

AGENDA ITEM NO: 20

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A MEETING OF THE FACILITIES WORKING GROUP HELD IN WELLINGTON HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2005

PRESENT: Councillor P McBride (Chair)

Councillors K Iqbal and M Walker

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Ozolins.

17. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2005 be approved.

19. ON STREET INFRASTRUCTURE

The Working Group considered a progress report regarding contracts covering the maintenance of on street infrastructure and Wetherby Bus Station.

Members were informed that during the financial year 2004/05 over 400 new shelter units had been provided across West Yorkshire. It was reported that Metro had received favourable comments from members of the public and bus operators in respect of the overall quality of Trueform shelters. Metro had extended the existing contract with Trueform for a further 2 years, commencing in July 2005.

Members were advised that the Response Group were exceeding the standards set within the contract to provide a glazing and minor maintenance service to on street infrastructure.

It was reported that the programme to replace bus stop plates and poles within the Wakefield district was complete and works were now focusing on the Leeds area. Members were informed that to-date 10,000 stops had been surveyed and 6,700 new plates being installed. It was anticipated that all surveys would be completed in September/October and works completed by January 2006.

The Working Group was advised that following approval at the Authority's meeting in April for the implementation of a revised agreement with Adshel, work had commenced on the planning/programming for the provision of shelters at locations that would generate a revenue income and also meet the Authority's criteria. In this respect, it was anticipated that the first Metro/Adshel shelter would be available in August this year.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

20. MANAGEMENT OF METRO BUS STATIONS

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive concerning the management of Metro bus stations.

Security

Members were advised that the Safer Transport Initiative launched in April had created considerable intelligence that would contribute to the improvement of safety when travelling on buses. Over 150 police officers took part in the initiative, which had been successful in increasing the profile of police at bus stations as well as addressing the issue of problem bus routes. It was also reported that the anti-graffiti and vandalism campaign recently launched as a joint initiative with police, operators and Metro had received good media coverage.

The Working Group was informed that a further bid to the Home Office for the funding of additional PCSO's was being investigated with operators and police.

New Bus Stations

It was reported that the bus stations at Batley and Cleckheaton were now fully operational and had been well received by passengers. Both stations included Metrokio, a new retail concept that sold MetroCards. Members were informed that Metrokia staff were responsible for the cleaning, opening and closing of the stations.

Electronic Screen Advertising in Bus Stations

The Working Group was advised that only 2 tenders to provide electronic screen advertising in bus stations had been received and that these tenders were currently being evaluated. Further options to provide information and advertisements in bus stations were outlined. One such approach was through a network of electronic information points (kiosks), which would be provided in partnership with the 5 Districts and a service provider. In this respect, Members requested that a progress report concerning this issue be submitted to a future meeting of the Group.

Wetherby Bus Station

It was reported that Metro was co-operating with West Yorkshire Police who were seeking to introduce a Designated Public Places Order within Wetherby Town Centre, as part of an initiative being implemented by Leeds City Council to prevent the consumption of alcohol within designated public places.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a progress report concerning the implementation of a network of electronic information points be submitted to a future meeting of the Working Group.

21. INFORMATION STRATEGY UPDATE

The Working Group considered a progress report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding two key projects forming part of the current Information Strategy and the revised Information Strategy, forming part of the 2nd Local Transport Plan.

Journey Planner

Members were advised that a new version of the AIM Internet Journey Planner was being tested and included improved on screen digital mapping. It was anticipated that the up-dated system would become operational by the end of June.

Real Time Passenger Information

It was reported that the real time system was in the final stages of testing, which included obtaining feedback from users in terms of its effectiveness/reliability. Members were informed that the system would

be launched with the name “**yournextbus**’ by means of a major press launch and advertising campaign in September 2005.

Members discussed the importance of widespread publicity of the scheme and whether, as a way of encouraging the use of public transport, the scheme should be incorporated on lesser used routes as well as the main bus corridors. The Working Group also discussed the need to make passengers aware of their bus stop number, as this would be required when seeking information via mobile phone SMS.

The availability of data from the real time system would enable operators to adjust their running schedules in line with actual operating conditions thereby improving scheduling and punctuality.

Revised Information Strategy

The Working Group was informed that as part of the LTP2 process Metro’s Information Strategy was being updated. Facilities Working Group members and PCC representatives had been involved in the development of the draft version, which included key areas for development such as bus stop and real time information, increasing the use of the website, marketing focus on customer groups, travel centre development and operator contribution. A copy of the draft strategy was circulated to Members for their information and approval was sought to use the document for formal consultation with operators, the Traffic Commissioner, neighbouring authorities and other interested parties.

RESOLVED - That the draft Information Strategy be approved for formal consultation.

22. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME

The Working Group considered a report of the Passenger Transport Executive regarding Metro’s investment in bus and passenger information and infrastructure through the 2nd Local Transport Plan.

Members were informed that further input in the development of the plan would be sought through working groups and a PTA member seminar, prior to submission to the DfT in July. It was reported that, as part of the 2nd Local Transport Plan, all authorities preparing a plan had been given planning guidelines to be used when developing 5 year programmes. Members were informed that Metro’s 5 year planning guideline was a £43m share of the overall planning guideline for West Yorkshire.

RESOLVED - That the Working Group consider the approach and provisional programme set out in the submitted report.