

# AGENDA ITEM NO: 4

## AT A MEETING OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON FRIDAY 27 JULY 2007

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

Councillors T Brice, C Campbell, D Congreve, C Greaves,  
M Harkin, K Hussain, J Jarosz, B Jennings, S King, T Leadley,  
M Lyons, P McBride, G Phelps, M Slater, T Swift, G Wainwright,  
M Walker and A Wallace

### **26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Carter, S Khan,  
K Rhodes and M Slater.

### **27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor K Hussain declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 15, Draft  
Local Transport Bill, and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.

### **28. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON 22 JUNE 2007**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on  
22 June 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair.

### **29. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 JUNE 2007**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance  
Committee held on 29 June 2007 be noted.

### **30. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS HELD ON 29 JUNE 2007**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Appointed Members  
held on 29 June 2007 be noted.

### **31. MINUTES OF THE SEMINAR FOR NEW PTA MEMBERS HELD ON 5 JULY 2007**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Seminar for new PTA Members held  
on 5 July 2007 be noted.

**32. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 5 JULY 2007**

With regard to Minute 4 relating to supplementary tendered bus service provision, Councillor Lyons expressed concern about the consultation process for new services funded through the 'use it or lose it' budget provision. It was the Labour Group's view that every member of the Authority should have an input into this process.

Concerning the possibility of providing bus services on Boxing Day and New Years Day, Councillor Lyons suggested that the additional monies would be better spent on hospital and evening services and those areas where services had been lost. He referred to previous pilots where costs per person had been excessive and commented that although circumstances such as Boxing Day sales had changed more work still needed to be done to justify running these services. He also indicated that approaches should be made to businesses for a financial contribution.

The Chair replied that a meeting was to be held immediately following the Authority to which all members had been invited and their comments on any proposed services would be welcomed.

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Tendered Services Working Group held on 5 July 2007 be noted.

**33. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GROUP HELD ON 10 JULY 2007**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Business Improvement Group held on 10 July 2007 be noted.

**34. MINUTES OF THE SEMINAR ON THE DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT BILL HELD ON 12 JULY 2007**

Members were advised that a further seminar would be held on Wednesday 19 September 2007.

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the seminar on the Draft Local Transport Bill held on 12 July 2007 be noted.

**35. STANDING ORDERS OF THE AUTHORITY**

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk on proposed amendments to the Authority's Standing Orders.

It was reported that over the last year a number of procedural matters had been raised at PTA meetings over which the existing Standing Orders were silent and therefore the Standing Orders had been amended to clarify some of these matters.

The Authority were advised that the amended Standing Orders had been considered at the Audit and Governance Committee and since that time Group meetings and a meeting between the political Leaders had been held to consider them in more detail.

**RESOLVED** - That Standing Order 19 be suspended and that the revised Standing Orders appended to the submitted report be approved for immediate implementation.

### 36. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk on the proposed amendment to the Authority's Code of Conduct.

It was reported that at a recent meeting of the Group Leaders it was suggested that the term "member of your family" should be more clearly defined in the Code of Conduct. It was proposed that the following definition from the National Standards Board be incorporated at Part 1 (General Provisions), Introduction and Interpretation:

**"a member of your family"** should be given a very wide meaning. It includes a partner (someone you are married to, your civil partner, or someone you live with in a similar capacity), a parent, parent-in-law, a son or daughter, a stepson or stepdaughter, the child of a partner, a brother or sister, a brother or sister of your partner, a grandparent, a grandchild, an uncle or aunt, a nephew or niece, and the partners of any of these people.

**RESOLVED** - That the amendment to the Authority's Code of Conduct be approved.

### 37. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the release of expenditure with regard to the following schemes:

Scheme	£
Rural Infrastructure	50,000
Enhanced Roadside Displays	70,000
Urban Congestion Fund	510,000

#### MyBus Scheme Authorisations

It was reported that the Authority had previously approved expenditure for the final phase of the project including the procurement of 6 small buses for the extension of Mylittlebus. Since that time, the DfT had issued changes to their grant conditions. These included changing from a Section 56 grant to a Section 31 grant and creating a requirement whereby the Chief Financial Officer not only signs for acceptance of the grant but also commits the

Authority to keep the scheme in operation for a minimum of a further 10 years and to require documentary evidence of an Authority resolution showing that the signatory was so authorised.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the release of capital expenditure be approved.
- (b) That the Chief Financial Officer, acting as the Authority's Section 151 officer, be authorised to certify the acceptance of all grant claims and their attendant conditions on behalf of the Authority.

