corporate Governance.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1. Governance arrangements in both the private and public sector have been the subject of scrutiny for many years. It is widely recognised that all local authorities need to ensure that good governance arrangements are in place as these underpin the necessary management, performance and stewardship arrangements which ensure the delivery of quality services.
- 2.2. The Authority has always recognised the need for good governance and indeed, this is an area regularly inspected by both internal and external audit. The governance arrangements are reviewed periodically by the Audit and Governance Committee and the Annual Governance Statement included in the annual accounts provides a formal statement of the Authority's conclusions of them.
- 2.3. The Annual Governance Statement is prepared in accordance with best practice as set out in the CIPFA/Solace publication 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.' This also recommends that an authority should have in place a Code of Corporate Governance, an action also recommended by the Audit Commission. Whilst such a code is not mandatory for the Authority it is considered best practice to do so and it does effectively complete the picture in terms of demonstrating the framework in place to deliver good governance. The Code does not require any new actions on the part of the Authority, it effectively provides a useful mechanism for collecting in one place all the elements, actions and processes of governance already in place.
- 2.4. A Code of Corporate Governance is attached as Appendix A for approval. It defines corporate governance as being about 'how bodies ensure they do the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage

with and, where appropriate, lead their communities.’ The Code then goes on to set out the processes, practices, systems and values that the Authority has put in place to deliver this.

- 2.5. The Annual Governance Statement will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee alongside the annual accounts. It provides in essence a review of whether the measures set out in the Code have been working effectively throughout the year.

3. **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. None arising directly from this report.

4. **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. None arising directly from this report.

5. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. None arising directly from this report.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1. That the attached Code of Corporate Governance be approved.

Director General
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive