

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY / DISTRICT COUNCILS

**MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT PLANNING LIAISON GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2008**

PRESENT: Councillor D Robinson (Chair)

Councillors	R Downes	-	WYPTA
	G Hyde	-	WYPTA
	T Swift	-	WYPTA
	R L'Amie	-	Bradford MDC

Officers in Attendance:

I Gallacher	-	Bradford MDC
P Stubbs	-	Calderdale MBC
D Hoggarth	-	Metro
P Roberts	-	Metro
S Naylor	-	WYPTA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Hawkesworth (WYPTA), J Smithson (Kirklees) and A Blackburn (Leeds).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2008 be approved.

4. PLANNING UPDATE

The Liaison Group considered a progress report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the latest developments from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Members were also advised of progress with the co-ordination of District based policies to generate appropriate levels of developer contributions to fund transport schemes and so support sustainable development.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Further to the update provided to members at the last meeting of the Liaison Group, the DCLG had published its latest report on CIL regarding a new charge on most types of new development. The charge would be based on the size and character of the development. The proceeds of the charge could be used towards local and sub-regional infrastructure (including for transport) supporting growth. Members noted that the legislative basis for CIL was contained within Part 2 of the Planning Bill, which was currently progressing through Parliament. It was anticipated that draft regulations would be published in Autumn 2008 and that the CIL would become effective in Spring 2009. The key details of the CIL were outlined to members and were also listed in Appendix A to the report.

Supplementary Planning Documents

It was reported that in July 2008 Leeds City Council formally adopted its Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Public Transport Improvements. The Leeds SPD set out the contribution required from applicants for public transport improvements/enhancements and the type/level of contribution required, the legal and financial procedures and the range of public transport infrastructure improvements/enhancements for which the contributions would be utilised.

Members were advised that a group of West Yorkshire planning/transport officers and Metro continued to explore the development of the West Yorkshire approach to secure planning gain for transport investment. Current workstreams included identifying potential development sites and the possible transport interventions and associated costs. Further reports would be submitted to the Liaison Group as work progressed.

Discussions ensued regarding the need for a consistent approach across the West Yorkshire district authorities in respect of obtaining the levy/contributions from developers. It was also suggested that this approach be fed into the Atkins Transport Governance Review process, with a view to it being considered as a remit of the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA). Comment was also made regarding the potentially conflicting demands for contributions to transport and other 'asks' (eg affordable housing).

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That progress on developing a co-ordinated West Yorkshire approach to developer contributions for transport be noted.

5. HOUSING GROWTH POINTS

The Liaison Group considered a progress report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding developments from the Government on 'New Growth

Points' for housing and the opportunities for funding offered by the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF).

Following the Leeds City Region's submission of an expression of interest in achieving New Growth Point (NGP) in late 2007, the Government announced in July 2008 that 4 Districts within the City Region were to be awarded NGP status and that these Districts were Barnsley, Calderdale, Craven and Wakefield. This status allowed for Districts to apply for additional funding from the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF), which offered the named West Yorkshire Authorities a new potential capital funding stream to progress significant transport schemes.

The process of applying for CIF was explained to members. Expressions of Interest for developing transport schemes for the 4 identified Districts had been submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) on 15 September 2008. Details of the schemes across the Barnsley, Calderdale, Craven and Wakefield districts, which could support specific large housing sites, were outlined within the submitted report.

It was expected that in January 2009 the DfT would announce the schemes that could proceed to a full business case for submission in April 2009, with decisions on successful schemes expected in July 2009.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6. TECHNICAL LEAFLET - "IMPACT OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON BUS PERFORMANCE"

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on a draft technical leaflet intended for ward councillors on the adverse impacts of traffic congestion on bus performance and to seek assistance from members in the dissemination of key messages to local ward councillors.

Members were informed that the West Yorkshire Bus Partnership Group (WYBPG) had requested that a technical leaflet covering traffic congestion impact on bus performance be prepared following the positive feedback on the 'Access for All at Bus Stops' members' leaflet. It was noted that the leaflet would address certain issues, which included causes of traffic congestion, impacts on the bus network and mitigating measures.

A copy of the present draft, which was now in preparation, was attached to the submitted report. In this respect, the document would be taken in leaflet format to the next meeting of the WYBPG in December. It was hoped the leaflet would be distributed in January 2009.

Members commended the initiative, particularly as members of the public needed to be made more aware of how traffic congestion effected the bus network. It was also suggested that the leaflet be made available to community organisations, such as neighbourhood forums, and not just to ward councillors.

RESOLVED -

- (a)** That the proposed technical leaflet be endorsed for further refinement.
- (b)** That members of the Liaison Group assist in the dissemination of the key messages to be contained in the leaflet to ward councillor colleagues within their respective authorities.