

**WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

**AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP  
HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON  
WEDNESDAY 7 JANUARY 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor T Brice (Chair)

Councillors E Firth, G Hyde, A Pinnock and G Wainwright

**46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G Phelps.

**47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Wainwright declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No. 6 – Renewal of Bus Service Tenders – Kirklees.

**48. MINUTES**

**Boxing Day Services**

The Working Group welcomed initial indications that Boxing Day services had been very well used with numbers increasing by almost one third in the Leeds area. Comment was made that further analysis of the services would be carried out with a view to preparing a report for a future meeting.

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2008 be approved.

**49. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on proposals to develop a work programme to review the Authority's approach to tendered services and enhance value for money.

It was reported that at the PTA Budget Briefing meeting held on 12 December 2008 there was consensus that, in view of the likely impact of fuel costs and the recession on bus operations, there should be a comprehensive review of tendered service provision.

It was commented that the review would also need to take into account the Authority's policies and plans and opportunities provided through the Local

Transport Plan and also focus on the success of the MetroLocal services and other routes introduced through the supplementary use it or lose it funding.

The Working Group was advised that a brief setting out the methodology and a proposed programme of work would be prepared for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** - That the work programme for the review of tendered services be considered at the next meeting of the Working Group.

## **50. RENEWAL OF BUS SERVICE TENDERS – KIRKLEES DISTRICT**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the renewal of local bus service tenders in Batch 466 operated by First in the Huddersfield and South Kirklees areas.

It was reported that the initial review of services had identified 15,492 miles to be withdrawn due to low usage together with a further 3% being withdrawn as they were carrying over 20 passengers.

Comment was also made that the batch would be separated as follows to encourage and promote a wider range of bids:

- Services 308, 313, 314 and 316 – Holme Valley Services
- Services 341 and 342 – Rural South Kirklees
- Remainder of the Huddersfield area services

It was also reported that service 343 which operated between Huddersfield and Barkisland would be transferred to the Calderdale batch of services currently being reviewed.

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

## **51. FIRST LEEDS SERVICE CHANGES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the adjustment of tendered service contracts necessitated by proposals by First to revise their network of commercial services in the Leeds area on 30/31 January 2009.

It was reported that the commercial review of operations had sought to redeploy some vehicles from poorer used services to improve punctuality and frequency on busier routes. These changes would result in the loss of certain services.

## **Service 8**

A key service proposed for withdrawal was the outer orbital route, Service 8. Following First's initial approach a review of tendered services affected by the network changes had been undertaken and a package of adjustments to existing tendered services contracts to facilitate the continuation of service had been agreed.

## **Service 76**

It was reported that in view of the fact that only 8 trips per day were being made by passengers without access to alternative services, it was not proposed to seek a replacement service. The John Charles sports centre would continue to be served by Service 481 on an hourly basis. Comment was made that further discussions would be held with Leeds City Council regarding access to the stadium.

## **Drighlington Services**

It was reported that First were seeking a sum of £72,000 to maintain an hourly service which could not be justified. Contact was therefore made with Arriva and Geldards to ascertain their interest in operating the route commercially. A response had now been received from Arriva who had stated that although they could not run a commercial operation they had offered to run an hourly service at a cost of £48,000 per annum pending proposals to incorporate a more permanent solution within their ongoing network review in the North Kirklees area.

## **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the decision to take no further action for the retention of Service 76 be noted.
- (b) That the adjustments to tendered services to facilitate the continuation of Service 8 as detailed in the submitted report be noted.
- (c) That the award of a de minimis contract to Arriva for the provision of Service 63 Leeds – Drighlington on a temporary basis until 25 April 2009 as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.

## **52. BUS SERVICE 903**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of a de minimis contract for the operation of Service 903 between Silsden, Addingham and Airedale Hospital.

It was reported that the current contract expired in January 2009. In order to retain the contract the current operator had offered to continue to run the service for a further 5 year period and in return they would reduce the current price, obtain a new low floor bus and provide an additional trip to and from Keighley.

**RESOLVED** - That the award of a de minimis contract to Jacksons of Silsden for the operation of Service 903 for a further 5 years as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.

### **53. SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING FOR TENDERED BUS SERVICES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding the award of contracts to provide additional tendered bus services in the Wakefield and Leeds districts through the Supplementary Funding process.

#### **Wakefield Proposal**

The Working Group were informed that following the reduction of services in the Hemsworth area concern had been expressed by the local MP on behalf of the local community that many elderly residents in the Highfield area whose services had been withdrawn now had to walk a distance of 600m to the town centre to catch a bus to Wakefield.

To overcome the problems identified it was proposed to award a de minimis contract to facilitate the diversion of a commercial service on a 12 month basis from 1 February 2009.

