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## Report of the Director of City Development

### Executive Board

Date: 22nd June 2010

### Response to the Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into "Integrated Transport Strategies for Leeds and the Wider Region".

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(Referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In  
(Details contained in the report)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides the Executive Board with details of the recent Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into "Integrated Transport Strategies for Leeds and the Wider Region", details how the Director proposes to respond to the recommendations that have emerged and asks the Board to approve the proposed responses.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Executive Board is recommended to:
  - APPROVE the Director of City Development's responses to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations.

## Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 This report outlines the Director's proposed response to each of the Scrutiny Board's recommendations for approval by the Executive Board.

## 2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The Local Transport Act 2008 gained Royal Assent on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The Act Provides the framework and tools for local authorities and bus operators to work together to encourage bus use, reduce congestion and help tackle climate change.

The Act also gave local authorities the power to review and propose their own arrangements for local transport governance to support more coherent planning and delivery of local transport.

2.2 In February 2009, all Passenger Transport Authorities were renamed Integrated Transport Authorities; the latter have responsibility for producing Local Transport Plans.

2.3 The Scrutiny Board report made 6 recommendations as a result of their Inquiry. The Executive Member for City Development has been briefed on the Inquiry and this report.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

3.1 Each of the Scrutiny Board's 6 recommendations are listed below together with a response and/or proposed action from the Director of City Development.

#### **3.2 Recommendation One**

*That the proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Leeds City Region Transport Panel be used as the basis for further iterations of the Terms of Reference and consideration by all the parties concerned.*

Director's response: agreed. The Terms of Reference for the revised Transport Panel continue to be developed with input from all relevant authorities.

#### **3.3 Recommendation Two**

*We endorse the establishment of an 8 Member Executive Board for the WYITA which came in effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. We note that the 8 Members will be selected from overall membership of 22 and recommend that representation on the Executive Board come from all 5 West Yorkshire authorities.*

Director's response: membership of the WYITA Executive Board, which did come into effect earlier in the year, will be confirmed at the Annual meeting in June. The intention is for relevant portfolio holders from all 5 West Yorkshire authorities to be represented on the Executive Board.

#### **3.4 Recommendation 3:**

*We note that the full WYITA has an important scrutiny role to perform but would welcome the development of scrutiny arrangements for the city region as a whole that are regionally based to aid transparency, objectivity, efficiency and accountability of the process and ask the Leaders Board to give consideration to this proposal.*

Director's response: the recommendation is noted. New scrutiny arrangements will have to be considered as part of any revised Leeds City Region Transport Panel arrangements that emerge over the next few months.

#### **3.5 Recommendation 4:**

*We endorse the need to consider how private and community sector representation could be achieved on the WYITA without voting rights and ask that this be considered in a future review.*

Director's response: following consultation with the Director General of Metro, such representation would be considered as part of any revised formal governance arrangements in West Yorkshire. Discussions on the latter continue although the emphasis currently is at the Leeds City Region Level. At present, wider interest groups and members of the general public can become members of the WYITA's passenger consultative committees.

### 3.6 Recommendation 5:

*We strongly endorse that decision of the WYITA to proceed with the introduction of Quality Bus Contracts as a means of imposing on operators a level and frequency of bus service that is required on specific routes.*

Director's response: earlier in the year, the WYITA resolved to develop a business case for Quality Bus Contracts. This will be considered by the WYITA at future meetings.

### 3.7 Recommendation 6:

*That a further report on transport governance issued be submitted to this Scrutiny Board for consideration once a more detailed work programme has been developed.*

Director's response: agreed.

## **4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

4.1 There are no direct implications arising from this particular report.

## **5.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

5.1 Legal and staff resources will be needed to progress associated workstreams and will be funded from existing budgets.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 The Local Transport Act 2008 has the potential to strengthen transport governance and working arrangements across West Yorkshire and the Leeds City Region. The Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into this area is therefore timely. Further work with relevant authorities will take place over coming months enabling decisions to be taken and scrutinised by relevant authorities, in due course.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 The Executive Board is recommended to:

- APPROVE the Director of City Development's responses to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations to its "Integrated Transport Strategy for Leeds and the Wider Region".

## **Background Papers**

Scrutiny Inquiry Report. "Integrated Transport Strategies for Leeds and the Wider Region". April 2010.