

## **AGENDA ITEM NO: 6**

### **WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

#### **AT A MEETING OF THE CONCESSIONARY FARES WORKING GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2005**

**PRESENT:-** Councillor M Walker (Chair)

Councillors K Hussain, J Prestage and K Rhodes

#### **17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **18. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2005 be approved.

#### **19. CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the implications of the introduction of free concessionary travel for senior citizens on local bus services from 1 April 2006.

Members were aware that a study had been commissioned on behalf of all the PTEs by the Passenger Transport Executive Group (PTEG) and they were updated on the work undertaken to date.

It was reported that the initial work carried out had estimated that there would be additional costs for Metro which would result in a budget shortfall. Members were advised that the provisional estimate did not include the impact of any decisions regarding the pricing of local rail travel by senior citizens. PTEG had responded to the Department for Transport and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on behalf of the four PTAs who do not provide free schemes and the ODPM was fully aware of the funding problems that would be created. The ODPM had agreed to consider alternatives and consult further with Ministers and PTEG had sought specialist advice on the complexities of the local government funding process.

Members noted that the new policy would create further problems in the administration of concessionary travel and the introduction of a standard

fare across the country would create comparisons of each Authority's schemes by operators. PTEG was working to deliver a common approach within which individual PTEs could develop a locally appropriate solution. The work included jointly commissioned work, drawing on the experience of Welsh and Scottish authorities and managing the expectations of operators through discussions with CPT.

It was noted that it would be necessary for the Working Group to closely monitor the position although any budgetary implications would be considered by the full Authority.

It was reported that consultants, Faber Maunsell, had been appointed to undertake the study on behalf of the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly into the potential implications, costs, funding options and practical issues of introducing reciprocal arrangements between PTAs and local authorities throughout the Yorkshire and Humber Region. The study would be led by Metro and completed by the end of the year.

**RESOLVED** - That the report and actions being taken be noted.