

AGENDA ITEM No: 5(a)

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2005

PRESENT: Councillor R Downes (Substitute Chair)

Councillors K Iqbal, P McBride, G Phelps and G Wainwright

93. CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Councillor R Downes be elected to take the Chair.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

95. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2005 be approved.

96. METROCONNECT - LEEDS CITY CENTRE

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed award of a contract to operate a free city centre distributor bus service in Leeds on a trial basis from November 2005 to April 2006.

It was reported that for many years there had been an aspiration for a bus service to provide onward travel links to commuters and visitors arriving at Leeds bus and rail stations to key points in the city centre. Such a service would improve the attractiveness of public transport as a means of travelling to the city.

Following implementation, monitoring would be undertaken in-house to assess usage and journey purposes. Quantitative information on journey purpose would be used to evaluate the success of the service in terms of modal shift, accessibility and the contribution to the city economy.

The service would initially be funded by Metro to demonstrate the value of the service and that once established the longer term aspiration would be to

encourage other third parties including Leeds City Council, stakeholders and businesses to contribute to the continued operation of the service.

Concern was expressed that Metro should not solely fund the new service and that Leeds City Council and Leeds Initiative should have made a contribution. It was reported that the short timescales for introduction had precluded the conclusion of such arrangements but work in this regard was ongoing and partnership funds were essential to the long term sustainability of the service.

It was proposed to award a contract to First so that if the services proved to be successful the contract could be extended for a further six months, subject to further funding being available. Discussions had been held with First and the vehicle manufacturer Optare who could deliver six buses to the agreed specification for the commencement date. First would purchase six vehicles and Metro would then pay a grant to First equivalent to the purchase price of the buses and would issue conditions of grant which would safeguard Metro's interest.

The Working Group welcomed the contribution the service would make to the delivery of an integrated bus network in Leeds, but reiterated their concerns that this should be wholly funded by the PTA. The Working Group requested therefore that in order to reduce costs in the future, joint arrangements be made with Leeds City Council, stakeholders and businesses to joint fund the scheme. They also requested that similar concepts in other towns and cities in West Yorkshire, particularly a bus linking rail and bus stations in Wakefield be explored further.

RESOLVED - That the award of a contract to First to operate the city centre distributor bus service in Leeds, as detailed in the submitted report, be endorsed.

97. RURAL BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the following renewal of tenders and extension of contracts for bus services funded under the rural bus subsidy grant.

Services 237/239 and 938 Service between Huddersfield and Denby Dale	-	Extension of current contract to Yorkshire Traction until January 2006
Service 904 Evening and Sunday service Operating between Otley and Harrogate	-	Extension of current contract to Pegasus until April 2006
Service 241 Huddersfield to Lepton serving Houses Hill	-	Renewal of a deminimis contract to K Line until 31 October 2006

RESOLVED - That the awards of tenders, as detailed in paragraph 2 of the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for tendered bus service provision.

98. BATCH 382 - TENDERED SCHOOL TAXI AND MINIBUS CONTRACTS - BRADFORD DISTRICT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 382 for the provision of school taxi and minibus services in the Bradford District, including those administered by Metro on behalf of Bradford LEA as part of the Education Transport Agreement.

RESOLVED - That the award of tenders, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's provision of educational transport facilities.

99. BATCH 393 - 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 393 for the provision of school taxi and minibus services in the Wakefield District, including those administered by Metro on behalf of Wakefield LEA as part of the Education Transport Agreement.

RESOLVED - That the award of tenders, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's provision of education transport facilities.

100. EDUCATION TRANSPORT DeMINIMIS AND CONTRACT VARIATIONS 2005/06 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the following issues:-

- (i) Award of deminimis contracts and contract variations in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield districts for 2005/06 academic year.
- (ii) The overall cost of schools transport provision in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield districts for the 2005/06 academic year.

RESOLVED - That the contract awards and variations, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of education transport facilities.