

**WEST YORKSHIRE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**  
**AT A MEETING OF THE TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUP**  
**HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE, LEEDS ON**  
**THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor G Lowe (Chair)

Councillors E Firth, A Pinnock and K Watson

**38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Phelps.

**39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared by members.

**40. MINUTES**

**Bus Services to Ossett Lane area of Chickenley - Minute 33**  
**Bus Service in Scholes, Leeds 15 - Minute 34**

Members were advised that following discussions with the operators concerned, Metro was hopeful that a satisfactory solution could be reached on both issues. Further reports would be brought to the next meeting of the group.

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2009 be approved.

**41. SERVICE 5A**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on a variation of the contract to provide additional early morning journeys on Service 5A to restore links for commuters.

It was reported that since the July service changes areas of Gipton no longer had an early morning service to Leeds until 0652. Significant representations had been received from residents requesting the restoration of the services in order to provide essential work journeys.

It was therefore recommended to fund the operation of additional early morning journeys on a 'use it or lose it' basis departing from Seacroft at 0452 and 0552 hours for a 6 month period.

In welcoming the service, the Working Group stressed the need for local people to publicise the service to make sure it was well used.

**RESOLVED** - That the provision of 2 early morning services, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.

#### **42. AWARD OF BATCH 499 - DEWSBURY FREE TOWN BUS**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of a contract for the operation of a Free Town Bus in Dewsbury.

It was reported that Metro had been working with Kirklees Council on the provision of the Free Town Bus linking Dewsbury Bus Station, Dewsbury Rail Station, markets area and the central shopping area, retail park and leisure facilities adjacent to the town centre.

Members noted that Kirklees Council would fund the service for the initial 6 month trial period. If the trial was successful by meeting the agreed performance targets, the total revenue costs would be shared between the Council and Metro on a 50:50 basis.

It was also commented that Kirklees Council would lease 2 Optare Solo vehicles during the trial and that if the service continued consideration would be given to either a long term lease or purchase of the vehicles.

The Working Group were advised that nine companies had submitted bids to run the service and following analysis of the bids received the contract had been awarded to Star Travel of Ossett. The company were familiar with the Free Town/City Bus concept and had successfully operated the Wakefield Free City Bus. It was reported that it was proposed to commence operation of the service on Saturday 12 December 2010.

**RESOLVED** - That the award of a contract to Star Travel of Ossett for the operation of the Dewsbury Free Town Bus, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policies for the provision of tendered services.

#### **43. BOXING DAY BUS SERVICES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of de minimis contracts for the operation of services on Boxing Day 2009.

It was reported that following discussions with the operators, costs had now been agreed and services registered on the basis of the network of services approved at a previous meeting.

Members were advised that half hourly services would be provided on each of the core high frequency routes into the centres of Leeds and Huddersfield between 0900 hours and 1800 hours. Following a request from Calderdale PCC a link had been provided to Leeds from Halifax which would also increase access to services in South and East Bradford and West Leeds.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Firth regarding Boxing Day services to Bradford, the Working Group was advised that the relevant information requested had been provided to Councillor Robinson.

**RESOLVED** - That the award of de minimis contracts to secure the operation of service on 26 December 2009, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.

#### **44. BUS SERVICE PROCUREMENT FOR LEEDS TEACHING HOSPITALS TRUST**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on proposals to invite tenders for the operation of a bus service between St James's Hospital and Leeds General Infirmary.

It was reported that Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust had approached Metro regarding the feasibility of providing a bus service between St James's Hospital and Leeds General Infirmary aimed primarily for staff but also made available to the general public.

It was proposed to invite tenders to run a half hourly service using two vehicles. There would be no intermediate stops thereby ensuring that the service did not compete with established commercial services.

Members were advised that Metro would procure the service and administer the contract with the operator on behalf of the NHS Trust. It was also emphasised that the Trust would be solely responsible for the risk revenue.

**RESOLVED** - That tenders be invited on behalf of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust for the provision of a registered service between St James's Hospital and Leeds General Infirmary.

#### **45. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Authority considered a recommendation to exclude the press and public from Agenda Item Nos 9 and 10 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.

**ESOLVED** - That, as disclosure of the reports could prejudice future negotiations due to the commercial confidentiality of tender prices, the press and public be now excluded from Agenda Item Nos 9 and 10.

#### **46. CALDERDALE TENDERED BUS SERVICES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the award of contracts for bus services in the Calderdale District.

It was reported that following First's decision to withdraw a number of services in South Calderdale, Metro had undertaken a comprehensive review of the bus network in that area which had included extensive consultation. Tenders had been invited for the new network which had been developed which sought to maintain the current level of passenger services.

Following an evaluation of the bids received it was considered that none of the submissions represented value for money. The Group supported the award of a de minimis contract to Centrebus Holdings which provided for the use of DDA accessible vehicles across the network, and addressed a number of the issues identified during the public consultation exercise.

Members were advised that First had been informed of the outcome of the tendering exercise and Metro was awaiting their response. Until the company had confirmed their commercial operations in that area, it would not be possible to finalise the tendered network.

#### **RESOLVED -**

- (i) That the tenders received for Batches 484. 485, 487-490, 493-496 be not progressed as they did not represent value for money.
- (ii) That the award of de minimis contracts to Centrebus Holdings t/a Huddersfield Bus company for the provision of tendered bus services in the South Calderdale area, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted as being consistent with the Authority's policy for local bus services.

#### **47. ARRIVA - PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES**

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on proposed changes to bus services planned by Arriva in the Wakefield and North Kirklees area in January 2010.

It was reported that some of the changes proposed would result in the loss of services or frequencies reduced in certain areas.

Members were advised that discussions were still ongoing with Arriva regarding these issues and that the outcome of these talks would be reported to the next meeting of the Working Group.

The Working Group expressed their disappointment at the proposed changes and hoped that satisfactory solutions could be found for the affected areas.

**RESOLVED -**

- (i) That the implementation of the service changes planned by Arriva be noted.
- (ii) That a further report be prepared for the next meeting of the Working Group detailing the outcome of the discussions with Arriva to mitigate the issues arising from the planned service changes.