

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: 27 MARCH 2009

AGENDA ITEM NO: **4**

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE CLERK

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

1.1 Membership of the Authority and appointments to committees.

2. INTRODUCTION

District Council Appointments to the Authority

2.1 On 26 February 2009 the Authority received notification from Kirklees Council that it had terminated the appointment of one of its Conservative members (Councillor Martyn Bolt) and had replaced him with a Labour nominee (Councillor Peter McBride).

2.2 In the absence of a letter of resignation from Councillor Bolt the appointment of Councillor McBride takes effect from 26 March 2009 (one calendar month from receipt of Kirklees Council's official letter of notification).

2.3 Members will be aware that a vacancy has arisen in Calderdale following the death of Councillor Geoffrey Wainwright. On 16 March 2009 the Authority received notification from Calderdale that they had appointed Councillor Keith Watson (Conservative) to serve on the Authority. The appointment takes immediate effect.

Appointment of District Spokespersons

2.4 In accordance with Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985, consideration will need to be given to appointing new District Spokespersons for both Calderdale and Kirklees.

2.5 Arising from the above, the political balance of the Authority will be:-

Labour	11
Conservative	7
Liberal Democrat	4
	22

Appointments to Committees

- 2.6 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, regarding political balance in the representation on Committees, appointments to Committees need to have regard to the above. In light of the appointment of the new Labour member, it has been necessary to re-visit the Authority's committee structure.
- 2.7 At the AGM on 27 June 2008, the Authority agreed a committee structure based on a total of 77 places, which was subsequently increased to 78 places on 26 September 2008 when Labour received an additional place on the Audit & Governance Committee.

At a meeting of the Authority on 21 November 2008 an additional place on the Standards Committee was allocated to each party in order to meet with the requirements of new regulations.

- 2.8 In view of the new political composition of the Authority it would be appropriate to round up the total number of committee places to 82 thereby giving Labour an additional 4 places across the committee structure.
- 2.9 On the basis of an 82 place committee structure, entitlements are as follows:-
- | | |
|------------------|----|
| Labour | 41 |
| Conservative | 26 |
| Liberal Democrat | 15 |
- 2.10 Set out in Appendix A attached is the proposed Committee structure together with an analysis of the political split required. It should be noted that these cannot be made precisely for each Committee and have therefore been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.
- 2.11 In order to comply with the above, an additional 4 places have been allocated to Labour on Appointed Members, Concessionary Fares Working Group, External Funding Working Group and Tendered Services Working Group.
- 2.12 In the interests of ensuring that every member has an area of special responsibility, it will be necessary to allocate a further chair to Labour. It is therefore proposed to re-allocate the position of chair of the Tendered Services Working Group to a Labour nominee.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Authority note the appointments of Councillor P McBride from Kirklees and Councillor K Watson from Calderdale.

- 3.2 That, in accordance with Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985, the Authority nominate an ITA Member from Calderdale and Kirklees to act as District Spokesperson.
- 3.3 That the Authority approve changes to the Committee structure as detailed above.

Clerk
West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority

APPENDIX A

COMMITTEE	LABOUR	CON	LIB DEM	TOTAL
Adult Services Liaison Group	3	2		5
Appointed Members	2	1	1	4
Audit and Governance Committee	3	2	1	6
Bus Working Group	2	2	1	5
Business Improvement Group	2	2	1	5
Children & Young People Liaison Group	3	2		5
Concessionary Fares WG	3	1	1	5
Development and Environment Working Group	2	2	1	5
External Funding Working Group	3	1	1	5
Facilities Working Group	2	2	1	5
Highways & Transport Planning Liaison Group	3	1	1	5
Local Transport Plan Steering Group	2	1	1	4
Rail Working Group	2	1	1	4
Staffing Working Group	2	1	1	4
Standards Committee	2	2	2	6
Taxi Liaison Group	2	2		4
Tendered Services Working Group	3	1	1	5
Total seats per percentage split	41	26	15	82