

AGENDA ITEM NO: 17

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE CONCESSIONARY FARES WORKING GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON FRIDAY 20 MAY 2005

PRESENT:- Councillor M Walker (Chair)
Councillors K Hussain, J Prestage and K Rhodes
Councillor P McBride (Observer)

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

14. MINUTES

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

15. CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on developments in respect of free concessionary travel proposals following the General Election.

It was reported that the Passenger Transport Executive Group (PTEG) had commissioned, on behalf of all PTEs, a study into the impacts of the free travel proposals in PTE areas.

The Working Group noted that the study would address the options relating to the discretionary areas of expenditure on concessionary travel through 'call off' options for individual PTEs to focus on local issues that they would wish to be explored further. West Yorkshire's local issues would cover children, rail and cross boundary arrangements. Members stressed the importance of being kept informed and a meeting was arranged for 21 June 2005 when it was anticipated that the consultant's report would be available.

It was also noted that a study was being commissioned and led by Metro on behalf of the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly into the potential

implications, costs, funding options and practical issues of introducing reciprocal arrangements between the two PTAs and local authorities throughout Yorkshire and the Humber region. Interviews were being held with consultants and an appointment would be made in June 2005.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That a further report be prepared when the PTEG study is complete.
- (b) That any specific local issues not covered in the PTEG study be highlighted and that Metro uses the 'call off' option in the study to address these issues.

16. YORCARD

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on progress with the YorCard project.

It was reported that the scheme had received provisional approval in December 2004 and a Section 56 Grant award of £21.35m was made subject to a number of conditions which were satisfied. However, further issues were raised by operators which had delayed the scheme and resulted in the provisional approval being withdrawn.

The Department for Transport (DfT) had encouraged YorCard to establish a pilot scheme to test equipment, software, communication links, customer experiences and provide data that would be used to determine the business cases for each partner. The pilot scheme would be held in South Yorkshire in order to secure EU Objective 1 funding. Metro would continue to take an active role in contributing to and managing the project. Following discussions with the DfT, provisional approval of £4.8m for the pilot had been granted which would be used as a precursor for the full roll out of the scheme.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.