

AGENDA ITEM NO: 11b

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2008

PRESENT: Councillor T Brice (Chair)

Councillors E Firth, C Greaves, G Phelps, A Pinnock and G Wainwright

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2008 be approved.

32. RENEWAL OF BUS SERVICE TENDERS - BRADFORD

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the extension of contracts to Keighley and District and First for the operation of early morning/evening and Sunday journeys in the Keighley and Bradford area until April 2009.

It was reported that the initial review of services had identified that 3,245 miles would be withdrawn due to low usage together with a further 31, 628 miles being withdrawn as they were carrying over 20 passengers. The Working Group was advised that the overall impact of these changes was a reduction in tendered mileage of 5.5%. The willingness of operators to continue to operate the "high use" services would be monitored.

It was reported that a comprehensive review of services would be carried out. The batch also included the operation of service 770 between Wetherby and Leeds, which would be split from the batch and renewed separately.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the extension of the current contracts awarded to Keighley and District Travel and First until April 2009 be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.

- (b) That tenders be sought, as detailed in the submitted report, as being consistent with the Authority's policy for the provision of local bus services.

33. SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING FOR TENDERED BUS SERVICES

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the performance of services, which had been provided through the supplementary tendered services budget on a 12 month trial 'use it or lose it' basis.

Service 78 - Off peak service from Colton - Crossgates - Harehills – St James' Hospital - Woodhouse - Leeds City Centre

It was reported that patronage was meeting Metro's Criteria for tendered services, although on certain sections of the route, particularly in the Woodhouse area, usage was very low. Discussions had been held with Ward Councillors in the area to investigate options to revise the route to make the service more attractive for passengers or to provide a separate service in the area.

The Working Group was also advised that the service had increased the number of households within 30 minutes of a hospital by public transport.

Members were of the view that the contract be extended for a further 12 months and that service options in the Woodhouse area be investigated.

Extension of frequency of services to Dewsbury Hospital to facilitate easier access for evening visiting

It was reported that ticket data had indicated that an average of 14 passengers per evening were boarding the 6 additional trips. Members were advised that, in the absence of any data prior to the enhancements taking place, it was difficult to quantify whether any additional patronage growth had been achieved.

The Working Group suggested the possibility of extending the last service at 8pm to coincide with hospital visiting hours.

It was proposed to retain the current arrangement until January 2011 to run concurrently with other tendered trips on these services.

Service 629 - Off peak Monday to Saturday service from Shipley to Bradford Royal Infirmary

It was reported that the service currently carried an average of 12 passengers per trip equating to 92 per day, which was meeting Metro's criteria for tendered services. The Working Group was advised that the service had also

increased the number of households within 30 minutes of a hospital by public transport.

It was also commented that following a number of requests Metro was investigating the cost and the feasibility of extending the hours of operation to include evening and Sunday provision. Any such extension would be evaluated separately from the core service which had proved effective.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the extension of the current deminimis contract for the operation of service 78 between Colton and St James' hospital until January 2010 be noted, as being consistent for the provision of local bus services.
- (b) That the extension of the current deminimis contract for the enhanced early evening frequency of services 268 and 283 to Dewsbury hospital until January 2011 be noted, as being consistent for the provision of local bus services.
- (c) That the extension of the current deminimis contract for the operation of service 629 between Shipley and Bradford Royal Infirmary until January 2010 be noted, as being consistent for the provision of local bus services.

34. METRO CONNECT SERVICES - AIRE VALLEY AND SOUTH BRADFORD

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the review for the future operation of Metro Connect services in the Aire Valley and South Bradford areas in the context of a funding opportunity through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Priority 3 Programme.

It was reported that discussions had taken place with Yorkshire Forward regarding the proposed submission of bids through the ERDF Priority 3 Programme aimed at providing access to new employment opportunities in the Aire Valley, Leeds and South Bradford together with a project to enhance access to employment for residents of South East Wakefield.

It was reported that the ERDF scheme required 50% match funding, which could incorporate current activities supporting access to employment from socially deprived areas, including tendered services, passenger information and travel planning.

Members were informed that Metro currently funded Metro Connect services in the Aire Valley and South Bradford areas and, therefore, it was considered to be appropriate to review their operation in the context of the ERDF submission.

