

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON
WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor P McBride (Chair)

Councillors E Firth, A Pinnock and K Watson

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G Phelps.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members.

86. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2009 be approved.

87. EMERGENCY TENDERED BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of emergency tendered bus service contracts.

Members were given details of instances over the last 12 months where temporary bus services had been secured on an emergency contract basis to maintain access to communities affected by highway works.

RESOLVED - That the award of emergency contracts for the provision of bus services to mitigate the impact of road closures be noted.

88. AMENDMENTS TO TENDERED SERVICES - EXPIRY DATES

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on amendments to tendered service contracts operated by Arriva and revisions to the routes of tendered services in Bradford.

Arriva Tendered Service Contracts

It was reported that Metro and Arriva had agreed revisions to the contract expiry dates in order to co-ordinate the renewal of tenders with the company's planner programme to review their bus networks.

The Working Group was informed that, as a result of the reviews, which were taking place in Wakefield 2010, Castleford 2011 and North Kirklees 2012, it would be necessary to make adjustments to the following tender renewal dates:-

- De minimis Services 147, 435 and 436 - from July 2010 to April 2010
- Batch 435 - from January 2011 to April 2012
- Batch 409 - from July 2010 to April 2011
- Batch 462 - from July 2011 to April 2011

First Bradford - Minibus Services

It was reported that at a previous meeting of the Working Group the award of contracts were agreed on condition that a review of the operation of the part tendered minibus Services 810, 846 and 896 be carried out.

The review had now been undertaken and the Working Group was advised that the proposals offered both advantages and disadvantages to the network. In this respect, it was commented that the affected ward councillors would be consulted prior to service implementation. The changes proposed were :-

- Retention of Service 846 (Buttershaw - Bradford - Shipley) in its current form;
- Reduction in the frequency of Service 896 (Bradford - Fagley - Ravenscliffe) from half hourly to hourly;
- Combining Services 896 and 810 to an hourly service operating Bradford Interchange - Fagley - Ravenscliffe - Thorpe Edge - Five Lane Ends - Idle - Thackley - Shipley - Saltaire.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the adjustment to the contract expiry dates to services, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.
- (b) That following consultation with local ward councillors, and subject to no adverse comments being received, amendments to the operation of tendered bus services 810 and 896, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved.

89. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Working Group considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from Agenda Items 7 and 8, which contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

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 Items 7 and 8.

90. MYBUS PHASE 1 RE-TENDERS - EVALUATION

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the tenders received in Batch 472 for the operation of 27 Mybus services across West Yorkshire, which included three new services to Crossland Moor Primary School, Cardinal Heenan RC High School and Prince Henry Grammar School.

It was reported that the tenders were for a period of 3 years which would allow for the re-tendering of all Mybus vehicles next year and their subsequent phased introduction between September 2010 and 2012.

Members were advised that letters of interest which were sent to 60 operators included a matrix setting out the process and the three key evaluation areas on cost, technical competence and quality standard. On that basis, of the 6 bids received it was proposed to award contracts to:-

- First - Lots 1 to 6 and lots 8 and 9
- C T Plus – Lot 7

RESOLVED - That the awards, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local education transport services.

91. BUS SERVICE CHANGES - JULY 2009

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the implications of proposed changes to bus services planned by First, Centrebuss and Arriva throughout West Yorkshire due to be introduced on 24, 25 and 26 July 2009.

Members were very concerned at the scale of cuts to commercial services and the impact they would have on people, particularly those who relied on buses for essential journeys. The Working Group were also extremely unhappy at the short notice that had been given, which did not allow sufficient time to allow proper and meaningful consultation with the affected communities.

It was also stressed that whilst supporting officers in their discussions with the operators to explore options to mitigate the impact of the proposals, the Working Group emphasised that it should be made very clear that the decision to withdraw and reduce services was taken entirely by the operators and that, in view of the financial constraints already placed on the tendered service budget, the reinstatement of withdrawn commercial services out of public funds should be seriously resisted.

RESOLVED - That a further report be presented to the Working Group detailing the outcome of discussions with operators to mitigate the withdrawal of services.