

THE EXECUTIVE
MEETING, 23RD JULY, 2007

Councillor Morris	Leader of the Council – Corporate Strategy and Finance
Councillor Mrs. Thomas	Children's Services
Councillor Peel	Environmental Services
Councillor Kay	Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Ibrahim	Culture and Community Safety
Councillor Sherrington	Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Councillor White	Human Resources ,Performance and Diversity
Councillor Zaman	Regeneration

Non-Voting Members

Councillor A. N. Spencer
Councillor J. Walsh
Councillor R. Allen
Councillor Mrs D . Brierley
Councillor Shaw
Councillor A. Wilkinson
Councillor Hayes
Councillor D. Wilkinson
Councillor Mrs Rothwell

Officers

Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	Director of Corporate Resources
Mrs. M. Stoney	Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Mr. R. Newton	Representative of the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority
Mrs. V. Ridge	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Councillor Morris in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Adia.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on 2nd July, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

12. AGMA TIF BID – REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT INNOVATION FUND WORKING PARTY

The Chief Executive submitted a report that requested the Executive to consider the report of the TIF Working Party ;the views expressed by the Council and the AGMA supporting papers in order to formulate a suitable response to AGMA's bid to the Department of Transport's Transport Innovation Fund for a programme of public transport investment.

The report reminded members that the AGMA Executive ,at its meeting on 25th May ,2007, had considered a report entitled Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Strategy : Progress with Transport Innovation Fund Bid. The report outlined progress made relating to the submission of Greater Manchester's proposed bid to the DfT's Transport Innovation Fund in July ,2007 and sought the AGMA Executive's views on whether they were satisfied that a basis existed for public and business engagement to take place on the key elements of the emerging strategy .

In light of the above Bolton Council established a Transport Innovation Fund Working Party to look in depth at the

implications for the Borough of the TIF proposed bid and to prepare a report for consideration by the Council at its meeting on 11th July ,2007 .

The Working Party met on three occasions (on the third occasion all members of the Council were invited to attend and to comment on the proposals) and the report commissioned by the Working Party was detailed at Appendix 3 and set out the impact that the proposed scheme would have on the Borough .

The Council considered the report of the Working Party at its meeting on 11th July,2007 and agreed the following ;

That this Council notes the report of the TIF Working Party, particularly the potential advantages/disadvantages for the Borough, and supports the principles included therein (subject to the 4 AGMA tests being met) which are:-

- (1) There must be significant investment in public transport improvements including Metrolink and enhanced capacity must be in place where congestion charging is proposed prior to the introduction of the charging scheme .
- (2) Measures must complement the economic competitiveness and social inclusion priorities of the sub-region and not undermine the competitiveness of the regional centre or the town centres in the area.
- (3) Measures must be acceptable, not only to the public, but also to the business community.
- (4) Measures must be relevant to where congestion exists or where it may emerge in the future notwithstanding the advent of public transport improvements.

Council expresses its serious concern at the continued lack of important detail in the proposal to allow an informed decision to be made on its overall benefits or

drawbacks for the Borough. Council recognises that this lack of detail, coupled with the apparent evasiveness of the leadership of AGMA and the GMPTA earlier this year has served to increase distrust among both the public and Members of this Council.

Council wishes to put on record that, if a decision had to be taken on the basis of the information currently available, it would be minded not to proceed as there appears to be little overall benefit to Bolton.

However, on the basis of assurances that ;

- (a) there would be further extensive consultation with the public and businesses in Bolton and that considerably more information would be available at that time;
- (b) this Council could decide not to go ahead for any reason, even if a bid had been accepted by Government;
- (c) if Phase 1 was implemented, no extension of the scheme which included further charging points affecting Bolton could be imposed without extensive further public consultation and agreement by this Council;
- (d) Bolton's position could not be undermined by any form of 'majority voting' on AGMA or GMPTA.

Council would concur with a bid being made to Government as a means of testing the Government's intentions and to discover more facts to enable an informed decision to be made. Council considers that the public consultation following any successful bid should be as extensive as possible and that there should be discussions between the political Groups on how best to achieve this. "

The AGMA Executive would consider further report(s) at its meetings on 27th July ,2007 relating to an update on the overall bid submission and the acceptability exercise.

The Chief Executive also outlined the key findings from the two quantitative surveys and the series of deliberative events carried out by GfK NOP on behalf of GMPTE and AGMA.

Resolved – That, based upon a careful consideration of the report, the resolution of the Council and the results of the Acceptability Exercise, the Executive agrees to support the submission of a bid by AGMA to the Transport Innovation Fund.