

**Item 11**

**Integrated Transport Authority Special Interest Group -  
Annual report to the Local Government Group, 2011**

**Purpose of report**

For noting.

**Summary**

The Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) Special Interest Group is a forum for members of ITAs in metropolitan areas to develop policy and lobbying responses on the full range of transport issues they face and to link with the Economy and Transport Programme Board on common issues.

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the ITA Special Interest Group's annual report.

**Action**

To be taken forward the officers as directed by Members.

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## **Integrated Transport Authority Special Interest Group - Annual report to the Local Government Group, 2011**

### **Principal Aims and Objectives**

1. The principal aims and objectives of the Group are:
  - To provide a forum for members of the Integrated Transport Authorities in metropolitan areas to develop policy and lobbying responses on the full range of transport issues they face; and
  - To link with the LGG through its Economy & Transport Programme Board and relevant Task Groups on wider transport and related policy issues.

### **Current Membership**

2. The membership of the Group comprises Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear, West Midlands, and West Yorkshire ITAs. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) is an honorary member of the Group. During the year Greater Manchester ITA took on new responsibilities as GMPTE became Transport for Greater Manchester under the wider Greater Manchester Combined Authority arrangements.
3. The Group is supported in an administrative and policy capacity by the **pteg** Support Unit, and welcomes the financial support the Association gives to the work of the Unit.

### **Key activities and outcomes of work undertaken during the year**

4. The following principal topics have formed the core elements of our work in the past year:
  - Developing and articulating the benefits of investing in transport in the city regions;
  - Highlighting the need for investment in additional rolling stock and in key infrastructure investment (including the Northern Hub);
  - Saving money for ITAs / PTEs through collaborative working, joint commissioning and subscriptions, and the launch of the **pteg** extranet;
  - Ensuring that reimbursement for concessionary travel is based on fair and accurate information;

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- Keeping stakeholders updated about the implications of the Localism Bill, and wider planning and governance reform, for transport provision in the city regions;
- Building on the provisions of the Local Transport Act to make considerable progress on ways of improving bus services – including a joint initiative with the CPT on bus partnerships;
- Extensive input into the Competition Commission inquiry into the future of the bus market;
- Maintaining and developing good relationships with key stakeholders and ensuring that ITAs'/PTEs' reputation and influence continues to grow;
- Making a credible case to Government for devolution of BSOG and contributing to the wider campaign to protect BSOG funding.