

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP
HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON
WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2008

PRESENT: Councillor G Wainwright (Chair)

Councillors T Brice, M Lyons, G Phelps and A Pinnock

20. CHAIR

Councillor G Wainwright was elected to the chair in the absence of Councillor Brice who was not present at the start of the meeting. Councillor Wainwright then continued to chair the meeting throughout the agenda.

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor E Firth.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2008 be approved.

24. WAKEFIELD TO HUDDERSFIELD SUNDAY SERVICE

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on an amendment to the existing contracts to secure the operation of an hourly Sunday service between Wakefield and Huddersfield.

It was reported that Huddersfield Bus Company had given notice to withdraw their Sunday commercial service from 27 September 2008. As a consequence there would be no direct service between Huddersfield and Wakefield and the villages of Lepton, Emley, Grange Moor and Flockton would lose a Sunday daytime service although they would still have an early morning and evening tendered service.

Metro had approached Arriva who ran the tendered trips. The operator had declined to run the daytime service on a commercial basis.

Arriva and HBC had been invited to bid for the replacement hourly daytime services.

RESOLVED - That the award of a de minimis contract to Arriva, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.

25. TENDERED BUS SERVICES – COLNE VALLEY

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of a de minimis contract to Stotts Coaches to secure the operation of local minibus services in the Colne Valley.

It was reported that bus services in the Colne Valley had been the subject of significant local debate in 2008. As a result changes to the local tendered network including the Colne Valley circular services were introduced to accommodate some journeys which had previously been made by the withdrawn Taxibus service.

The Working Group were informed that feedback had confirmed that the circular service was highly valued by the local community although there was criticism regarding the use of high floor minibuses which were not accessible for some people and offered a poor quality of passenger comfort.

Discussions had been held with Stotts seeking the upgrading of the services to low floor operation and re-branding as Metro connect. To secure that a new five year de minimis contract would be awarded to Stotts for the operation of the service from 27 October 2008.

RESOLVED - That the award of a de minimis to Stotts Coaches for the operation of Services 393, 394 and 395 be noted, as detailed in the submitted report for the provision of local bus services.

26. BATCH 469 - TENDERED SCHOOL TAXI CONTRACTS – BRADFORD DISTRICT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 469 for the provision of school taxi and minibus services administered by Metro on behalf of Bradford LEA as part of the Education Transport Agency Agreement.

A list of the contracts awarded was appended to the report. All contracts had been progressed on a minimum cost basis to secure the lowest overall cost for the Batch as a whole and were to a mix of existing and new PCV minibus or licensed taxi and private hire operators. The awards to new operators were subject to a one term probationary period and satisfactory inspection by Metro and/or Freight Transport Association dependent on the type of operation.

RESOLVED - That the awards, as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 of the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policies for the provision of schools transport services.

27. TENDERED SCHOOL BUS SERVICES – AWARD OF DE MINIMIS CONTRACTS 2008/2009 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Working Group considered a progress report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the following issues:-

- (a) The award of de minimis contracts in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield Districts for the 2008/09 academic year.
- (b) The overall costs of schools transport provision in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield Districts for the 2008/09 academic year.

It was noted that the costs of the de minimis awards did not include the impact of Mybus services which would be considered at a future meeting of the Working Group.

RESOLVED - That the award of contracts, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of schools transport services.

28. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from Agenda Item 9, which contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

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 Item 9.

29. BUS SERVICE 757 – LEEDS BRADFORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed extension of the current contract for the operation of Service 757 between Leeds and Leeds Bradford International Airport.

The Working Group were informed that First, the new management of the airport, and Metro had taken a decision to continue to run the service in its current form until April 2009 to enable the development of new service options.

RESOLVED - That the award of the contract to First to extend the operation of Service 757 until April 2009, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.