

# WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

DATE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

AGENDA ITEM NO: **20**

## SUBJECT: SECURITY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### Report of the Passenger Transport Executive

#### 1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.1. An update regarding security on public transport services in West Yorkshire.

#### 2. INFORMATION

- 1.1. The security of public transport in the light of the London bombings was discussed at the July meeting of the Authority. This report summarises steps that have been taken and the outcome of liaison with transport operators.
- 1.2. Immediately following the London bombings liaison with the police and operators was increased. As a result security presence was increased at Metro's bus stations. The main focus was on Leeds Rail and Bus Stations, where armed police patrolled. Metro bus station management presence was increased so that a manager was on duty at all times when the bus station was open. Recorded announcements reminded customers not to leave luggage unattended.
- 1.3. There were a number of incidents requiring bus stations (Leeds, Bradford, Dewsbury and Cleckheaton) to be evacuated. Metro has procedures for bus station evacuation and as a result the evacuation of these bus stations was achieved quickly and efficiently. All incidents have been false alarms.
- 1.4. Lockers and bins in bus stations have been sealed off and remain out of use. This increases the amount of litter left in bus stations. An alternative type of bin, with see through sacks as used at railway stations, is being trialled in Leeds Bus Station.
- 1.5. A number of other incidents, all false alarms, were dealt with by the West Yorkshire Police, Metro and bus and train company staff in a calm and professional manner. Metro's website was used to keep customers informed.

- 1.6. There continues to be close liaison with police, including frequent contact with Metro's Security Manager, attendance at briefing meetings and the Target Crimestoppers group.
- 1.7. There has also been close liaison with bus and rail operators, including the creation of a list of operator contacts for immediate email contact with updates and alerts as information becomes available through the police intelligence network.
- 1.8. In addition, there has been liaison with operators on their security arrangements including CCTV on buses, as requested at the July meeting of the Authority. The Director of Passenger Services has written to operators asking that they ensure existing CCTV and other security measures are currently deployed and maintained and requested information on any operator initiatives to improve security.
- 1.9. As a result of this liaison proposals or a further phase of retro-fitting CCTV equipment to buses has been developed. The costs and shared funding basis of this further phase is set out in the accompanying report to the Authority on the Capital Programme. The fitting of CCTV to rail vehicles is more complex and discussions are continuing with Northern Rail.
- 1.10. Metro also continues to work to address other issues affecting the safety and security of public transport users. It is pleasing to note that incidents of anti social behaviour in bus stations continue to decline. Currently the number of incidents is 9% down on 2004 figures (which itself was 24% down on the figure for 2003). Other current initiatives are summarised below.
  - Following on the success of 'Operation Safer Transport' carried out in April, another similar operation took place on September 17<sup>th</sup>. In excess of 100 police officers targeted anti social behaviour on buses and at bus stations throughout West Yorkshire.
  - A joint initiative with police and operators is currently being planned to take place in the near future. The aim of this initiative is to crack down on vandalism and ticket fraud. It is targeted in particular at the more sophisticated perpetrators of ticket fraud.
  - The 'turn in a tagger' campaign, aimed at securing evidence against vandals and graffiti artists is ongoing. There has been a good response from the public and images captured by CCTV cameras at a bus shelter have been used to identify one of the perpetrators.
  - Metro is developing a joint bid with operators for Home Office funding for an additional eight Police Community Support Officers.

### **3. FINANCIAL AND EC PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. Financial implications of further joint funding of CCTV on buses are set out in a separate report on the Capital Programme.

4. **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. None as a result of this report.

5. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. None as a result of this report.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1. That the report be noted.

Director General  
West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive