

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**AT A MEETING OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS
HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
THURSDAY 17 MAY 2007**

PRESENT: Councillor J S King (Chair)

Councillors R Downes and M Lyons

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. BUDGET FOR CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL IN 2007/08

The Appointed Members considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the budget for concessionary travel, following the adjudicator's determination of the First Appeal and associated cost recovery from the bus operators.

It was reported that the budget for 2007/08 had been set in the knowledge that changes would be necessary to reflect the adjudicator's decision and the consequential changes that were required to achieve an affordable budget and maintain a prudent level of reserves.

Members were advised that following the adjudicator's decision discussions had been held with operators which had been constructive and as a result the following 3 areas had now been identified where savings could be made:

- (i) Amendments to reimbursement arrangements for child cash concessionary travel on bus to 75% of adult fare at peak times, thereby extending the current off-peak commercial concessions to all times. These changes would be implemented from 1 June 2007, which would achieve a budget saving of £1.6m in 2007/08.
- (ii) Increase bus and coach departure charges by 50% with immediate effect, which would raise an additional £500,000 in 2007/08.
- (iii) Cost recovery of up to £500,000 for information provision in 2007/08. The actual amount would be agreed once the final outcome for 2006/07 had been calculated in line with the adjudicator's decision.

Comment was made that acceptance of this approach would only apply in 2007/08 and that there would be further discussions regarding cost recovery

from 1 April 2008 once the outcome was known regarding the future arrangements for English Concessionary Travel and the associated distribution of additional funding to travel concession authorities. In this respect, Metro would keep the cost recovery through departure charges and information under review.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the co-operation of bus operators be welcomed and acknowledged.
- (b) That the indicated acceptance of operators to the amendment of the reimbursement arrangements for child concession travel to reimbursement up to 75% of adult cash fares at peak times for 2007/08, with effect from 1 June 2007, be noted.
- (c) That bus station departure charges for 2007/08 be increased by 50% from 1 June 2007.
- (d) That further discussions be held with the operators regarding cost recovery of up to £500,000 for information provision in 2007/08 once the final out-turn for 2006/07 had been calculated in line with the adjudicator's decision.
- (e) That the requirement to keep the arrangements under review be noted.
- (f) That the need for further discussions for future arrangements from 1 April 2008 be noted.
- (g) That a further report be prepared once the review of patronage and reimbursement for 2006/07 and further discussions on cost recovery for the provision of passenger information had been completed.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Appointed Members considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from the following items which contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED - It was agreed that, because the item was to interview candidates for the post of Director Development, the press and public be now excluded.

6. INTERVIEWS – DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The Appointed Members interviewed candidates for the post of Director of Development.

RESOLVED - That Mr D Hoggarth be appointed to the post of Director of Development.