

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: 23 June 2006

AGENDA ITEM NO: 20

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Report of the Clerk

1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1. To update Members on the current situation in regard to the Authority's membership of the Local Government Association (LGA).

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1. The Authority at its meeting on 29 April 2005 resolved that the LGA be given notice of their intention to withdraw from membership if greater priority was not given to transport. Three other PTAs, West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Tyne and Wear, also gave notice to leave around the same period. Since that date, the Passenger Transport Authority Special Interest Group (PTA SIG), on which the Chair, Deputy Chair and Leader of the Opposition sit, has maintained a constructive, but robust, dialogue with the LGA to explore the scope for a new relationship. As a result of this period of engagement, agreement on three substantive issues have been reached.
- 2.2. **First**, the LGA has made a number of changes to give transport a higher priority in its workload. It has attended all PTA SIG meetings, often led by the Chair of the Environment Board, Councillor David Sparks. The Association has also reconvened the Transport Task Group. These actions have improved the profile of transport issues within the Association's agenda. Furthermore, the LGA put a higher emphasis on transport within the schedule of the 2005 Annual Conference, and commissioned external work on transport issues.
- 2.3. **Secondly**, A motion will be put to the 2006 General Assembly that would give voting rights to PTA Members although the outcome cannot be guaranteed.
- 2.4. **Thirdly**, a new financial deal has been concluded by which the LGA will substantially increase the rebate it makes to *pteg* (Passenger Transport Executive Group) to contribute to their operation of the Support Unit which provides administrative support to PTA SIG. This will be set at £100,000 in 2006/07, and thereafter at 42.5% of the combined subscriptions of the six PTAs. The rebate in 2005/06 was £27,040.

2.5. It is considered that these substantial changes in approach and funding make continued membership of the LGA a worthwhile use of the Authority's resources.

3. FINANCIAL AND EC PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1. The membership fee for 2006/07 is £39,247.

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1. There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There are no equal opportunity implications arising directly from this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. That the Authority notes the improvements the LGA have made and consequently agrees to continue its membership of the LGA.

**Clerk to the Authority
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority**

WYPTA/AGD