

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL FUNDING WORKING GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
FRIDAY 17 JULY 2009

PRESENT: Councillor G Phelps (Chair)
Councillors T Brice, C Campbell, J Jarosz and P McBride

1. CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Councillor Phelps be elected to chair the meeting in the absence of Councillor Rhodes.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Rhodes.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2009 be approved.

5. INTERREG FUNDED PROJECT ('CARE North')

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive advising members of the success of the project bid for funding from the North Sea Interreg Programme.

It was reported that the North Sea Region (NSR) Secretariat had advised that the bid submitted on behalf of the partners by Bremen had been successful. Members discussed the details of Metro's involvement in the work packages which were outlined in Appendix B to the submitted report.

The success of the bid assisted the continuation of the current Travel for Work team, which was currently part funded by Yorkshire Forward. Each partner would receive approximately €325,000 after contributions to overall project management costs. However, in order to attract the grant, each partner's

activities would need to total c€750,000 with a requirement to provide €350,000 in match funding. Metro's contribution would come from transport studies and modelling that was being undertaken as part of the Transport for Leeds activities which were part funded through the Transport Innovation Fund.

RESOLVED - That the success of the Interreg funding bid be noted.

6. RURAL ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of funding to Metro to support transport and accessibility projects under the Yorkshire Forward Rural Access to Opportunities programme.

It was reported that following the success of the rural transport programme which had ended in March 2009, Yorkshire Forward had appointed Metro to manage "Access to Opportunities", a new regional rural economic development programme for 2009-2012.

The programme consisted of three projects which would improve access to employment and training in rural areas and these were outlined in the submitted report. Members discussed the Transport Delegated Fund project which would assist in the funding of a variety of schemes in rural areas including enhanced bus services, community transport, car clubs, walking and cycling. Comment was made that whilst the funding was provided by Yorkshire Forward specifically for rural areas, some urban conurbations matched the criteria used for the provision of schemes and endorsed the principle of a similar fund for urban areas.

It was noted that Yorkshire Forward had informally offered approximately £573,899 in funding over three years, although the final amounts were subject to further discussion. There would be no direct costs to Metro arising from the involvement in the project and the programme would be delivered under a contract with Calderdale Council .

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

7. DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on Metro's activities to secure developer contributions towards public transport.

Members were updated on progress regarding Metro's input into pre planning application discussions, planning application responses, the planning application audit, the residential MetroCard scheme and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Pre Application Discussions

Members welcomed the progress that had been made in formalising a protocol for pre-application discussions in Kirklees Council. The protocol aimed to involve Metro officers who would be able to contribute to formal meetings with developers and provide information to a specified Kirklees' Highways officer. Metro's comments would be incorporated into the Council's formal advice to developers and if the trial with Kirklees was successful, it was intended to roll out the process to all Districts in Autumn 2009.

Residential MetroCard Scheme

It was reported that the discounted Residential MetroCard scheme continued to be promoted for new developments. Members noted the findings of recent survey work at sites where the scheme had been implemented which was outlined in the submitted report. It was considered that the scheme needed refinement and members discussed possible improvements including the need for greater clarity of what was expected from developers before their planning applications were submitted. It was reported that Metro was developing proposals for amendments to the scheme which would be discussed with the Local Planning Authorities.

Comment was made that in many cases, living near a bus stop was not an incentive for people to change their travel patterns, particularly if the area did not have a regular service. It was considered that people would be more likely to use a Residential MetroCard if they lived near to a railway station. Other suggestions included the promotion of car clubs and car sharing and the provision of realtime information at workplaces and other suitable locations. Members were advised of a product that had been developed by ACIS for a new build in Dartford which supplied householders with internet links, realtime travel information and details of their energy consumption and recycling activities. It was proposed to arrange a demonstration of the system at a future meeting.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a progress report on issues identified be provided to a future meeting of the Working Group.