Metro Connect - Aire Valley

The Working Group considered that it would be appropriate for the retention of a basic service, which could be further developed if an ERDF bid was successful. It was agreed to invite tenders pending ERDF funding for the operation of a service between the city centre and the Aire Valley on a trial basis from January 2009 for 12 months.

South Bradford - Little Horton

It was reported that the current contract for the Metro Connect 3 service expired in January 2009. Whilst the service did not meet Metro's 6:20 criteria for tendered services it was considered that most passenger journeys would be retained by reducing the service to hourly. A revised service had been agreed with the operator TLC to operate a peak service between Bradford Interchange and Euroway and an off peak Metro Local style service based around Morrison's supermarket at Mayo Avenue and local health and community centres.

As Kirklees residents were also employed in the Euroway Employment area, it was suggested that, as part of future service development plans, officers look into the possibility of extending the service via the M62 motorway to Oakenshaw and Cleckheaton.

The Working Group also asked that officers go back to the Bradford Primary Care Trust requesting that they reconsider their decision not to contribute to the funding of the service.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That tenders be sought for a peak time service linking the Aire Valley employment area with Leeds City Centre.
- (b) That the extension of the current contract for the operation of Metro Connect 3 on a reduced timetable until October 2009 be noted.

35. BUS SERVICE 940 - OTLEY

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the review of the trial operation of service 940 operating in the Otley area.

It was reported that the service currently carried 9.5 passengers per trip, which represented 150 passengers per day. Usage had increased throughout the year. As a result of change to the route of service 757, service 940 was now the most convenient means of travelling between Pool and Otley. In effect the service had become an integral part of the wider Otley bus network.

It was proposed that the current contract operated by TLC Travel be extended to run concurrently with the contracts for other minibus services in the Otley area. The company would retain the use of the bus funded by the Rural Bus Challenge scheme.

RESOLVED - That the extension of the current contract for the operation of service 940 between Holt Park and Wharfedale hospital until August 2010 be noted, as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus service provision.

36. SERVICE 241 - HOUSES HILL

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the continuation of a deminimis contract for the extension of service 241 to Houses Hill.

It was reported that Metro currently supported the extension of 4 return journeys Monday to Saturdays of commercial service 241 operated by Centrebus trading as K Line between Huddersfield and Lepton providing public transport to the village of Houses Hill.

The Working Group recognised that, whilst an average of 3 passengers per trip were using the service from Houses Hill, which did not meet Metro's 6:20 criteria, the existing contract was a very cost effective means of retaining a service for the community, which would otherwise be isolated from the local bus network.

RESOLVED - That the award of a deminimis contract to Centrebus Holdings, trading as K Line, for the extension of commercial service 241 until October 2009 be noted.

37. BUS SERVICES IN THE KNOTTINGLEY AREA

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposal to share the cost of providing a shared taxi service in the Knottingley and Cridling Stubbs area.

It was reported that since the loss of service 412, which served Womersley Road and Cridling Stubbs in North Yorkshire. Local ward members had continued to raise concerns on behalf of a number of elderly residents who now had a 600m walk to access an alternative hourly service.

Discussions had taken place with North Yorkshire County Council on proposals for a shared taxi service providing two round trips Monday to Saturday between Cridling Stubbs and Morrison's supermarket in Knottingley via Womersley Road.

RESOLVED - That the financial contribution to North Yorkshire County Council towards a shared taxi scheme in the Knottingley area be approved, as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local transport schemes.

38. EMERGENCY TENDERED BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on emergency contracts issued to provide temporary bus services to maintain access to communities affected by highways works at the following locations.

- (i)** Brown Royd Avenue, Rawthorpe
- (ii)** Main Street, Linton - Hourly minibus shuttle links
- (iii)** Bridge End, Keighley - Half hourly service
- (iv)** Bridge End, Brighouse - Half hourly service
- (v)** Brookfoot Lane, Southowram - Hourly service
- (vi)** Outlane Motorway Bridge - Weekends only
- (vii)** Church View, Thorne - Hourly minibus shuttle links
- (viii)** Ledston Mill Lane, Ledston - Hourly minibus shuttle links

The cost of these had been met in full by the contractors undertaking the work.

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 local bus services.