

AGENDA ITEM NO: 11

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON TUESDAY 18 JULY 2006

PRESENT: Councillor C Townsley (Chair)

Councillors D Congreve, W S Hyde, G Phelps and G Wainwright

Councillor P McBride (Observer)

163. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

164. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members at the meeting.

165. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Working Group considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from Agenda Item 15 which contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED - It was agreed that because disclosure of the report might prejudice future negotiations with third parties, the public interest would be better served by maintaining the exemption and, therefore, the press and public should be excluded.

166. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2006 be approved.

167. DE-MINIMIS CONTRACTS FOR BUS SERVICES IN SOUTH EAST LEEDS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the renewal of deminimis contracts for the operation of Service

403 between Leeds and Selby via Micklefield and for the diversion of commercial services to link communities in rural south east Leeds.

It was reported that the diversion of the service via Micklefield was due to expire in September 2006. This secured a co-ordinated hourly frequency with Service 402.

Arriva had indicated that should the deminimis contract be withdrawn they would only operate the more direct hourly 402 service thus reducing the bus service in Micklefield to 2 hourly.

Members noted that in parallel with the deminimis contract for Service 403 an additional contract be awarded to Arriva to secure the amendment of commercial routes and timetables to serve Garforth Community College, Brigshaw High School and St Wifred's RC High School, Featherstone. Arriva have confirmed continuation of this arrangement for a further 3 years until July 2009.

RESOLVED - That the awards as detailed in the submitted report be noted, as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.

168. DEVELOPER FUNDING – SERVICE 531 HALIFAX, COPLEY AND SOWERBY BRIDGE

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of contracts to enhance the peak frequency of Service 531 between Halifax, Copley and Sowerby Bridge.

It was reported that following strong opposition from local residents regarding the reduction to an hourly service, especially in Copley, discussions had been held with Calderdale MBC and First. Agreement had been reached to use Section 106 monies to fund 5 additional peak time services to the HBOS site and Copley.

Concern was expressed at the cost of the service and the means by which continuation of the service could be secured when developer funding from the Section 106 monies expired in July 2008.

RESOLVED - That the amendment of the contract for the operation of Service 531 to include additional journeys funded by Calderdale MBC from Section 106 monies be noted subject to future review of passenger usage and revenue generated after six months of operation.

169. BUS SERVICES TO PARAGON BUSINESS PARK

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of a deminimis contract for the operation of an experimental bus service linking employment sites in north Wakefield to the City Centre.

Members noted that Paragon Business Village was situated west of the A650 between Wakefield City Centre near to Junction 41 of the M1 motorway at Newton Bar and that on completion the site was expected to provide 4,000 jobs.

It was reported that in view of the lack of bus services in the area, Wakefield MDC had approached both Metro and Arriva to provide a local bus link. In this respect Arriva had indicated that the demand from the site was not sufficient to support a commercial service. It was therefore proposed that, subject to agreement on service performance criteria, a deminimis contract be awarded on an experimental basis to Arriva for the operation of an hourly service between Wakefield Bus Station and Paragon Business Park. The service would extend onwards to the nearby employment centre at Junction 41 Business Park where current bus provision was limited to an hourly service via Wrenthorpe.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the award of a deminimis contract for the operation of a bus service to Paragon Business Park on an experimental basis be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.
- (b) That the trial service be monitored against the agreed performance criteria and that the results be reported to a future meeting of the Working Group.

170. ACCESSBUS SERVICES IN LEEDS – VARIATION TO CONTRACT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on a variation of the contract which had previously been awarded to CT Plus for the operation of AccessBus in Leeds.

It was reported that since the award of the contract, the operational mileage had been checked. This indicated that Leeds Accessbuses averaged 29,000 miles per year which represented an increase of 7.6% on the figure which CT Plus had originally based their price. A small increase of 1% on the contract price had been agreed to reflect the marginal cost of the increased mileage.

RESOLVED - That the amendment of the deminimis contract to CT Plus for the operation of AccessBus in Leeds, taking into consideration the revised increased operational mileage, be noted.

171. BATCH 404 – TENDERED SCHOOL TAXI AND MINIBUS SERVICES – WAKEFIELD DISTRICT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 404 for the provision of schools taxi and minibus services in the Wakefield District, including those

administered by Metro on behalf of Wakefield Education Authority as part of the Education Transport Agency Agreement.

It was reported that the awards had been progressed on a minimum cost basis to secure the lowest cost for the batch as a whole and were awarded to licensed PCV minibus or licensed taxi and private hire operators. These included awards to some new operators, which would be subject to satisfactory vehicle inspections by Metro.

RESOLVED - That the award of tenders as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of school transport services.

172. HUDDERSFIELD FREE TOWN BUS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed development of a Huddersfield Free Town bus in partnership with Kirklees Council.

It was reported that, following the Authority's approval to principles for supporting jointly funded town centre services, Kirklees Council had agreed to jointly fund the operation of the service on the basis of agreed evaluation criteria. The criteria which had been agreed were consistent with the wider LTP congestion, mode split and accessibility targets.

Members noted that the service would be provided on an initial trial basis and during that time performance would be monitored to ensure that it met the agreed criteria.

It was proposed that two vehicles would be secured which would be funded under Section 56 of the Transport Act 2000. Members were informed that this was desirable and cost effective in view of the trial nature of the service and that it was consistent with the approach adopted for the Leeds Free City Bus. Bids for service operation would then be sought from local operators on a deminimis contract basis. It was hoped that the service would commence on 30 October 2006, subject to PTA approval.

It was reported that following discussions with local organisations, through the Huddersfield Town Management Group, Kirklees were hopeful that third party funding would be secured to part fund the service.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the interest from Kirklees Council and associated funding commitment be welcomed.

- (b) That the further work on project development be noted.
- (c) That the opportunity to fund a trial period from the 2006/07 Tendered Services budget be noted.
- (d) That the proposal be recommended to a future meeting of the Authority.
- (e) That, subject to PTA approval, the award of contract be reported to a future meeting of the Working Group.
- (f) That a detailed report be brought to a future meeting of the Working Group.

173. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED - That meetings of the Working Group be held at 10.30am on:-

- Thursday 24 August 2006
- Monday 2 October 2006
- Monday 6 November 2006
- Monday 4 December 2006
- Monday 8 January 2007
- Monday 5 February 2007
- Monday 12 March 2007
- Monday 2 April 2007
- Monday 14 May 2007