

WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP
HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON
FRIDAY 8 JANUARY 2010

PRESENT: Councillor G Lowe (Chair)

Councillors Y Crewe, E Firth, A Pinnock and K Watson

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members.

61. MINUTES

Service 33a

It was reported that following the decision taken by First to withdraw Service 33a through Menston, agreement had been reached to continue the service on an interim basis pending further discussions regarding the long term future of the service.

Service to Woolley and Bretton

It was reported that the award of a de minimis contract to Arriva to provide an hourly service to Woolley and Bretton village had not been progressed due to the commercial registration of the service by another operator.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2009 be approved.

62. MISCELLANEOUS TENDERED SERVICES ISSUES

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on actions taken in respect of a number of services funded under the 'use it or lose it' basis.

Service 78 Cross Gates – St James Hospital – City Centre – Woodhouse

The Working Group were advised that it was proposed to extend the contract until July 2010 to enable the future operation of the service to be considered within the context of a larger batch of contracts for services currently operated by First in Leeds.

Service 5A – Cross Green

It was reported that an extension of Service 90 in the Cross Green area had been funded from January 2009 to restore links to the area lost in the July service changes. First had subsequently altered the pattern of services in the area and had incorporated the required link into Service 5A, which was also funded by Metro, in the Scholes/Colton areas. The Group had previously had agreed to continue the funding of the Scholes element of the service until 2011 and it was therefore proposed that the Cross Green element be also extended to that date in order that both matters affecting the service could be considered together.

Service 183

It was reported that the de minimis contract awarded to M Travel to provide a link between Wakefield and Normanton serving the new Skills Exchange campus of Wakefield College at Glasshoughton during the first term of the academic year had been very successful. However, at the request of the College the contract had required M Travel to accept Arriva day tickets to facilitate through travel. As a consequence M Travel had not benefited from the full fare revenue. A revised cost had now been agreed with M Travel for continuation of the service until July 2010. The Working Group were advised that beyond that period the operator was seeking to provide the service on a commercial basis.

Service 675/679 - West Bowling – Bradford - Cottingley

It was reported that a contract had been issued in July 2009 to retain the evening and Sunday operation of the services. Since that time it had not been possible to review the performance and operation of the services and therefore it was proposed to extend the de minimis contract until July 2010.

Service 85 - Denby Dale/Kirkburton - Barnsley

It was reported that the service which provided a daily journey between Denby Dale/ Kirkburton and Barnsley had proved very popular carrying an average of 32 people per day; 16 passengers per trip.

Members were advised that the contract had been awarded on the basis that Kirklees Council would provide the initial funding for the service until January 2010. In view of the fact that the service was meeting its patronage targets it was proposed that Metro continue to fund the service until January 2011.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the extension of the current de minimis contract for Service 78 until July 2010 be noted.
- (ii) That the extension of the current de minimis contract for Service 5A until January 2011 be noted.

- (iii) That the extension of the current de minimis contract for Service 183 until July 2010 be noted.
- (iv) That the extension of the current de minimis contract for Service 675/679 until July 2010 be noted.
- (v) That the extension of the current contract for the operation of Service 85 until January 2011 be noted.

63. SOUTH KIRKLEES BUS SERVICES

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

- (i) Extension of contracts for the operation of rural bus services in the Kirkburton and Denby Dale areas;
- (ii) Novation of a de minimis contract for the diversion of commercial service 241 between Teamdeck and Huddersfield Bus Company.

Services 80-89 – Kirkburton and Denby Dale

It was reported that since the network was re-branded service delivery had improved significantly and patronage had increased on all routes including the tendered element.

The Working Group were advised that in view of the improved performance and customer satisfaction it was considered appropriate to extend the current contracts to maintain stability and encourage further patronage growth. It was reported that following discussions with Huddersfield Bus Company, agreement had now been reached to extend the current contract at the prices outlined in the submitted report.

Service 241 Huddersfield-Lepton-Houses Hill

It was reported that Service 241 Huddersfield – Lepton via Houses Hill was currently operated by Teamdeck trading as K Line which was owned by Centrebus Holdings.

The Working Group were advised that the operation of the service was transferring between K Line and Huddersfield Bus Company, which was also owned by Centrebus holdings. This would therefore require the novation of the contract with K Line. The service was a cost effective means of serving the Houses Hill community and therefore it was proposed to extend the contract to run concurrent with the other contracts for services in the Huddersfield – Lepton – Wakefield corridor until April 2011.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the extension of the current contract with Huddersfield Bus Company for the operation of rural services in the Kirkburton and Denby Dale areas until May 2015 as detailed in the submitted report be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.
- (ii) That the novation of the de minimis contract for Services 241 to the Huddersfield Bus Company, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

64. BUS SERVICE MC3/606

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the proposed contract extension for Service MC3/606 originally procured through the Urban Bus Challenge scheme.

It was reported that at the end of Urban Bus Challenge funding in 2008 Metro had continued to fund the service at a reduced price utilising one bus instead of the previous two. The service had been split into Service 606 providing peak period employment links to the Euroway Industrial Estate and Service MC3 which provided an off-peak Metro Local style service in the Little Horton and Odsal areas.

The Working Group were advised that the services provided the only link for a number of people employed at the Euroway site whilst also providing a popular link to local facilities for an area of high social deprivation. The Working Group also noted that further development was expected in the area with the opening of the new Marks and Spencer's distribution centre.

Following discussions with the operator a revised timetable had been agreed which retained most current trips at a reduced cost on the basis that the operator was permitted the use of the spare Urban Bus Challenge funded vehicle on other tendered services.

RESOLVED - That the extension of the current contract for the operation of bus services 606/MC3, as outlined in the submitted report be noted, as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.

65. TENDERED SCHOOL BUS SERVICES - BATCH 510

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the results of tenders received in Batch 510 for the provision of schools transport services in the Bradford and Leeds District administered by Metro on behalf of Leeds and Bradford LEA as part of the Education Transport Agency Agreements with other districts.

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 education transport facilities.