

Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships)

Inquiry into integrated transport strategies for Leeds and the wider region

Draft Terms of Reference

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Transport Act (2008) introduced a range of changes to the existing Transport Act (2000). These included significant alterations to the role and powers of Passenger Transport Authorities (PTAs) which are now known as Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs). The Act will have a major impact on the work of the Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs) such as METRO and also potentially local councils, in terms of governance and transport planning.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 25th June 2009, the Scrutiny Board (City & Regional Partnerships) discussed the Local Transport Act 2008 and its implications for decision making both within Leeds and more widely. In particular, members were keen to explore the development of arrangements with partner organisations to deliver better services.
- 1.3 It was decided to undertake an inquiry into the way in which the needs and priorities of Leeds as a city are represented in transport planning. In particular, members wish to consider the integration of transport strategies, and in particular the role of the newly established Integrated Transport Authority in West Yorkshire and across the city region.
- 1.4 An important driver for this inquiry is the Local Area Agreement strategic outcome "*Increased accessibility and connectivity through investment in a high quality transport system and through influencing others and changing behaviours*". In addition, enhancing transport connectivity is a central feature of the Leeds City Region Multi Area Agreement. Therefore it is clearly vital that the needs of the city are appropriately represented at every level.

2.0 Scope of the inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
 - The way in which the needs of Leeds and its citizens are served by the existing strategic arrangements, at city and regional level.
 - The impact which the Local Transport Act (2008) will have on existing arrangements and priorities, and in particular the way in which the new powers of the ITA will be used to further those objectives which are of particular importance to Leeds.

- The governance arrangements at each level of transport planning, and how adequate political representation is ensured.

3.0 Comments of the relevant Director and Executive Member

3.1 Comments received will be reflected in the terms of reference.

4.0 Timetable for the inquiry

- 4.1 The Inquiry will take place over three sessions with a view to issuing a final report in winter 2009/10.
- 4.2 The length of the Inquiry is subject to change.

5.0 Submission of evidence

The following evidence will be considered by the Board.

5.1 Session one – (8th October)

This session will focus on transport strategies and policies at city and regional level. In particular:

- The governance arrangements for transport strategy within West Yorkshire, in the Leeds City Region and more widely, and the way in which the needs of the people of Leeds are represented at each level.
- The recently announced forerunner status for the city region
- The key priorities for local and regional transport as set out in the existing strategies, and the way in which these complement and interact with one another.

5.2 Session two - (tbc)

This session will focus on the specific implications of the establishment of the Integrated Transport Authority for Leeds. In particular:

- The proposed governance arrangements for the new ITA.
- The potential to change the boundaries and/or governance structure of the ITA
- The ITA's new increased and extended powers over bus services.
- The ITA's new wellbeing powers

5.4 Session three - (tbc)

- To consider emerging conclusions and recommendations to inform the production of the final inquiry report.

6.0 Witnesses

6.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- City Development Directorate
- Metro
- Leeds Secretariat
- Government Office, Yorkshire and the Humber

7.0 Post inquiry report monitoring arrangements

- 7.1 Following the completion of the Scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.
- 7.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for how the implementation of recommendations will be monitored.

8.0 Measures of success

- 8.1 It is important to consider how the Scrutiny Board will deem if their inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 8.2 The Board will look to publish practical recommendations.