

**AT A SEMINAR OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED
TRANSPORT AUTHORITY HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE
ON MONDAY 29 JUNE 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor C Greaves (Chair)

Councillors C Campbell (part), D Congreve, R Downes (part),
J Jarosz, S Khan, T Leadley, M Lyons, G Phelps, A Pinnock,
K Rhodes and M Walker

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Hawkesworth, A Wallace and K Watson.

28. BUS STRATEGY UPDATE AND REVIEW OF TENDERED SERVICES

Members considered a presentation providing an update on the implementation of the Bus Strategy and progress with the review of Tendered Services.

The presentation highlighted the successes and failures of the Bus Strategy to date. Members noted the new provisions within the Local Transport Act in relation to Quality Partnership Schemes and Quality Contracts.

With regard to Quality Contracts, it was reported that the Local Transport Act 2008 had introduced a revised procedure based on a Public Interest 'test'. There would be a need to demonstrate benefits, costs and the ability to fund schemes. It was noted that 14 potential areas had been identified and initial work on depots had been undertaken. It was suggested that priority be given to developing the case for the Leeds/Bradford area in view of the recent service cuts.

It was recognised that there could be potential implications should there be a change in Government and it was suggested that the District Leaders and MPs be briefed on the importance of Quality Contract provision in the Local Transport Act 2008. It was reported that Councillor Carter had written to Theresa Villiers MP and Stephen Hammond MP and was to meet with Stephen Hammond MP in the near future. The Chair of SIG was also seeking a meeting with them. Members suggested that a letter be sent to Sir Moir Lockhead, the Chief Executive of First Group, setting out their concerns and proposed actions regarding Quality Contracts.

Members also recognised the benefits of joint working with other ITAs through SIG and pteg to agree common approaches. Meetings between PTE representatives and CPT (Confederation of Passenger Transport) were scheduled to identify to what extent ITA aspirations could be achieved through partnership approaches. However, it was important to have a two track

approach in West Yorkshire which included the development of Quality Partnership Schemes in parallel with work on Quality Contracts. A short list of potential routes that could be piloted for Quality Partnership Schemes and Quality Contracts would be prepared for consideration by the Bus Working Group.

It was reported that a draft of the first Quality Partnership Scheme was ready for informal consultation. The draft included Metro's planned and existing infrastructure (shelters and realtime) and broad operators' service commitments. It was anticipated that this could be implemented in 2010.

Members were given an update on Metro's approach to Tendered Services. It was reported that due to commercial pressures, de-registrations, increasing costs and budget issues, the Tendered Services and Bus Working Groups had been undertaking a fundamental review of tendered services. The review had considered how tendering strategies could mitigate some of the economic impacts on bus services and members noted the current practices in relation to specifying services, invitations to tender, their evaluation and award of contracts.

As a result of the review several actions had been identified which included:

- A revised format with additional information in reports to Tendered Services Working Group
- Assessment and prioritisation of social needs
- Developing a strategy for increasing competition
- VFM criteria (cost per mile and cost per passenger) as well as '6 and 20'
- Reviewing the most expensive contracts
- Develop a strategy for responding to larger scale of service cuts

Members were given the opportunity to discuss the review in more detail and their comments were noted.

RESOLVED -

- (a)** That officers be thanked for their presentation.
- (b)** That a list of potential routes for Quality Partnership Schemes and Quality Contracts be prepared for consideration by the Bus Working Group.
- (c)** That a letter be sent to Sir Moir Lockhead setting out the Authority's concerns.