

Bolton City Council Resolution 11th July 2007

AGMA's bid to Department of Transport's Transport Innovation Fund

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. ”

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