

## AGENDA ITEM NO: 8

### AT A MEETING OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN COMMITTEE HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON FRIDAY 16 JULY 2010

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Downes (Chair)

Councillor G Kaliq	-	Bradford MDC
Councillor B Collins	-	Calderdale MC
Councillor P McBride	-	Kirklees MC
Councillor D Jeffery	-	Wakefield MDC
Councillor M Coulson	-	WYITA
Councillor C Greaves	-	WYITA
Councillor A Hawkesworth	-	WYITA
Councillor J Lewis	-	WYITA
Councillor A Longthorn	-	WYITA

<b>Officers in Attendance:</b>	S Thornton	-	Bradford MDC
	J Grint	-	Bradford MDC
	N Pickles	-	Calderdale MC
	R Hadfield	-	Kirklees MC
	A Hall	-	Leeds CC
	K Bloomfield	-	Wakefield MDC
	D Hoggarth	-	Metro
	J English	-	Metro
	A Chymera	-	LTP3 Team
	S Naylor	-	WYITA

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Lewis (Leeds CC).

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

#### 3. MINUTES

Further to Minute 53 - New Policy Document for Planning Obligations (Consultation) - Members were provided with a copy of a letter to Communities and Local Government outlining the Committee's comments concerning consultation on the new policy document for planning obligations.

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2010 be approved.

#### **4. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members were advised that changes to the Terms of Reference for the Committee had been agreed at the West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority's annual meeting held on 25 June 2010. It was reported that the Terms of Reference had been updated and amended to reflect changes to the reporting procedures of the Committee.

It was noted that the final paragraph to the Terms of Reference had referred to 'the role of the Steering Group' when in fact it should read Committee.

**RESOLVED** - That the revised Terms of Reference be noted.

#### **5. DEVELOPMENT OF LTP3**

The Committee received a presentation regarding the development of the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 3 .

Members were advised of the plan's objectives and targets included a move towards a low carbon, sustainable transport, improved connectivity to support economic activity/growth in West Yorkshire and the wider City Region and to enhance the quality of life for people in the county's diverse communities and commuters/visitors to the region. The Committee's comments were sought regarding the strategic approach to the Plan.

With regard to the target pertaining to the enhancement of quality of life for people in West Yorkshire, comment was made about the lack of reference to leisure related activities in the region. In response, officers advised that this issue would be addressed within the Plan. Members commended the work undertaken to date on the Plan, but also expressed concern that the target figures relating to employment and the creation of houses over the next 20 years were not an accurate reflection of the current situation now that the Regional Spatial Strategy had been abolished. It was agreed that this would be kept under review.

**RESOLVED** -

(a) That officers be thanked for their presentation.

(b) That progress on developing LTP3 be noted.

#### **6. RESPONSE TO FUNDING CUTS**

The Committee considered a report and received a presentation on the implications of the recent funding cuts announced by the Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Department for Transport (DfT) and the implications associated with suspending the DfT's 'Major Schemes' Programme.

Members were advised that Table 1 and Appendix 1 of the submitted report depicted in detail the key impacts on the West Yorkshire LTP Partnership's budgets, as a result of the Government's spending cuts. The funding sources affected included the West Yorkshire LTP IT Block 2010/11, Primary Route Network 2010/11, West Yorkshire Strategic Programme of Schemes, Congestion Performance Fund (Tranche 4) and Road Safety Grant funding.

The Committee noted that following the DfT's suspension of their Major Scheme Guidance for Local Authorities, this had been replaced with Interim Guidance - the highlights of which were outlined in the submitted report. In addition, the report also detailed separate advice Metro had received from the DfT regarding their Major Schemes, which included the NGT, Leeds Station Southern Entrance, Castleford Interchange and Leeds Rail Growth. It was reported that the DfT's position would be held until the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in autumn 2010 and, in this respect, West Yorkshire Major Scheme expenditure had been put on hold as far as practical.

The presentation set out a revised approach to the West Yorkshire Strategic Programme of schemes involving a re-profiled spend programme (retaining all schemes, but reducing the cost). Additional funding would come from elements of the Congestion Performance Fund and a future topslice of LTP3. A £1.02m revenue fund would be retained for commissioning smarter choices work.

Members agreed the approach, but expressed concern about the longer timescales for delivery of some schemes including Low Moor. It was explained this better matched Network Rail's ability to deliver, but options were being pursued to deliver the station more quickly.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That officers be thanked for their presentation.
- (b) That the substantial impact of the in-year cuts and suspension of major schemes be noted.
- (c) That the West Yorkshire Strategic Programme of Schemes (WYSPS) be re-affirmed as a priority programme of schemes for West Yorkshire.
- (d) That the uncommitted elements of the capital part of the congestion performance fund be used to support the Strategic Programme of Schemes.
- (e) That £1.02m of the revenue element of the Congestion Performance Fund be retained for a centrally commissioned programme of smarter choices.
- (f) That the revised strategic programme of schemes be agreed.

- (g) That the programme be kept under review with particular reference to the need to support major schemes that are reprioritised as part of the spending review.
- (h) That a report be prepared to the Association of West Yorkshire Authorities (AWYA) and the ITA.

## **7. ROAD SAFETY GRANT 2010/11**

The Committee considered a report of the West Yorkshire LTP Partnership on the allocation of the Road Safety Grant in 2010/11.

Since the last meeting it was reported that the Government had announced that the Road Safety Grant would be subject to financial cuts in 2010/11 as part of their spending review. Members were informed that the revenue element of the Grant had been reduced by 27% and the capital element had been removed entirely. It was also reported that central government funding for the installation of new fixed speed cameras would no longer be available. A copy of the DfT's letter to all local authorities in this regard was attached at Appendix 1.

A review of safer roads requirements in West Yorkshire had been undertaken following the Government's announcement and a revised allocation of the Grant between the partners was detailed at Appendix 2. It was reported that discussions were continuing nationally on the future funding of road safety activities covered by the Grant, including speed camera enforcement. However, it was noted that the cut in funding would result in the reduction of staff dedicated to reducing road crashes and injury in West Yorkshire.

As agreed at the last meeting, a revised draft letter to the Road Safety Minister (Department for Transport (DfT)) detailing the implications on road safety activities should the Road Safety Grant be cut was circulated to members for further consideration. Overall members were satisfied with the context of the letter. However, members requested that it be stressed in the letter to the Minister that a range of road safety measures other than speed cameras had also been implemented via the Road Safety Grant and that speed cameras were only installed as a last resort. Further comment was made to improve the wording in the final paragraph of the letter in order to better strengthen the Committee's case.

It was further requested that the letter extend an invitation to the Minister to visit West Yorkshire in order to witness first hand the road safety measures presently in place and to inspect those roads across the county where speed cameras had been implemented and had significant impact in reducing road deaths/accidents.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a)** That the allocation of Road Safety Grant to West Yorkshire District Partners in 2010/11 be endorsed, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, and that approval be sought from the next meeting of the Association of West Yorkshire Authorities (AWYA) Leaders.
- (b)** That the draft letter to the Road Safety Minister be amended and issued, subject to the comments made by members.