

AGENDA ITEM No: 16b

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE
ON FRIDAY 27 MAY 2005

PRESENT: Councillor J Prestage (Chair)

Councillors M Bower, C Greaves, K Iqbal and J Jarosz

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W Hyde and T Leadley.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

35. COUNCILLOR W HYDE

The Chair reported that Councillor Hyde had been elected as the Lord Mayor of Leeds. The Group asked that a letter be sent to him thanking him for his contributions to the Group.

RESOLVED - That a letter of thanks be sent to Councillor Hyde.

36. MINUTES

Further to minute 29, WY TESA update, it was noted that a progress report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Group.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 4 March 2005 and the presentation of the Accessibility Review held on 13 May 2005 be approved.

37. GERSHON EFFICIENCY REVIEW

The Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the implications of the Gershon efficiency review for Metro.

Members were advised that the aim of Sir Peter Gershon's report was to encourage the public sector to identify opportunities for efficiency savings which could be redirected to improve the service offered to customers. However, Metro was seeking clarification on the review and progress reports would be prepared to future meetings of the Group.

It was noted that Metro was working with the 5 District Councils and other PTA/Es to identify areas where there was potential to make the required efficiencies. An action plan was being finalised which would ensure that the required targets were built into the overall corporate planning process.

RESOLVED - That the implications of the Gershon efficiency review and the ongoing work be noted.

38. ACCESSIBILITY REVIEW – FINAL DRAFT REPORT

The Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which presented the final draft report and action plan of the Best Value review of Accessibility.

Members had attended a presentation by Faber Maunsell on the main findings of the review and it was noted that recommendations had been developed into an action plan which had been circulated to members. The Group considered it would be beneficial for the presentation to be given to all members of the Authority.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the Accessibility Review and action plan be approved.
- (b) That a presentation of the Accessibility Review be arranged for members of the Authority.

39. REVIEW OF METROPLAN 2004/5

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the organisational achievement levels against targets set in MetroPlan 2004/5.

Comment was made that it would be beneficial to include explanation notes with regard to targets. It was noted that the review for 2005/6 was complete and that there had been an attainment level of 95.5% across Metro, with over 250 targets being fully completed. The Group requested that their congratulations be given to Metro staff for their achievements.

MetroPlan 2005/6 was presented to members for consideration.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the review of MetroPlan 2004/5 performance be noted.
- (b) That Metro staff be congratulated for their achievements and the Group's thanks be placed on record.
- (c) That MetroPlan 2005/6 be noted.

40. PREPARATION OF THE BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2005/6

The Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the position regarding the production of Metro's Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) 2005/6.

The first draft of the Plan was circulated at the meeting and members were asked to forward any comments at the earliest opportunity. It was proposed that a final draft copy be sent to members of the Group for their comments and approval prior to publication. The Plan would then be printed and distributed to all stakeholders, including elected members, officers, Government departments, District Councils, bus and rail operators and libraries throughout West Yorkshire by the end of June. Members suggested a wider circulation, to include Information Centres and Parish, Town and Community Councils. Metro would forward a proposed circulation list to District Spokespersons for their approval.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report and timescales be approved.
- (b) That prior to publication, the final draft BVPP 2005/6 be circulated to members of the Group for comment and approval.

41. YORCARD

The Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on progress with the YorCard project.

It was reported that the scheme had received provisional approval in December 2003 and a S56 Grant award of £21.35m was made subject to a number of conditions which were satisfied. However, further issues were raised by operators which delayed the scheme and resulted in the provisional approval being withdrawn.

The Department for Transport (DfT) had provided provisional approval for a pilot scheme to test equipment, software, communication links, customer experiences and provide data that would be used to determine the business cases for each partner. The pilot scheme would be held in South Yorkshire and discussions were being held with South and West Yorkshire District Councils to establish whether the pilot could be used to trial library and leisure applications in West Yorkshire.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

42. ICT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

The Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on progress with the implementation of Metro's ICT Strategy.

It was reported that a new version of the AIM Internet Journey Planner was being tested which included on screen digital mapping and it was anticipated that it would go live by the end of June. In addition, the first phase of the Real Time Information system was undergoing final testing prior to a major press launch and advertising campaign in September 2005.

Members noted that the majority of the projects in the ICT Strategy contributed towards achieving the Government's target of having 100% of all services available electronically by December 2005. This was measured through the Best Value Performance Indicator 157 (BVPI 157) and Metro was currently 75% towards achieving this. A report would be prepared for the next meeting with clearer indications on whether the target would be met.

RESOLVED - That the progress with the implementation of the ICT Strategy be noted.