



Amerjit Sahota (left) and Eddie Cross (second left) receive The London Borough of Redbridge's membership plaque as the first members of our new Public Authority Corporate Membership from Institute Chief Executive Steve Agg (centre right) and Chris Ruane, CILT's Public Authority Development Officer (right)

# CILT Public Authority Corporate Membership launched

- The London Borough of Redbridge is the first Public Authority Corporate Member to join our new scheme. David Jinks finds out why entrepreneurial skills are essential to the success of this dynamic authority.

There is a common perception from those in the private sector that some public sector operators are less go-ahead than private companies. But the first public authority to sign up to our new Public Authority Corporate Membership busts this stereotype wide open.

The London Borough of Redbridge operates vehicles as diverse as buses, street sweepers, tractors and gritters, and its facilities have been continuously upgraded to cope with changing requirements of ever more modern vehicles and legal changes.

Amerjit Sahota is Redbridge's Passenger Services Manager. He is swift to point out how very proactive this local authority is: 'We have the capacity to deal with

most things, such as testing and servicing in-house – and we also can offer our services to other authorities and local operators.'

On site at the Ley Street, Ilford, depot there's a Class 5 testing station, with a long pit and rollers, which Redbridge is aiming to upgrade to Class 6, as it presents the opportunity for more savings and potential hiring out of services. There are also some impressive training facilities where, for example, Driver CPC classes can be run. In fact, CILT classes are hosted at Redbridge not just for Redbridge, but also other local authorities.

Redbridge is rising to some interesting opportunities, including bidding for local Olympics contracts. It has an

impressive fleet of vehicles suited to disabled people, which might be highly useful for the Paralympics.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg. 'It's almost not what we do, but what we don't do', smiles Amerjit Sahota.

### Municipal fleet

Redbridge operates 100 buses and 300 vehicles in all. These are not just passenger vehicles, but also all the other types typically operated by a municipal fleet, such as street cleansing. It does not just serve local authority contracts. Its buses serve private schools around the borough. In addition, the authority links up with local companies supplying specialist taxi service.

Eddie Cross, Engineering Manager, points out some of the other advantages of a fully equipped depot. The workshop is 3,000m<sup>2</sup>, complete with a subcontracted bodyshop. The site offers 24-hour security and it has arrangements with Johnston Sweepers. Redbridge even mounts bodies for the Giletta gritters for the Bucher Group, which now owns Giletta and Johnston Sweepers.

### Why join CILT's Corporate Membership scheme?

Amerjit Sahota is extremely enthusiastic about Redbridge becoming the first member of our Public Authority Corporate Membership. 'CILT represents our industry. As a professional body, it is known worldwide. That means it lifts our profile. Being part of the scheme means we can share our experiences, get the benefit of CILT training and CPC, and gain advice about how we develop our training and services.'



Redbridge has extensive modern facilities for servicing its 100-strong bus and coach fleet



A previously owned Heil Recycling refuse collection vehicle is prepared for service by its new owners

Chris Ruane, CILT's Public Authority Development Officer, says: 'It is great that such an enthusiastic and trend-setting authority as Redbridge has signed up to be the first member of our new scheme. There is a lot of opportunity for CILT and Redbridge to work closely together in the future.'

'I am pleased to say we have already signed Leeds City Council as our next member, and with public authorities facing a potentially difficult future, given the current attention by the Government on the public sector, there's never been a better time to have such a membership package to ensure other authorities are achieving their maximum revenue potential and achieving their training needs.'

The Public Authorities Corporate Membership package gives access to: qualification and training; logistics and transport events; fellow professionals network; and transport training for transport, highways and planning professionals.



### Further information

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