**38. PLANNING WHITE PAPER**

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive setting out pteg's response on behalf of all PTA/PTEs to the Government's Planning White Paper.

The Authority were informed that the Government's White Paper set out an ambitious programme of proposed reforms to the planning system which would be introduced during the next 3 years. These reforms would embrace all development consent regimes including:

- (i) Introduction of a new streamlined planning process for infrastructure projects of national importance (including major transport schemes);
- (ii) Streamlining the Planning Application process;
- (iii) The need to deliver sustainable development through sustainable spatial policies and provision of microgeneration of renewable energy;
- (iv) Streamlining the Local Development Framework and the potential for the introduction of a Planning Gain Supplement (relating investment in transport to the uplift in land values).

The Authority welcomed the White Paper although they stressed that more emphasis should be placed on the integration of transport and land use planning, particularly the role of PTA/PTEs in that process. Comment was made that links to the funding process and the draft Local Transport Bill should also be more explicit.

Members also stressed the importance that PTA/PTEs should be recognised as statutory consultees in the planning process which was consistent with the principles embodied within the draft Local Transport Bill on the strengthening of the role of PTAs and more integrated decision making. In this respect the Director of Passenger Services commented that Metro would be holding a seminar for members of District Council Planning Committees to promote the need for public transport accessibility and enhancements to be considered as part of the planning process.

**RESOLVED** - That the comments as detailed in Appendix B of the submitted report be included in the pteg response to the Planning White Paper.

### **39. DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT BILL**

The Authority considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive summarising the proposals set out in the draft Local Transport Bill.

It was reported that the initial response to the Bill reflected the discussions at the PTA Seminar held on 12 July 2007 where it was also decided to arrange a future programme of seminars/workshops which would enable all PTA members to provide input into the process of reviewing governance options before the Bill came into force.

Members welcomed the proposals which they considered would enable the Authority, District Councils and the City Region and other partners to develop locally appropriate ways of governing the planning and the development of transport networks as well as giving more powers and options for improving bus services. They stressed the importance of sufficient funding for transport to be allocated equally across the country and an allocation process aligned to more strategic decision making.

With regard to Quality Contracts, concern was expressed that the proposed scheme was lengthy and that it could still take 4 years from applying for a Quality Contract to it coming into force.

**RESOLVED** -

- (a) That the comments as detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report be endorsed for inclusion in the joint PTA SIG/pteg and Leeds City Region response.
- (b) That the approach to a review of governance set out in the submitted report be approved.

### **40. ITEM SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR LYONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 4(3) RE SHADOW DISTRICT SPOKESPERSONS**

Councillor Lyons introduced his item advising the Authority that the Labour Group have established Shadow District Spokespersons and that the Group be given copies of press releases sent out by Metro in order that they are made aware of issues affecting their respective districts thereby enabling them to respond to the press accordingly.

The Authority noted the Labour Group's decision to establish Shadow Spokespersons although it was emphasised that they held no official position within the Authority.

The Chair indicated that not only was he agreeable to letting Shadow Spokespersons have copies of all press releases, but that the same offer should also be extended to all members of the Authority.

**RESOLVED** - That any members wishing to receive press releases be requested to inform the Deputy Clerk.

#### **41. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Authority considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from the following item, which contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a Local Government Act 1972.

**RESOLVED** - It was agreed that because discussion of the report might prejudice future negotiations on leases, the public would be better served by maintaining the exemption and, therefore, the press and public were excluded.

#### **\*42. BRITANNIA STREET CAR PARK – BRADFORD INTERCHANGE**

The Authority considered a report of the Executive on proposed terms for the granting of a new lease in respect of Britannia Street car park, Bradford Interchange.

**RESOLVED** -

- (a)** That approval be given to the granting of a five year lease to First subject to the terms outlined in paragraph 3 of the submitted report.
- (b)** That the Passenger Transport Executive be authorised to carry out the necessary documentation.