

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING
GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2008**

PRESENT: Councillor P McBride (Chair)

Councillors R Downes, S Khan and S King

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hussain.

13. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2008 be approved.

15. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive and received a presentation updating members on progress in relation to Metro's Environment Strategy.

Members were advised that Metro's corporate target was to continue to implement the strategy and to work towards ISO accreditation. The progress to date and the proposed actions which had been identified for delivery in 2008/09 were noted.

The Working Group stressed the importance of Metro continuing to work with District Councils, universities, colleges and health authorities with regard to the implementation of travel plans. Members suggested that the strategy should make reference to the fact that Metro continued to work towards providing environmentally friendly public transport. Progress on implementation of the strategy would be reported to a future meeting of the Group.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

16. NEW GENERATION TRANSPORT (NGT) IN LEEDS – STRATEGIC FIT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on work relating to the strategic fit (with the wider transport vision and strategy) for the New Generation Transport (NGT) project.

The Working Group discussed the recommendations for potential interventions on transport corridors in Leeds and considered the key points which had arisen from discussions held with the Department for Transport (DfT) which were outlined in the submitted report. It was noted that a meeting had been held with the DfT where the findings of the strategic fit analysis had been considered and a consensus reached on the process for moving towards 'programme entry', the next stage in the process for the major scheme business case.

Members noted that the Regional Transport Board (RTB) had allocated £150m for the project and they emphasised the need to maximise the spend by 2013. A report would be prepared for consideration by Leeds City Council's Executive Board and the Passenger Transport Authority.

RESOLVED - That the work on the strategic fit and the next steps on the development of the NGT proposals be noted.

16. TRAM-TRAIN UPDATE

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive and received a presentation which provided an update on progress on the current status of the development of tram-train proposals in the Leeds City Region and details of the national trial of tram-train technology which the Department for Transport (DfT) had recently announced.

It was reported that a draft final report had been completed by the consultants who had been commissioned to undertake a feasibility study to consider the potential for introducing tram-train technology onto routes set out in the Leeds City Region Transport Vision. Members noted the draft findings of the study which were summarised in the submitted report and they were given a more detailed presentation covering the key issues. They discussed the options for tram-train routes in the city centre and the potential for connections to outlying areas, including links to Leeds Bradford International Airport. It was reported that work undertaken to date had identified that the Harrogate Line was the most suitable line for initial conversion to tram-train technology although further detailed work was required.

Members were advised of the DfT's announcement for a trial of tram-train technology to be undertaken between 2010-2012 on the Penistone Line in partnership with Network Rail and Northern Rail. It was noted that in view of

the timescale for the trial, proposals for the Leeds City Region would need to be developed in parallel, but the DfT would be unlikely to accept any Major Scheme Business Cases for tram-train schemes until the Penistone Line trial had been fully evaluated. Discussions would be held with Northern Rail, Network Rail and the DfT to establish the extent of Metro's involvement in the trial and to agree a protocol for the sharing of knowledge.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the approach to the further development of tram-train schemes as set out in paragraphs 2.16 to 2.19 of the submitted report be endorsed.

17. CITY REGION TRANSPORT VISION

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on the implementation of the City Region Transport Vision and proposals to update the Vision.

It was noted that the Regional Transport Board (RTB) had endorsed four schemes relating to the Leeds City Region. Following the endorsement of the initial schemes, the City Region Transport Vision Short Term Implementation Plan had been updated and a copy was attached at Appendix A to the submitted report. Members were advised that some schemes (including Connecting Airedale Phase 1 and the Leeds Rail Growth Package), would be further considered alongside other schemes by the RTB in July 2008.

The Working Group stressed the need to raise public awareness of the Transport Vision and suggested that consideration be given to using the media to promote the vision. Members were advised that a Rail Summit had been arranged for 20 June 2008 which would be chaired by Alan Whitehouse, a transport correspondent for the BBC. Invitations would be sent to a wide audience including MPs, government ministers and local authorities.

It was reported that a short term Engagement Strategy had been developed which covered three key areas – rail investment, raising the profile of city region transport needs and the funding and delivery of transport schemes. A copy of the Engagement Strategy was attached at Appendix B to the submitted report.

The Working Group were advised of the proposed refresh of the Transport Vision and the areas to be covered were outlined in paragraph 2.12 of the submitted report. It was noted that the DfT and the Government would be involved with the work and members comments and suggestions were invited. A more detailed funding strategy would also be developed to reflect the schemes within the Vision and the timescale for completion of the refresh was Autumn 2008.

Members noted that the proposed Multi Area Agreement (MAA) would be another key component to both the funding and delivery of schemes within the Vision. It was suggested that the revised Transport Vision, together with funding options and the MAA, be used as the basis of a new 'city region deal' with central government and should form the basis of a ministerial presentation in the Autumn. Comment was made that the MAA should be developed to provide clear objectives and a mechanism for City Region authorities to work together.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Working Group endorse the approach to the refresh of the Transport Vision.

18. COUNCILLOR STANLEY KING

The Chair advised the Working Group that this was to be Councillor King's last meeting prior to his forthcoming retirement. He thanked Councillor King for his valuable contributions to meetings of the Group and members wished him well for the future.

In response, Councillor King thanked everyone for their kind remarks and wished them continuing success with the work of the Authority.