

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2005

PRESENT: Councillor K Hussain (Chair)

Councillors J S King and M Lyons

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. LEEDS CITY CENTRE SHUTTLE BUS SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the funding of buses to facilitate a free Leeds City Centre Shuttle bus service.

It was reported that at the meeting of the Tendered Services Working Group members considered in detail and agreed proposals to the trial of a free shuttle bus service in Leeds City Centre. The Appointed Members were advised that subject to their approval, it would be possible to commence operation of the service on a trial basis from 30 January 2006 using 33 seater accessible Optare Slimline vehicles.

Members noted the terms and conditions of the grant between First and the vehicle manufacturer Optare which had been used in various bus challenge schemes to safeguard Metro's interest in the buses.

Comment was made that a joint meeting to discuss the service had been held with representatives of Leeds City Council, Leeds City Centre Management, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust and key City Centre businesses. All parties were enthusiastic about the service and had agreed to promote the service during the experimental period. Some Private Sector organisations considered that funding secured for Leeds Supertram through agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 should be used and these suggestions would be discussed with the City Council. Discussions would continue with a view to achieving funding support for operation of the service beyond the experimental period. These talks would be supported by detailed monitoring of use of the service and in particular passengers' reasons for travelling on the new service.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That Capital Expenditure in the sum of £664,000 for the introduction of the Leeds Free City Centre Bus on a trial basis be approved.
- (b) That payment of a grant under Section 56 of the Transport Act 1968 to First West Yorkshire Limited for the purchase of 6 vehicles be approved.

3. ADDITIONAL ROLLING STOCK

Consideration was given to a scheme, which had been developed in partnership with Yorkshire Forward and Northern Rail for the procurement of additional rolling stock to provide additional peak capacity on West Yorkshire rail services.

It was reported that the scheme involved acquiring 10-12 additional diesel vehicles depending on price and availability to provide extra peak capacity on the Caldervale and Harrogate lines, which currently suffered the worst overcrowding.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the proposed funding arrangements be noted.
- (b) That the proposal to contribute the additional funding accruing to Northern through the fares basket as a result of the intended January 2006 fares change be noted.