

**AT A MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT
AUTHORITY HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
FRIDAY 30 MARCH 2007**

PRESENT: Councillor J S King (Chair)

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

104. LOCAL ELECTIONS – 3 MAY 2007

The Chair offered his best wishes to those Members who were standing at the forthcoming local elections.

105. COUNCILLOR K HUSSAIN

The Chair reported that Councillor Hussain had been nominated as the next Deputy Mayor of Kirklees. Members joined the Chair in congratulating him and wished him all the best during his year in office.

106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor B Hyde.

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor K Hussain declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 10, Minutes of the Taxi Liaison Group. He vacated the room at his own discretion and took no part in the discussion of voting thereon.

**108. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON
9 FEBRUARY 2007**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 9 February 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair.

109. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RAIL WORKING GROUP HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Rail Working Group held on 13 February 2007 be noted.

110. ATTENDANCE AT LIAISON GROUPS

The Authority expressed concern that attendance at all Liaison Group meetings continued to be low amongst District Councillors and Officers

RESOLVED - That a letter be sent by the Chair on behalf of the Authority to the Chief Executives and Leaders of the five District Councils expressing the Authority's concern at the lack of District representation.

111. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2007

Members expressed their disappointment regarding the lack of interest shown by the Districts for Metro's assistance with the Travel Training scheme. Members were advised that alternative means of continuing travel training services were being explored and would be reported to the next meeting of the Social Services Liaison Group.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Social Services Liaison Group held on 26 February 2007 be noted.

112. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT PLANNING LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Highways & Transport Planning Liaison Group held on 27 February 2007 be noted.

113. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL FUNDING WORKING GROUP HELD ON 1 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the External Funding Working Group held on 1 March 2007 be noted.

114. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee held on 2 March 2007 be noted.

115. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TAXI LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 5 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Taxi Liaison Group held on 5 March 2007 be noted.

116. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION LIAISON GROUP HELD ON 6 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Education Liaison Group held on 6 March 2007 be noted.

117. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 9 March 2007 be noted.

118. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 12 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Tendered Services Working Group held on 12 March 2007 be noted.

119. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FACILITIES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 19 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Facilities Working Group held on 19 March 2007 be noted.

120. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STAFFING WORKING GROUP HELD ON 22 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Working Group held on 22 March 2007 be noted.

121. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk and Chief Financial Officer on the Members' Allowances Scheme proposed for 2007/08 which had been reviewed and endorsed by the Standards Committee on 9 March 2007

It was reported that under the Local Authority Members Allowances Regulations 2003, a revised scheme was required to be approved, each year, before the start of the financial year.

Comment was made that Clause 11(1) of the existing scheme required that allowances should be increased from the date of the annual meeting by the amount of any percentage increases, which had been approved for staff in the previous year. The nationally agreed percentage increase granted to Executive staff on 1 April 2007 was 2.95% and therefore all basic and special responsibility allowances, including those for all independent representatives, had been increased accordingly.

Members were also informed that travelling and subsistence changes for staff had not yet been announced and that any changes, when received, would be notified to Members and would operate from 1 April 2007.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the Members' Allowances Scheme be approved from 1 April 2007.
- (b) That the scheme be amended from 1 April 2007 for any revised travelling and subsistence expenses rates subsequently issued by the Executive for their staff.

122. NATIONAL POLICY INITIATIVES

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on national policy initiatives relating to buses, governance, light rail, land use planning, local government and concessionary travel arrangements.

Buses and Governance

The Chair referred to two recent meetings, PTA Special Interest Group and a meeting with the PTA Chairs and Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for Transport.

He informed Members that at the SIG meeting all PTAs had reached cross party support on the way forward on Governance from both their District Council and PTA perspectives. Those views had then fed into the meeting with the Secretary of State, which he considered to be very productive and positive. He stressed that it was clear from the meeting that the Government's thinking still centred around their twin priorities of a more coherent use of current and proposed public transport and highways powers and the desire to see strengthened leadership in the City Region areas.

The key views which were expressed to the Secretary of State included:

- (i) That the legislation should be enabling allowing PTAs and their Districts to identify the powers and governance arrangements most appropriate to their particular circumstances.
- (ii) PTAs/PTEs were in place, were structured and worked well. Whilst accepting that a Leaders' Board might be appropriate to oversee strategies, transport directions and schemes it would be inappropriate for the day to day responsibility for the delivery of public transport to be

transferred to the District Leaders who did not have the time or transport expertise to dedicate to such an important issue.

Comment was made that the draft Road Transport Bill was expected to be published in May and that consultation and implementation of the Bill would be considered in detail by the Bus Working Group (for bus issues) and the Audit and Governance Committee, with any key issues being reported to meetings of the full Authority.

Members also received updates on the following national initiatives –

- Consultation on guidance for promoters of Light Rail Schemes
- Planning Gain consultation document
- Barker review of land use planning
- Lyons Inquiry into Local Government
- National Concessionary Travel from April 2008.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.