

**WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

**AT A MEETING OF THE CONCESSIONARY FARES WORKING GROUP  
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON  
THURSDAY 14 MAY 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor T Swift (Chair)  
Councillors C Campbell, P McBride and M Walker

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jarosz and Wallace.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2008 be approved.

**4. INCORPORATING ACCESSBUS INTO THE CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on changes to the Transport Act 1985 West Yorkshire Concessionary Travel Scheme to incorporate AccessBus services.

It was reported that due to recent changes in legislation, opportunities had arisen for the AccessBus service to be registered as a flexibly routed, demand responsive service. The conversion of the services would make them eligible for Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) and would save approximately £200,000 per year at current rates.

Members were advised that in order to receive the grant there would be a need to introduce fares on the service although most passengers would be eligible for free travel under the concessionary fare scheme. However as some passenger journeys would commence before 0930 Monday to Friday, it was proposed that an amendment be made to the concessionary fare scheme. This would enable holders of West Yorkshire (senior or disabled) concessionary fare passes to travel free of charge (on AccessBus services only) before 0930 Monday to Friday.

## **RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the Working Group endorse the changes to the 1985 Concessionary Travel Scheme to include concessionary travel on AccessBus services from 0900 hrs.
- (b) That a report be prepared for the Integrated Transport Authority seeking approval of the change.

## **5. PASS ISSUE UPDATE**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on English National Concessions Scheme (ENCS) pass issue including the current position regarding applications, the replacement of lost cards, ISL and ITSO Governance and Mifare 'Classic' Smartcards.

It was reported that since the introduction of the new English National Concessions Scheme over 400,000 passes had been issued. However over 12,000 cards had already been reported as lost and their replacements were currently reissued free of charge. It was noted that several Travel Concessions Authorities (TCAs) made a charge for replacing passes and it was therefore proposed that Metro introduce a £5 fee for the replacement of a lost pass. Members also discussed the information that was sent out with new cards and the possibility of including relevant travel information would be investigated.

Members were advised that Metro currently issued ENCS passes on a Mifare 'Classic' 4k smartcard. However, a Dutch University had successfully breached the first level of security on the Mifare 'Classic' smartcard. As a result alternative products were being considered and it was likely that from the end of the year the Mifare 'Desfire' or 'Calypso' card would be used. These had more complex generic security elements provided by the supplier. The option to use this type of smartcard had been included in the specification for the procurement of the new card management system.

## **RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Working Group endorse the proposal for introducing a charge of £5 for replacement ENCS passes.

## **6. CARD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on the procurement of a Card Management System (CMS).

It was reported that following legal advice the original procurement of an integrated CMS had been terminated and a new OJEU Notice (Official Journal of the European Union) had been issued. It was anticipated that a contract for the implementation of the CMS would be let in Summer 2009. The new system would provide a web based facility to track data and card production. Further phases would incorporate young people's proof of eligibility PhotoCards and MetroCards into the system and would also assist front line staff when dealing with customer enquiries.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

## **7. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Working Group considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from the following item 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 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.

## **\*8. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on developments relating to the provision of concessionary travel in West Yorkshire which included the Department for Transport (DfT) review of administration arrangements, young people and retail strategy.

It was reported that the DfT had confirmed that they would be undertaking a review of the administration and reimbursement arrangements for concessionary travel by seniors and disabled persons. The DfT had issued a consultation paper seeking the views of interested parties and Metro would contribute to a pteg response. It was not envisaged that any changes would be made until April 2011.

With regard to young people, it was reported that JMP consultants had been appointed to investigate the business case for the introduction of free travel for young people in West Yorkshire. The business case would consider the costs and benefits of using smart media for entitlement to travel and for administering free travel. It would also include consideration of sources for any additional funding requirements.

The Working Group noted the current arrangements for selling MetroCards and DayRovers and discussed other possible retail opportunities. Further options would be investigated and a report on the retail strategy would be

prepared for a future meeting of the Working Group prior to consideration by the ITA.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.