

**WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**

**AT A MEETING OF THE CONCESSIONARY FARES WORKING GROUP  
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON  
WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Walker (Chair)  
Councillors J Jarosz, S Khan and T Leadley

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Brice and M Slater.

**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 22 May 2007 be approved.

**4. 2008 CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on the proposals for a national free scheme for England from April 2008.

Members were advised that the Concessionary Bus Travel Act received Royal Assent in July 2007 and noted the scheme proposals outlined in the submitted report. It was noted that there would be one 'proof of entitlement' basic pass design across England and the Department for Transport (DfT) had confirmed that this would be issued on an ITSO Smartcard which would enable inter-operability between systems and equipment. It was reported that a Smartcard conference would be held in Leeds on 10 October 2007 and PTA members would be invited to attend.

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

## **5. 2008 CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL DATA CAPTURE**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive which provided an update on the collection of data and electronic images in readiness for the launch of the English National Concessions Scheme (ENCS) in April 2008.

It was reported that a marketing campaign had been launched to ensure that people were aware of the need to obtain new passes. Applications were being validated by Post Offices and bus station travel centres and then scanned, by an appointed data bureau, in order to build a comprehensive database of images and personal data in accordance with DfT guidelines.

It was anticipated that most applications would be processed by mid October 2007 and initial indications were that approximately 116,000 applications had been received for processing to date.

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

## **6. 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, the public interest would be better served by maintaining the exemption and, therefore, that the press and public should be excluded.

## **7. FREE CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL APRIL 2006 – SCHEME UPDATE**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive updating members on the introduction of the free concessionary travel scheme for men and women over 60 and certain categories of disabled people on 1 April 2006. The report also provided an update on the recalculation of reimbursement arrangements and subsequent negotiations with operators.

Members were advised that the introduction of the free scheme had resulted in a 7% increase in the number of Permits issued, with an additional 24,300 issued during 2006/07. Data also showed a 23% increase in the number of journeys made between April 2006 to March 2007 (an additional 8.6 million) and it was expected that the numbers would increase further over the long term.

The Working Group were briefed on the current position regarding the recalculation of 2006/07 payments following the adjudicator's determination of

the First Appeal, the options available and associated risks. They expressed their concern regarding the continuing uncertainty surrounding the determination of a scheme as it was having a major impact on the development of the budget and three year financial strategy.

The Group was advised that a further report would be prepared for consideration by the Authority once further information had been received from First. The Group was also advised of the need to publish a revised scheme for 2008/09 and, potentially, for 2007/08.

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