

AGENDA ITEM NO: 12

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY/ DISTRICT COUNCILS

AT A MEETING OF THE TAXI LIAISON GROUP HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON MONDAY 6 MARCH 2006

Present:

Councillor	P Wadsworth (Chair)		
Councillors	M Bower	-	WYPTA
	S Khan	-	WYPTA
	K Rhodes	-	WYPTA
	R Taylor	-	Calderdale MBC

Officers in Attendance:

P Mills	-	Bradford MDC
A Pickerill	-	Calderdale MC
D Holliday	-	Kirklees MC
D Broster	-	Leeds CC
M Johnson	-	Leeds CC
R Gillam	-	Wakefield MDC
J Henkel	-	Metro
P Roberts	-	Metro
R Chaplin	-	WYPTA

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Sheard (Kirklees) and P Loosemore (Wakefield).

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R Taylor declared an interest in Minute 12, Pennine Taxibus.

9. MINUTES

Further to minute 3, Hackney Carriage and PHV Operation within the A629 Wakefield Road Bus Lanes in Huddersfield, it was reported that the evaluation of the trial was continuing and the results would be reported to a future meeting.

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Liaison Group held on 12 September 2005 be approved.

10. CCTV IN HACKNEY CABS

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the use of in cab CCTV as a means of improving the safety of taxi drivers.

It was reported that, in liaison with District Council Licensing Officers, informal discussions had taken place with a number of potential suppliers to obtain estimates for installation, servicing and maintenance of CCTV equipment. It was noted that although no formal approaches had been made, a number of potential co-funding sources existed such as the Crime and Disorder Partnerships and possibly the Home Office. If a scheme was introduced, a future option to promote the use of CCTV could be by making it a condition as part of license renewals.

The Group expressed their concern about the reluctance from the hackney carriage trade to fund the cost of equipment. It was suggested that an awareness day should be arranged which could incorporate a presentation by the Police to highlight safety and security issues for both drivers and passengers.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

11. REVIEW OF TAXI LICENCING QUOTAS

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the recently submitted proposals for, and justification of, changes in the quota of taxi (hackney carriage) licenses issued by District Councils.

The Group noted the position of each District regarding their final approved policies in relation to taxi license quotas. These had been summarised in the final Local Transport Plan and a copy of the summary was appended to the report for information.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

12. PENNINE TAXIBUS

The Liaison Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the Pennine Taxibus scheme.

It was reported that the taxibus scheme was introduced in 2005 and services linked rural areas around the Colne Valley and Scammonden Dean to buses and trains at Sowerby Bridge, Slaithwaite and Ryburn Valley.

Members had received a copy of the draft evaluation report and it was noted that funding for the scheme would continue for a further 2 years. Further evaluation would include an assessment of the cross sectoral benefits of the

service, in order to identify potential sources for funding a continuation of the service. The Group welcomed the success of the scheme and discussed the potential for future expansion to include remote areas but stressed the importance of sustainable funding and promotion for such schemes.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr Broster of Leeds City Council advised the Group of a major concern in West Yorkshire regarding the unlawful use of, and in some cases, lack of, licences for transport providers. He reported that he had written to the Traffic Commissioner for clarification of the law as it was difficult to develop an effective enforcement procedure to deal with the problems being encountered.

It was agreed that officers would forward details of the problems to Metro who would contact the Traffic Commissioner and invite them to the next meeting of the Group.

Mr Broster also advised the Group of consideration of "Taxi Box" booking systems that allowed passengers to book a taxi from a machine by inserting some money and being allocated with a number. The taxi would then pick up the passenger and deduct the amount already paid from the final fare.

Mr Broster was thanked for bringing the matter to the Group's attention and further information was requested for a future meeting.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That Metro contact the Traffic Commissioner and invite them to attend the next meeting of the Group.
- (b) That a report on "Taxi Box" booking systems be prepared for the next meeting of the Group.