Report **03.501**
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Committee **Passenger Transport**
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Timetable Database and Real Time Information

1. Purpose

To present a possible strategy for implementing Real Time Passenger Information.

2. Background

As reported to the Committee's 17 July meeting, we have contracted for the supply of an integrated Public Transport Database, Journey Planner, and Geographic Information System. We have begun the process of plotting every bus stop in the region using GPS; in the first two weeks of September we will receive training in the use of the system to build routes and timetables from the bus stop data. The call centre and journey planning facility will be largely in place by Christmas although the official roll-out may not be until early in 2004.

The principal supplier, Action Information Management Ltd of the UK, has left us with a possible strategy for using the database as a platform for implementing real-time information in six stages. I will present this strategy during the Committee's meeting.

3. Comment

It is important to note that no commitments have been made to this strategy; it simply provides us with a possible "way forward". The need for real-time information is a strong and recurring theme in the market research we have undertaken in the last year; people are now well aware that the technology exists and increasingly expect it to be available to them in this region.

4. Communications

No communications are proposed until Councillors have had a chance to consider the issue in more depth.

5.   Recommendation

That the report be received.

Report prepared by: Report approved by:

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