#### **Leeds Proposals**

It was reported that as a result of discussions with First an opportunity had been identified to extend the hourly Halton Moor to Cross Green services to provide a further link from Harehills to the Aire Valley Employment Area. The Working Group was informed that it would facilitate journeys to work for employees of a large company in the Harehills area that was considering relocating to the Aire Valley.

It was proposed to award a de minimis contract to facilitate the arrangement on a 12 month basis with effect from 1 February 2009.

#### **Service 78 – Off Peak Service – Colton - Crossgates - Harehills - St James' Hospital - Woodhouse - Leeds City Centre**

Referring to minute 33 of the meeting held on 5 November 2008 the Working Group were advised that a revised route had been agreed with First which would enable the service to address requests for a link from the Templegates area of Halton to Cross Gates.

Councillor Hyde commented that the revised route would affect a number of residents in parts of Seacroft who no longer would have direct access to Seacroft centre. He requested that his concerns be investigated with a view to achieving a solution.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the award of a de minimis contract to Arriva for the diversion of Service 195 into the Highfield Estate until January 2010 as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.
- (b) That the award of a de minimis contract to First for the diversion of Service 90 to Cross Green until January 2010 as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.
- (c) That the revised route of Service 78 providing a link from the Templegates area of Halton to Cross Gates be noted.
- (d) That the concerns raised by Councillor Hyde be investigated.

**54. ACCESSBUS VEHICLE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on proposed changes to tendered service contracts to reflect the revised maintenance for AccessBus vehicles.

It was reported that the initial maintenance contract expired in 2005 and had been extended on a year by year basis. As the vehicles aged and the likelihood of breakdowns became greater, the cost of the maintenance had risen steeply.

Exploration of alternative arrangements found that other commercial vehicle companies were unwilling to enter into maintenance contracts due to the age of the vehicles. The vehicles concerned are due to be replaced from April 2009.

Discussions had subsequently been held with those AccessBus operators with in-house maintenance teams with a view to them taking back responsibility for maintenance for the remaining period of the vehicle's operational life.

The Working Group were advised that the contract maintenance and servicing arrangements for the newer vehicles in the AccessBus fleet would be the responsibility of the operator and the relevant changes in arrangements would be reflected in the contractual payments.

**RESOLVED** - That the amendment of operating contracts for the delivery of AccessBus services to include responsibility for the servicing and maintenance of vehicles previously subject to contract maintenance be noted.

**55. EDUCATION TRANSPORT DE MINIMIS/EMERGENCY AWARDS & CONTRACT VARIATIONS – SUMMER TERM 2008**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of de minimis and emergency contracts together with variations to ongoing contracts for the period 7 April to 25 July 2008.

**RESOLVED** - That the award of contracts and variations as detailed in appendices 2 & 3 of the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of education transport.

**56. SCHOOL TENDER TIMETABLE 2009 INCLUDING MYBUS TENDERING TIMESCALES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed timetable for the tendering of school services for the 2009/2010 academic year.

It was reported that in an effort to secure further improvements in the quality of school bus services, operators would be encouraged to submit alternative bids offering to provide Mybus style features. The Working Group were advised that in order to give successful operators sufficient time to introduce improvements in the quality of services and give new entrants into the market place a realistic opportunity to take over the operation of Mybus services, the tender programme would commence early in the new year.

**RESOLVED** - That the tender programme and Mybus tendering timescales as detailed in appendices 1 and 2 of the submitted report be noted.

**57. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Committee considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from Agenda Item 12, which contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

It was recommended that, because disclosure of the report might prejudice future negotiations due to the commercial confidentiality of tender prices, the public interest would be better served by maintaining the exemption and, therefore, that the press and public should be excluded.

**RESOLVED** - That, as disclosure could prejudice future negotiations, the press and public be now excluded from Agenda Item 12.

**58. RENEWAL OF BUS SERVICE TENDERS – CALDERDALE**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the renewal of local bus service tenders in Batch 456 operated by First in Calderdale which were due to expire on 26 April 2009.

It was reported that during the course of the review of tenders in the batch, First had indicated that they intended reviewing their services. In view of the fact that the services formed part of the overall network of services it would be necessary to consider the implications of First's intentions within the pre-tender review of the network.

It had, therefore, been proposed to First that they defer any changes until July 2009 to allow time for the review and further consultation which would enable Metro to devise a tendered network taking into consideration travel patterns and accessibility needs which more closely met local travel needs.

**RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the tendered service bus contracts awarded under Batch 456 be extended until 26 July 2009.
- (b) That a report be prepared detailing the outcome of the network review and any interim payments sought by First for the continuation of services.